

Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly

5th Session Day 50 16th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Pages 6337 - 6378

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

**Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories**

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Glen Abernethy

(Great Slave)

Mr. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe)

Ms. Wendy Bisaro

(Frame Lake)

Mr. Bob Bromley

(Weledeh)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

Mr. Robert Hawkins

(Yellowknife Centre)

Mr. Jackie Jacobson

(Nunakput)

Mr. David Krutko

(Mackenzie Delta)

Hon. Jackson Lafferty

(Monfwi)

*Minister of Justice*

*Minister of Education, Culture and Employment*

Hon. Sandy Lee

(Range Lake)

*Minister of Health and Social Services*

*Minister responsible for the*

 *Status of Women*

*Minister responsible for*

 *Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

Hon. Bob McLeod

(Yellowknife South)

*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

 *and Investment*

*Minister responsible for the*

 *Public Utilities Board*

*Minister responsible for*

 *Energy Initiatives*

Hon. Michael McLeod

(Deh Cho)

*Minister of Transportation*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

Hon. Robert C. McLeod

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Minister of Municipal and*

 *Community Affairs*

*Minister responsible for the*

 *NWT Housing Corporation*

*Minister responsible for the Workers'*

 *Safety and Compensation*

 *Commission*

*Minister responsible for Youth*

Mr. Kevin Menicoche

(Nahendeh)

Hon. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)

*Deputy Premier*

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and*

 *Natural Resources*

Mr. Dave Ramsay

(Kam Lake)

Hon. Floyd Roland

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

*Premier*

*Minister of Executive*

*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*

 *and Intergovernmental Relations*

*Minister responsible for the*

 *NWT Power Corporation*

Mr. Norman Yakeleya

(Sahtu)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tim Mercer

 Deputy Clerk Principal Clerk Principal Clerk, Law Clerks

 of Committees Operations

 Mr. Doug Schauerte Ms. Jennifer Knowlan Ms. Gail Bennett Ms. Sheila MacPherson

 Ms. Malinda Kellett

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

#  TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PRAYER 6337**

**MINISTERS' STATEMENTS 6337**

 123-16(5) – Public Housing Rent Assessments (R. McLeod) 6337

 124-16(5) – National Nutrition Month (March) (Lee) 6338

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS 6339**

 10th Annual Gwich’in Cup Minor Hockey Tournament (Jacobson) 6339

 Auditor General’s Report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project (Bisaro) 6339

 Need for Repairs to Highway No. 6 (Beaulieu) 6340

 Passing of Elder in Colville Lake (Yakeleya) 6340

 Cost of Internet Service in the NWT (Groenewegen) 6340

 Auditor General’s Report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project (Ramsay) 6341

 Auditor General’s Report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project (Menicoche) 6341

 Major Telecommunications Outage in Mackenzie Delta and Nunakput Communities (Krutko) 6342

 Incidents with Psychiatric Patients Leaving Stanton Territorial Hospital (Abernethy) 6342

 Myths and Facts about Carbon Taxation (Bromley) 6343

 Establishment of a Territorial Hotel Tax (Hawkins) 6343

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY 6344, 6355**

**ORAL QUESTIONS 6344**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS 6355**

**RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS 6355**

**TABLING OF DOCUMENTS 6357**

**MOTIONS 6357**

 40-16(5) – Elders Teaching in Schools (Yakeleya) 6357

 41-16(5) – Independent Investigation of Incident at Stanton Territorial Hospital (Abernethy) 6360

**CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS 6369**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6376**

**THIRD READING OF BILLS 6377**

 Bill 14 – An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act 6377

 Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act 6377

 Bill 17 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act 6377

 Bill 18 – An Act to Repeal the Settlements Act 6377

 Bill 19 – Municipal Statutes Amendment Act 6377

 Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Evidence Act 6377

**ORDERS OF THE DAY 6378**

**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Thursday, March 3, 2011**

**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 1:32 p.m.

# Prayer

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber.

## SPEAKER’S RULING

Before we proceed to orders of the day I wish to provide my ruling on the point of order raised by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake during oral questions on Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

The point of order was raised that the Member for Weledeh contravened Rule 23(h) by, and I quote from unedited Hansard, “making allegations that in fact the government has broken rules in this Legislative Assembly.” Mr. Bromley said, and I quote again from unedited Hansard, “they changed the rules.” Mr. Bromley also clarified that he was echoing the Auditor General of Canada’s words when she said in her report that the “regulations were amended” by the government. So I find that there is no point of order.

However, I would like to caution all Members against asking questions of a Minister on decisions made by a former government. Our Rule 38(2) states that “An oral question shall be concisely and clearly put and shall refer only to a matter which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister to whom it is directed.” Also, Beauschene 409(6) states that “A question must be within the administrative competence of the government. The Minister to whom the question is directed is responsible to the House for his or her present ministry and not for the decisions taken in a previous portfolio.”

Also before I go to orders of the day I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a special day for two of our colleagues. It happens to be the birthday of the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, and the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

---Applause

Happy birthday to both of you.

Item 2, Ministers’ statements. The honourable Minister of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

# Ministers’ Statements

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT 123-16(5):PUBLIC HOUSING RENT ASSESSMENTS

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government recognizes that improving the quality of housing services provided to residents will help reduce the cost of living in communities across the Northwest Territories. Today I would like to provide an update to Members on the work of the NWTHC and ECE in improving the assessment process for public housing rents, specifically our success in completing reassessments for tenants who wish to have a review of the rent assessed to them in recent years.

The decrease in rent assessments at that time can largely be attributed to an increase in incomplete applications, meaning that tenants did not provide sufficient paperwork to qualify for a subsidy. The NWT Housing Corporation, ECE and the LHOs continue to promote to tenants the importance of providing proper documentation to qualify for assistance.

As Members are aware, on June 1, 2010, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation assumed the full responsibility for rental assessments in the Public Housing Program. In the period prior to this date, the number of rent assessments conducted on a monthly basis had declined to 65 percent. Public housing tenants who were not assessed for the PHRS subsidy were assessed maximum unit rents by LHOs. This in turn led to a number of tenants compiling heightened arrears as a result of not being assessed.

Following the June 1st transfer, ECE and the NWTHC addressed the issue of outstanding assessments by implementing a process for LHOs to submit files for reassessment. Information about the process was provided to all LHOs and LHO tenants in June and December 2010. In the months since this process was implemented, LHOs have reported a significant decrease in the number of outstanding assessments and greatly improved rates of rent assessment on a monthly basis. As of March 1st, only 123 of our over 2,300 households still require a reassessment of their rent for the period April 1, 2006, to June 1, 2010. Across the Territory, LHOs have achieved monthly rent assessment rates above 90 percent, which is a significant improvement over the 65 percent rate that we reached in May 2010.

In terms of reassessments, LHOs and regional ECE offices have worked closely to clear their backlog of files needing reassessment and are meeting acceptable standards of rent assessment on a monthly basis. While in most LHOs there are less than 10 percent of files that may be eligible for reassessment, in most cases these individuals are either no longer residing in public housing or have refused to participate in the reassessment process. In those communities where a backlog remains, staff from ECE and the NWT Housing Corp are working closely with these LHOs to clear the backlog and improve awareness within the community of the opportunity for tenants to be reassessed.

Mr. Speaker, as federal funding for the operation of social housing continues to decline, the funds collected through rent is essential to ensure that LHOs have the financial stability to properly operate and maintain the public housing stock. Timely rent assessments are vital to ensure that tenants are properly assessed and able to avoid arrears by paying their rent in full and on time.

Successful program and service delivery depends heavily on strengthened partnerships. The NWTHC and ECE continue to cooperate in providing assistance to those LHOs requiring additional support and assistance. I have been pleased with the effort put forth by LHOs and ECE staff during the transition period and their dedication to complete assessments. LHOs and local ECE offices have worked well together to complete reassessments and ensure that service is client focused.

Finally, I want to thank those tenants who have come forward and worked with the LHO to conduct a proper assessment of their income and who have begun dealing with their arrears.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we face many challenges in the delivery of public housing in our communities, but I am pleased to say that our local delivery agents and many of our tenants are working together to ensure that public housing programs remain an important contributor to the Assembly’s goals of sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT 124-16(5):NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH (MARCH)

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March is Nutrition Month in Canada. The national theme continues to be “Celebrate food...from the land to the table!” What we eat plays an important role in our health and well-being. The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes this through one of the goals in its action plan, A Foundation for Change. Communities, families and individuals make healthy choices and are protected from disease. This goal is achieved by promoting healthy living and wellness.

Mr. Speaker, last year we invested $74,000 through our Health Promotion Fund to help community groups and organizations deliver a variety of programs related to healthy living including those that supported healthy eating and active living. One example was the Fort Smith Healthy Eating and Active Living Program (HEAL). Twenty residents completed the 10-week program that combined daily physical activities, weigh-ins and nine healthy living and eating modules. The group as a whole lost almost 200 pounds over the 10 weeks. Other projects included: men’s cooking classes at the Salvation Army; Tumbling for Tots program in Norman Wells that promoted healthy eating and active living for toddlers ages three to five; a Healthy Living Program in Tulita that focused on healthy eating, not smoking around children and supporting pre and post-natal moms; Kids in the Kitchen in Hay River, as well as the promotion of breastfeeding through Moms, Boobs and Babies, a Yellowknife breastfeeding support group. Our Drop the Pop campaign continues to be successful, with 43 schools participating. This campaign provides schools with funding to deliver community-based projects that emphasize the importance of healthy foods and avoiding sugary drinks.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, around 27 percent of NWT residents 18 and over were considered obese and 59 percent were considered physically inactive. This is higher than the rest of Canada, where 18 percent were considered obese and 48 percent physically inactive. Addressing these issues starts with our children and their families. Through programs like Drop the Pop, we are making a healthy choice an easy choice.

Throughout March we will be working in collaboration with partners including the Northern Nutrition Association in celebrating Nutrition Month. We also continue to partner with many territorial groups through our Health Promotion Fund. Community groups looking to support community-led projects can access the Health Promotion Funding. The application form is on our website, [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca).

Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities of this Assembly is to focus on prevention by promoting healthy choices and lifestyles and the role of personal and family responsibility. We can achieve our goal of healthy, educated people only if we all work together and do our part. Throughout Nutrition Month I would like to challenge our residents to be role models and champions of healthy changes in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

# Members’ Statements

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT ON10th ANNUAL GWICH’IN CUPMINOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to speak on a huge activity that is taking place in Inuvik starting today. It is running through the weekend. It is the 10th Annual Gwich’in Cup.

This event over the years has grown into the largest minor hockey tournament in the NWT, with participants coming from the majority of the communities in the Inuvik region, including communities in my riding of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk and Tuk.

Mr. Speaker, over 350 kids will be participating this weekend in the tournament. It is always a thrill for all of the youth to participate in this fun-filled weekend with their families and friends from the Beaufort-Delta communities and also from our neighbours in the Sahtu.

I wish to congratulate the Gwich’in Development Corporation and their partners, including the Inuvik Minor Hockey Association and First Air, just to name a few. Conrad Bates and Tom Williams were the first people who really started this about 10 years ago.

I also wish to thank the parents and the coaches and the volunteers who make this happen. I would like to thank the Minister and his staff. We had 65 nervous kids in Tuk when they found out the road was closed and they were looking to charter a plane. So I thank the Minister and his staff and my good friend Gurdev in Inuvik, thank you. I’d like to thank E. Gruben’s Transport and Northwind to make that road possible to get it open for the kids.

Mr. Speaker, lastly I wish to thank the people who had the vision to create such an important event for our youth in the Beaufort-Delta. Again, to all the organizers and all the young hockey players, I wish you all have a good week and success, and enjoy your weekend with your family and friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONAUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THEDEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to comment on the Auditor General’s report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project. In general, the findings are not surprising. This massive construction project was forced ahead by this government a number of times, in spite of warning signs which should have slowed or paused the project. Signs such as a financial analysis in 2007, which determined that a conventional approach to the project, instead of a P3, would provide significant savings for the project. Such as, in February 2008 at the time of financial close, the government had not approved the bridge design. In order to proceed with the project, the need to have design approval by the GNWT was waived. In September of 2007, and again in February 2008, regulations under the Financial Administration Act were amended or waived so the project could proceed. Early in 2009 an independent review of the project management practices showed deficiencies at the construction site. The independent report to the Department of Transport and the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation proposed actions, but not all of the actions were implemented.

At any of these points, Mr. Speaker, and at many others over the last five or more years, the government should have paused and taken the time to thoroughly evaluate whether or not the project should move ahead. It should have been an opportunity for sober second thought, for honest evaluation of the project to that point, for careful consideration of the potential pitfalls if the project went ahead. Instead, decisions were made to push forward; decisions, which in the long run, had highly negative impacts.

This project started with the intention that it would be a P3, a public-private partnership project, and it was to have a focus on community economic development. In a P3 project, risks are supposed to be shared by the partners, but in this case the Auditor General determined that the GNWT assumed all the risk, and as stated in the report, the project morphed into a publicly funded project, more costly than it should have been, with significant risks to the GNWT and little or no economic benefit to the local community.

The Auditor General found that the project risks were not adequately managed, but that does not mean the project is at risk, Mr. Speaker. I certainly do not believe that it is. Risks related to quality control are well looked after at this point and I must congratulate the Department of Transportation for their hard work to manage that risk in both the current construction phase and for going back to ensure quality in phase 1.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** I congratulate the department for their hard work to manage the risk in both the current construction phase and for going back to ensure quality in phase 1, but the weaknesses in the management of risk in the other three areas is cause for concern. That concern and that finding and many other findings, Mr. Speaker, deserve comments, but I have no time. You’ve allotted me an extra bit already, thank you very much, and I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONNEED FOR REPAIRS TO HIGHWAY NO. 6

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be talking about Deninu K’ue in Fort Resolution. I’d like to thank the Minister of Transportation and his department for the work done on Highway No. 6 to date. It’s a very good job. The job is not finished, however, Mr. Speaker. Highway No. 6 is 90 kilometres long and at this time there’s still about 40 kilometres that are gravel. Mr. Speaker, the department has done a very good job in addressing the worst areas first, but Highway No. 6 needs to be brought to a chipseal stage from the beginning to end.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of that 40 kilometres that’s still gravel is in pretty good condition. However, about 15 kilometres of that portion is very soft and dangerous if not rebuilt.

Twenty-four kilometres of Highway No. 6 was chipsealed over 30 years ago because of the existence of Pine Point. Even though Pine Point only existed from 1961 to 1987, the citizens enjoyed a paved highway for the majority of the town’s existence. Fort Resolution has existed before vehicles did and it will be 2011 before a portion of Highway No. 6 leading into that community is chipsealed.

The community wants all of Highway No. 6 to be chipsealed and this government must put some more infrastructure dollars into chipsealing this highway from beginning to end. A chipsealed highway into Fort Resolution will let the community know that the GNWT is working on equalizing services between smaller and larger communities.

I have spoken to members of Fort Resolution and they are looking forward to chipsealing their community and gaining the economies of scale when chipsealing from Little Buffalo River to Fort Resolution occurs this coming summer.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONPASSING OF ELDER IN COLVILLE LAKE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout our lives in whatever jobs that we do and how we interact with people as a Member or a private citizen or businessperson, we run into a lot of good people in the Northwest Territories. I was very surprised to hear of an elder in Colville Lake who went missing. I thought back in January when I saw him and spoke to him and he talked about his life on the land. He actually gave me some fish and some meat and he talked about living out on the land and being out there in Colville Lake. I was saddened to hear, when I phoned Colville Lake yesterday, that they still hadn’t found this elder and that the people were coming together and helping out with the search and being there for the family. Later on this morning I heard that they located Mr. Alexis Blancho, who was an elder and very independent man. I was saddened to hear of the passing of him.

I want to say that these elders that go on to the next world, when we go visit them and they talk to us, they usually give us very good advice; really good advice. Sometimes it takes a while to figure out what the advice is about. Mr. Blancho said that we should be working together on issues. Talk about issues that are really hard in front of us. We need to work together and how to survive on the land and how to survive in the community. This guy, when I went to him, had hopes for his grandchildren, his children, and he knew the different lifestyles. He also knew the importance of working together and doing what we had to do.

I want to thank people from around the Sahtu and communities for giving support to Colville Lake at this time. I know they are really heavy hearted. They said when the phone calls come in, it lifts their spirits up. I want to thank people who made phone calls to Colville Lake and thank a lot of people for helping out.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONCOST OF INTERNET SERVICE IN THE NWT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was recently approached by a constituent who had serious concerns about the cost of Internet services in the Northwest Territories. Internet usage, transferring data, is estimated to cost about 3 to 5 cents per gigabyte in the provinces down south. Up north, once you go over your bandwidth cap, NorthwesTel, our main Internet service provider, charges Northerners at least $10 a gigabyte compared to only $2 to $5 per gigabyte down south.

In a recent agreement with wholesalers down south, Bell Canada sells 40 gigabytes of data for $4.25 and still makes a profit. That demonstrates that even in the South the price of Internet usage is very inflated.

True, Internet service may cost more in the North and it’s fair that those who use more should pay more, but at $10 per gigabyte it appears that NorthwesTel is making a 4,000 percent increase over their costs. According to its website, NorthwesTel set its limits “to ensure network reliability and make sure that all high-speed Internet users enjoy a fun, fast and reliable Internet experience.” But does that justify a $10 surcharge for every gigabyte over the limit?

Research estimates that monthly Internet traffic in North America has grown by as much as 50 percent in the last 10 years and that Internet traffic will quadruple between 2009 and 2014. The average Canadian downloads twice as much data as they did two years ago, but their Internet use is offset by increasingly powerful and efficient machines. The Internet continues to offer more and more to users. It is a communication lifeline in our small communities.

There is evidence that our federal regulator, the CRTC, is failing to deliver competitive Internet services in Canada and this problem is only magnified in the North. As the GNWT negotiates a new digital service contract, it should take into account the true cost of service. As private users we should do all we can to seek greater accountability in this area and, as one technology watchdog, the Globe and Mail, put it, make sure that the rates we pay are based on reality.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONAUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THEDEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m going to speak today about the Auditor General’s report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project. I want to start by saying that I appreciate the time and effort that Ms. Sheila Fraser and her staff have provided on this audit.

The Auditor General’s report confirms clearly and concisely that the concerns I have repeatedly expressed the past seven years on the decision to proceed with the project and its subsequent management are legitimate and real. What becomes abundantly clear is this project, as it was sold to Members and the public as a P3 project, was not a P3 project and it was rushed into during the dying days of the last government. Regulations were amended on Thursday, September 27th, casting aside the requirement to give Members 14 days’ notice. Then on September 28th, on a Friday afternoon, three days before the territorial election, which is clear evidence that the last government knew full well what it was doing. All in an effort, it would seem, to leave that lasting legacy. The disregard for due process and risk management prior to the signing of the concession agreement is truly disgusting.

Throughout my seven and a half years here I have questioned this project at every turn in an attempt to protect the taxpayers in our Territory. This project was questionable right from the very beginning. What is most important to me is accountability and responsibility for decisions regarding this project. Now that the project is clearly in the hands of this government, I will continue to ask questions about the management and the risks associated with the project.

I’m very concerned about this project because if we see significant delays in construction, this will undoubtedly lead to further costs and, quite frankly, we cannot afford much more than we have already paid for this project.

The government has always hid behind the facade that was the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and it does not surprise me that they continue to be evasive when it comes to answering questions about the contract for $92 million with Ruskin. The Auditor General herself could not get a final figure for the amount spent to date because the external audit of the corporation’s financial statements was not finalized.

I’ve previously referred to this project as a boondoggle and I may have been too generous.

I’ll have questions for the Minister of Transportation at the appropriate time.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONAUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THEDEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] I will also be talking about the Deh Cho Bridge and in reference to the...and it seems that it’s costing a lot of money and it doesn’t seem like they’re working it as well as they could be. [Translation ends]

...Deh Cho Bridge Project and ask questions every time I go home. Many were never convinced that it would be on time and on budget for the original $165 million. There did not seem to be a good plan in place. The recent Auditor General’s report and comments in the media does say that she, too, is not convinced herself that the new cost of $182 million will be enough. The Auditor General also pointed out the risks, mostly financial, were never properly assessed or used as a decision point to re-evaluate the project as they move forward and to minimize the costs.

In general, my constituents are supportive of the bridge because one day it is our dream that we will have one across the Liard. My colleague Mr. Ramsay has always pointed out the inconsistencies in the project and raised accountability issues from day one about the impacts on our future budgets. The Auditor General’s report did point out that this was not a real P3 and that there were many risks that occurred over the project that led us to taking over the project.

Increased costs do lead to increased government expenditures, therefore, affecting how we use our budget in the Northwest Territories. I stand with my colleagues when we say we simply must learn from this, because we will have large public infrastructure projects and we want to have real P3 projects. I also note that we are in discussions in developing a P3 project and I look forward to fully discussing that and having input from this side of the House.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONMAJOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUTAGEIN MACKENZIE DELTA ANDNUNAKPUT COMMUNITIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A storm hit the Beaufort-Delta and the Sahtu regions last week for five days, with winds over 100 kilometres an hour. At one point the James Creek, where the NorthwesTel tower was disrupted knocking out all telecommunications in that service, was clocked at over 160 kilometres an hour. This was one of the most fierce storms that we’ve had for some time, in which it knocked out the telecommunication systems and Internet systems, not being able to access the Internet and banking services. It completely shut off our communities by way of road closures, airport closures, and not even able to provide municipal services because of the ferocity of the weather.

We also realized that we had power outages and fluctuations of power and freeze-ups of municipal services and individuals’ homes. I think we also have to realize that from that, communities are shovelling themselves out of their homes, municipalities, and the Department of Transportation is getting the roads open and services are now getting back in operation. Also the Internet and telecommunications are up and running.

I think this is a real eye-opener for people not only in the Mackenzie Delta, Beaufort Sea and Sahtu, but the rest of the Northwest Territories. Facing the reality of climate change and the weather patterns that we see in the world, we are not immune to what’s going on around us or even in what we’re seeing in major shifts in weather, wind storms are increasing, and as a government and Legislature and for the people of the Northwest Territories, realizing we have to adapt in some manner or some way, realizing there’s a cost associated with all these storms and the effect it will have on the fiscal climate in the Northwest Territories by way of adaptation to climate change and facing the reality that our world is changing.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONINCIDENTS WITH PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS LEAVING STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last couple of weeks a number of my colleagues have made statements in this House and asked questions of the Minister of Health and Social Services on mental health issues and Stanton Territorial Hospital; in particular, patients in the psychiatric unit on the third floor. The newspaper and the media over the last couple of weeks have also identified a situation where a patient was able to come and go when they were supposed to be under the care of the psychiatric unit.

If we go back even a little bit further, in November, a young resident of the Northwest Territories who was in the psychiatric unit and released on a temporary pass, left her home and has never been seen again. If we go back in time further and further, there are many, many incidents and situations of people who have been in the psychiatric unit who have left either on a day pass or on their own, with conditions to come back, who have never been seen again.

These are troubling. It goes to what the policies and procedures are within Stanton and what allows a release or what kind of supervised release people should be under. We need to make sure that our hospital is a safe place and that people who need care and treatment, even when they’re being released on a temporary basis, have some protocols in place to ensure that we can track those individuals and make sure that they’re healthy once they’re out.

Later today I’ll be asking the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services what types of review have been done on the system to ensure that people with mental health issues who are being released on a temporary basis are monitored and that we have certainty that they are being released in a safe manner so that they do come back safe and sound rather than disappear forever. Thank you.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONMYTHS AND FACTS ABOUTCARBON TAXATION

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The myths and facts of carbon taxation need some discussion. A recent roundtable on a carbon tax in the NWT sponsored by the partnership of Ecology North, Sustainable Prosperity and the GNWT and involving diverse representatives from across the Territory has contributed to that discussion.

First, why a tax? Well, first, climate change through carbon emissions is destroying our planet, as we heard from my colleague, especially the North, leading to high costs from cultural loss to loss of building foundations.

Second, we are at the mercy of rising and volatile oil prices which drain dollars from our economy and increase uncertainty. Traditional life, the prosperity and safety of our children, our hopes for economic stability all are at risk until we reduce our carbon emissions.

Other jurisdictions have taken action by putting a tax on carbon emissions. This government has consulted on a carbon tax option, with some questions and positive feedback. Let’s examine the costs and benefits, the facts and myths.

Myth: Carbon taxes hurt economies. Not true. Three provinces and many European countries have introduced carbon taxes with no negative effect on their economies. In fact, stable energy prices and deriving renewable energy locally has boosted some economies.

Myth: Carbon taxes are felt most by individual consumers, especially low-income earners. Not true. A smart carbon tax is typically offset by reducing rates of income and corporate tax. Taxes can also be carefully constructed to protect people who don’t enjoy a tax savings in wages. We know how to protect our low-income residents in remote communities.

Myth: A carbon tax will drive away industry. Not true. By cutting the corporate tax rate to offset the new tax, there’s a zero cost change to business. The carbon tax is an efficient tool for creating business incentive to cut costs by investing in energy efficiency and promoting energy diversification.

The biggest myth is that we can do nothing. Our main fuel, oil, is constantly jumping in price. Delay in taking action on climate change also means rising costs of climate change impacts later when we can least afford it. For the NWT to lead will set an example that will be noted by the world and influence concerted action.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, change is difficult, but a smart carbon tax will create the economic incentive to take action. Places that have acted have benefited. Like shopping bag fees, the hoopla has disappeared shortly after these changes have been implemented. Let’s get it done. Mahsi.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONESTABLISHMENT OF ATERRITORIAL HOTEL TAX

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I’d like to speak to the matter of a hotel tax again, as I did a few days ago in my Member’s statement.

The concept of implementing a territorial hotel tax was first proposed back in 2000 and has been raised in many forms ever since. Mr. Speaker, even in October of last year it was once again raised and supported in the discussions hosted by the Finance Minister‘s revenue consultation. In early 2010 even the NWT Association of Communities passed a resolution asking the GNWT to grant municipal authority over the hotel tax issue. As many will recall, even a motion was supported by NWT Tourism on this particular matter.

The vision being proposed is quite simple, Mr. Speaker: one, the hotel tax revenue earned in a municipality would be used for local tourism marketing and development; and two, collection of the tax would not reduce GNWT’s contributions to tourism but, rather, enhance the work that’s already being done.

Although I prefer the drafting of this particular authority be drawn up the Department of Finance, however, I know very clearly that a small amendment could be made to the municipality legislation to allow them to do so. Such an amendment would empower municipal governments, if they so chose, to implement a progressive tax opportunity to enhance their tourism activities.

As stated the other day, a hotel tax is a very common thing across Canada and if a tax was implemented in the Northwest Territories at 1 percent, last year it would have garnered over $200,000 of new money, Mr. Speaker.

Municipalities in partnership with NWT Tourism know best how to attract tourists to their communities. Mr. Speaker, this type of levy would enhance that activity to let them do so. Many of our municipal governments have proven themselves time after time that they have the ability and certainly the know-how of how to manage their own affairs better than anyone else. Accordingly, this government should find ways to work to empower these communities in a manner that allows them to find new revenue sources rather than hold them back.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, providing legislation to allow municipalities to collect a hotel tax is a good thing, so, Mr. Speaker, let’s give them the choice. I urge the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to put forward a progressive opportunity to allow legislation to be amended that would allow them to have the authority to make a hotel tax if a municipality so chose to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

# Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize two doctors in the gallery. One is our very own CPHO, public health officer, Dr. Kami Kandola, and the other is Dr. Lorne Clearsky, who is visiting us for three days with the possibility of working up here. I’m not sure if he’s decided, but as the Minister of Health I’m just saying that this is a very exciting environment in which to practice medicine. It can be challenging but very rewarding, and when the Deh Cho Bridge is built, it’s going to beautiful, and we might even throw in free Internet. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask my colleagues in welcoming Dr. Clearsky, who in three days really impressed our colleagues here, and we are very excited that he’s here. Thank you.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to recognize the well-known Dick Abernethy, a Member of the Weledeh riding and the father of my colleague Mr. Abernethy. I’d also like to recognize Weledeh constituent Ryan McCord, a well-known musician and known also for his fearless sky walking at great heights. Also, I’d like to recognize Della Green, the victims services coordinator. Mahsi.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize in the visitor’s gallery today my new friends Peter and Tony from Haliburton, Ontario. They’re on a very long road trip. They have had careers in police work and in forestry and they’re here visiting us today. We welcome them to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I’d like to welcome Stephanie Heidl to the gallery, formerly of Inuvik, I think now taking a social services course here in Yellowknife, I believe. Welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I’d like to recognize Wendy Morgan in the gallery, a former defector of Hay River now living in Yellowknife.

If we’ve missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you’re enjoying the proceedings.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

# Oral Questions

## QUESTION 566-16(5):EMERGENCY MEASURES PLANSFOR NATURAL DISASTERS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in regard to the emergency measures plans we have in place in light of the storm that hit the Beaufort-Delta and Sahtu last week. I think it should be a real eye-opener for ourselves and municipalities and the people that we serve that we are going to see some severe challenges.

I’d just like to ask the Minister, has your department, working through the local governments and the different affected departments, Transportation and also Public Works and Services, and more importantly, NorthwesTel in regard to the effect that this storm has had on not only the communities but the whole service provider, considered forming some sort of a working group to do an assessment of that storm, the effects that it has and what can we do as governments and municipal governments and our service providers face these challenges realizing that this storm is probably something that we will see more of going forward? Is the department in communication with those other groups? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I blame that lapse of concentration on age. We will continue to monitor and work with the local municipal governments to deal with some of the affects of the storm that has been had on their communities. Obviously, now that this is over, they can go over the situation and see where improvements can be made. But I can commit to the Member that we will see what we can do as a department to do our part and work with the communities to ensure that they are well prepared in the future. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I for one feel that it is critically important that we do formulate some sort of a working relationship with all of the parties that were affected by the storm. Like I say, the winds were clocked at 167 kilometres at James Creek. That was where they knocked out the NorthwesTel communication system which totally knocked out communications in the Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta and even the Sahtu. Also, by road closures and everything else, the cost it is going to take to reopen all of these roads are costs that we weren’t really aware of. I would just like to ask if the Minister can formulate some sort of a working group between those different government agencies and possibly look at consideration of adapting these types of situations to our emergency measures plans.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have had our share of storms in the past. This seems to be a more common occurrence. It is one that I think communities will have to take steps in addressing. I have always been impressed with the resilience of a lot of communities that are able to dig their way out of a storm immediately after it happens. I will commit to the Member that I will have a discussion with senior management and we will see what we can do about forming a group to take stock of the situation that happened and how we can best be prepared for it in the future. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, also in light of the loss of life in the storm that affected a resident who was lost in Colville Lake. I think also a lot of our residents were stuck or trapped in other locations, either going to Inuvik or basically getting in and out of our communities, where it came so fast people just weren’t able to get back home and they were stranded in a lot of different communities. More importantly, even the airline companies couldn’t get in and out of our communities and the same thing because of the road closures. As part of their review, could they consider the whole response in regards to responding to communities, making them aware that these storms are coming, and work to ensure that we are able to respond to these various storms well ahead of time so that the warnings are out there and people are aware that we are going to be hit by a severe storm? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I will commit to the Member that we will look at all the different situations. In a lot of the smaller communities, I think we rely a lot on the elders that are in there, because they seem to know before anybody else that a storm is coming and they warn folks. I can assure the Member that a warning system could be one of the issues that is looked at by this working group. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This storm will also probably put us straight on financial resources of municipalities, government departments and whatnot. I would like to ask the Minister if he could possibly come back with a cost assessment of what this storm has cost by way of costs to basically not only react to the storm but also the cost to dig ourselves out. The Department of Highways I know were having to put Cats and everything on the roads because graders just couldn’t cut it. I would like to know if the Minister can look at the financial implications of the storm. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we will be able to have a fairly good idea of what it may have cost in the communities themselves and municipal governments to do a lot of the work that happened as a result of the storm. Clearing the snow and that are part of their daily activities that they would take care of after any type of snowfall, but I will do what I can to try and get the numbers as to what it may have cost the municipal governments after this particular storm and relay them on to the Member. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 567-16(5):AUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT OF THE DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask questions to the Minister of Transportation regarding the Deh Cho Bridge on decisions made by this current government under their watch today.

Mr. Speaker, in reading the Auditor General’s report, it would appear that an external audit of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation’s financial statements had not been done while the Auditor General was looking at this project. That means that trying to put a figure on the cost to date on that project just leaves a lot to be questioned. Does the Minister have a cost to date on the Deh Cho Bridge Project? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have the figures. The Auditor General reviews and audits the bridge project on an annual basis. They have been since the project started. They also have the information. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, that would be true for the Department of Transportation’s role in the Deh Cho Bridge Project, but I am talking about the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and their financial records. Has an external audit of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation’s financial records been audited? If so, can we see it? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the audit is a comprehensive audit that includes the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation’s financial statements. I think that is all available for this year very shortly. I understand an audit has been completed just in the recent weeks. I can certainly try to get my hands on it for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to ask a question today about concerns over the design. Also in the Auditor General’s report it talks about concerns over the design being brought forward by the Department of Transportation and somebody somewhere overriding a recommendation of the department to continue to waive the requirement for the design being done and to proceed with construction. It is paragraph 27, if the Minister wants to have a look at that. I would like to ask how that could happen. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we do have a design sign-off on all components of the bridge project. As I indicated yesterday, we have also had our own independent design engineers, our experts, review the design. They all approve it. What the Auditor General is looking for is one signature to approve all components. Right now we have a designer that approved the piers and we have a designer that approved the superstructure. Although the superstructure is 85 percent of the overall design, her desire is to have us have one designer approve all the different components and that would bring comfort. Thank you.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. It wasn’t really what I was looking for, though. It is paragraph 27 of the Auditor General’s report which states quite clearly that the risk to the project was significantly increased when the Government of the Northwest Territories waived the approval of the design in order to allow construction to start. Was the recommendation from the Department of Transportation not to proceed with construction? Who made the decision to waive the requirement to have that design completed? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you. My job is to get the bridge built, to steer it to a final product. It’s very difficult if I have to try to steer it while looking in the rear-view mirror all the time. Mr. Speaker, I’d have to respond to the Member by stating that the design and the amendment to the concession agreement was made on the advice of the department, it was signed off by the Minister of the day with authorization from Cabinet of the day. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 568-16(5):COMPLETION OF HIGHWAY NO. 6

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member’s statement I talked about the completion of Highway No. 6. I’d like to ask the Minister of DOT some questions on that. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell me what the plan is for addressing the chipseal stage of Highway No. 6 from kilometre 67 to kilometre 90? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the Member for raising the issue on a consistent basis to bring attention to the need for improvement to our infrastructure, and in particular Highway No. 6. We have been working very hard with the Member and the Member’s community to move the project forward. We’ve done a lot of work on Highway No. 6. It needed a lot of work to ensure that the preservation of the road was intact.

We have been working and focusing on the area from Buffalo River to the community of Fort Resolution. We had identified a little over $7 million to do the work on that section of road. We’ve done a lot of work in terms of design. We have done a lot of work focusing on an issue that has challenges and that’s the drainage conditions. I think we’ve resolved a number of these issues. We have, for this coming year, approved for chipsealing, a budget. I don’t have the particulars as to the amount and the actual areas. I could commit to the Member to find that and provide it to him, but I can assure him there will be some chipsealing that will be done on Highway No. 6 this coming season. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you. Could the Minister tell me what the plan is for the rest of the highway, the highway that goes from -- they’re planning on chipsealing to Res, not that portion -- but the portion that goes from Little Buffalo River towards Pine Point? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you. As we come to the end of the season and the commitment this coming year, we need to focus on the additional stretch of road on Highway No. 6. Highway No. 6 is 90 kilometres long. It’s going to take further investment and we recognize it’s going to be difficult to commit to putting all the dollars in the budget over a short period of time. So we’ve decided that we have to put this in the needs for the upcoming budget or the new budget, the new government, and we have identified that it’s going to need roughly $15 million over the next five years to conclude the work on this road. So that’s something that we’ll be including in the needs. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you. Can the Minister place that number into the infrastructure plan for the department, $15 million? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you. I can assure the Member that the $15 million requirement is in the needs assessment, the five-year needs assessment. It will be the decision of the next government to ensure that these dollars are indentified and invested into that stretch of road. I can’t commit that that’s going to happen, but as I pointed out to the Member, that’s what it’s going to need and we are aware of that and that’s what we’ve put in our transition documents. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the chipsealing project this summer, can the Minister direct his staff to work with MACA and the hamlet, try to gain some economies of scale, because the community is planning on doing chipsealing in the community as well this summer. I’m just wondering if this Minister could work with the hamlet and Minister of MACA to complete the chipsealing of the community while they’re chipsealing from Buffalo River. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker, it’s our practice to work with communities and in some cases we’ve been able to combine efforts and lower the cost of chipsealing. In some cases we’ve actually stepped in and provided some of the technical expertise that the community was lacking. We’d certainly want to sit down well in advance of this project moving forward, to have that discussion and see if there’s any way that the community can take advantage of the work that’s being done in the area. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 569-16(5):CARBON TAXATION

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance was complimented at last week’s public meeting on carbon taxation for being the Minister promoting discussion on this opportunity. Three MLAs and three Ministers attended the roundtable to get the facts and they are to be congratulated too. Participation from Finance and Environment and Natural Resources officials added to the discussion. With the Minister’s leadership, this discussion is well underway. Can the Minister say what the next steps will be in pursuing this work? Mahsi.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There’s a number of fronts on this particular initiative where we’re looking at the Greenhouse Gas Strategy, which is underway. It will be done sometime this spring and summer and that will encompass the broad discussion of how do we control our emissions and our carbon footprint and what are the things we have to do in terms of standards and other options in terms of moving forward to be as responsible as possible. We’ve also committed through the Finance side to do work on the carbon tax. We’ve assisted with this workshop that the Member was at last week and that myself and Minister Bob McLeod attended. That work is going to help inform the work that’s being pulled together and all that will be part of the transition document going forward for the 17th Assembly’s consideration as soon as they take office next fall. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for those comments from the Minister. I appreciate all the work that is being done there and is underway. I’d like to confirm that the Minister’s portfolios are gathering the necessary data we’ll need, recognizing that the NWT is likely a bit different than the rest of the jurisdictions where this has been applied. So we’ll have to customize such a tool to make sure it benefits us to the greatest extent.

So is the Minister ensuring that all the data that will be needed to make good decisions is being collected? Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. We appreciate the Member’s point and we are of the same mind, that whatever we do has to be tailored and reflect the realities of the Northwest Territories as an individual and unique jurisdiction. We are doing the work in both areas, both on the Finance side and Environment and Natural Resource side, to pull together the best information that’s available so that we can set all the pieces in place for the incoming Assembly to make an informed decision, hopefully as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 570-16(5):AUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT OF THE DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Premier today and I want to speak to some of the questions that have arisen from the Auditor General’s report.

In February of 2008, when the project was at financial close and things were in a bit of a critical situation, I believe that the Department of Transport expressed concern that the bridge design was not complete, and at that point, according to what the Minister of Transportation said earlier, there was a decision by Cabinet to go ahead with the project without design approval. I’d like to know on what basis, if the Premier can advise on what basis Cabinet made that decision to go ahead with the construction of the bridge. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let’s be clear on this: Cabinet did not overrule Transportation. The fact is this project was under the Department of Transportation and it is the initiative of the department and Minister to bring forward papers for discussions on that process.

**MS. BISARO:** I didn’t hear an answer to the question there. If a department brings forward a proposal, there must have been some basis on which a decision is made to go on one side or the other. I didn’t hear an answer as to what basis that decision was made on.

I’d like to know also from the Premier, when this decision was being considered, was there an evaluation of the risk to the project, for instance, cost overruns, if the project went ahead to construction without approval of bridge design?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** The process of any construction project coming forward, number one, the specific department would have to do a number of analyses in coming forward with a request for a decision. In this case, the Department of Transportation looked at many of those options and came forward with their paper. Decisions were made based on that.

Now, as well, I must say, as we’re talking about a decision made back in February at the request of Members of this Assembly to myself, I had authorized the Department of Executive to work with the departments involved, that was Transportation, Justice and Finance at the time, to do a review. We submitted that paper to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure on March 3, 2008, going over a number of the concerns that were raised by Members at that time.

**MS. BISARO:** I didn’t really hear an answer to my question about what kind of evaluation was done at the time that the decision was made so I guess I’m not going to get one.

I’d like to ask the Premier, in February of 2008 as well we’ve understood from the Auditor General’s report that regulations to the Financial Administration Act were amended and at that time the requirement for 14 days’ advance notice to Members was also waived. I’d like to know from the Premier why Members were not advised of the waiving or the amendment to the regulations even if it had to be after the fact.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** There was no waiving of notice of Members. It is a natural part of the decision to provide an exemption to indemnification where the process that was followed is a standard practice and has been in place since 1999. This decision to do that as a normal part of business -- and governments across the land use this as a tool -- was to address the need to indemnify, in the initial case, the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and then follow up with the lenders. We could read out exactly what that indemnification meant. Again, in the paper, in the response that I gave to committee we did reflect on the need to adjust the current processes going forward and reference the work that was ongoing, for example, in the Financial Administration Act. That work is still ongoing that would look towards those issues.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier for that response. I guess maybe if that information went to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure I did not see it as I’m not on that committee. I’d like to ask the Premier if he would commit to providing the information that went to Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure relative to the amendment of these regulations. If he could commit to provide that to me and Members on this side of the House.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Again, the notifications particular to what the Member just stated about the amendment to indemnifications, the list is attached to the regulations. The Minister of Finance can provide a list of those that are included in the regulations. Again, this process does not, it is a normal part of business and it foregoes the 14-day process that we’ve gone through. That was discussed with Members. In fact, again, the letter I wrote to the chair of Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure and the attachment highlighted the need for looking at a modernization of the Financial Administration Act and the area of loan guarantees and indemnities.

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

## QUESTION 571-16(5):STATUS OF DRAFT P3 POLICY

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement I spoke about the P3 policy that government is working with the Priorities and Planning committee to develop. I’d like to ask the Minister of Finance, we had seen it I think it was last fall and we hadn’t had any more discussion on it. I’d just like to ask the Minister where the P3 policy is right now.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’re still working on the document we’ve had. As the Member indicated, we visited committee and we presented the work that we’ve done. We presented the work that was coming out of Canada in terms of their thresholds and how they approached the issue.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** As I recall, it was quite an extensive document and given the context of the Auditor General’s report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project, when establishing P3s that’s something that should be real and tangible. Does that document speak to that?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member has touched on a key point in terms of the risk and the tangible benefits. We do have an extensive list of feedback from the committee that we received in December and that work is still being reviewed in looking at how we can incorporate it into the policy going forward.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** That’s something certainly this side of the House would like to support and engage once we come down to a good policy that will protect us in the future and give us positive benefits not only for ourselves but for all Northerners. I’d like to ask the Minister what the next stage is. I think our side of the House is waiting for government’s response on what the next steps are in developing our P3 policy.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** In the next number of weeks we will conclude looking at what feedback we got from committee and we will look at how we can adjust the policy which we will then send back to committee for their review.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Working with the P3 policy I think the next step is to sit down with committee. I’d just like to ask the Minister, I don’t know how much detail is in there, but what would be the size of the projects that are actually listed in there by financial value? What is the minimum for a P3 project?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** That’s going to be part of the challenge. As we look at, for example, the federal approach to P3s, they have a fairly high threshold of $50 million. We’ve heard the concerns from the committee that in the North that’s going to put most projects out of reach. That’s one of the areas where we have to come to a final agreement on.

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

## QUESTION 572-16(5):SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STAFFAND PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS ATSTANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and follow up on my Member’s statement earlier today where I talked about mental health issues and Stanton.

I’m wondering if the Minister could tell me how often and what criteria is used for reviewing internal policies to ensure safety and security of staff, patients and public within Stanton.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That’s a pretty broad question. Being a facility that it is and the services it provides, there are any number of processes in place to review incidents and happenings at the hospital. If the Member wants to be more specific, I can try to address those.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I’ll try to be a little bit more specific. I’m talking primarily about the psychiatric unit. In November last year a young lady was released on a weekend pass and she disappeared over the weekend and nobody has seen her since. In the last couple of weeks we’ve heard a number of reports of patients from the psychiatric unit coming and going almost as they please. I’m wondering what it takes for us to get in there and review the policies, protocols and procedures of that unit so that we can ensure that when people do leave, that we know they’re coming back, or that there’s some requirement for them to be supervised while they’re released so that we don’t get these situations where people walk out of their homes on a November day and don’t come back, as well as, you know, our patients who are going down for a cigarette or something, we have confidence that our procedures allow or ensure that they come back safe. What does it take?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I acknowledge that we have had some incidents at the hospital in that specific unit. In general, every pass, the patients in the psychiatric unit are allowed to have temporary passes depending on their conditions and situations. It’s a rare situation where patients are held there without having any passes. There are medical assessments and lots of work done to make sure that one can and is allowed to have a temporary pass, whether it is to go out for a cigarette or sometimes they are allowed to go to visit families. The primary objective for that service is to eventually be able to integrate these patients back into the community. It’s on a case-by-case basis but the staff and providers do constant assessment of the patients on leave.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response. I accept the need and encourage the use of temporary passes. My concern is more along the lines that over the years -- and we can go way back to the beginning of Stanton -- we’ve had situations where people have gone who were supposed to come back and were never able to come back. I’m curious; at what point do we do a bit of an internal review on those passes and whether or not we have to have situations where families have to be a supervisor or guardian of a person who is released? We want to help these people. I know the Minister wants to help these people. I’m more concerned about the processes right now to make sure that these unfortunate situations don’t happen.

We need to learn from the unfortunate situations that have occurred and fix our policies and procedures so that they work in the best interest. I’m still curious; will she commit to doing a review, of having Stanton doing a review of the policies and procedures in that unit within Stanton to make sure that we have a greater sense of security and greater sense of confidence that our patients and public and our staff will be safe?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** We are talking about I think two things here. On both counts we are doing a review. One, the Member is aware of the mental health and addictions review that we are undertaking as an entire mental health programming at the hospital as well as in communities. We acknowledge that there is room for improvement in that area and we have hired a study team, consulting team who have been here and talked to the stakeholders. We’re looking forward to having recommendations on that to improve our Mental Health and Addictions Program as a whole.

With respect to the psychiatric unit, every incident where they’ve had situations that the Member describes, yes, we have done the review and they are working and put safeguards in place to prevent those incidents from happening again. It is acknowledged, though, that the patients do get to go on a pass without having an escort at all times. I mean, in many cases the passes work and the patients benefit from that. It’s just that we have unfortunate situations where mishaps do happen.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that response. I’d be interested in seeing the recommendations that have come out of those reviews of the psychiatric unit to learn what lessons we have learned and what changes have been made to improve the services and protect our staff, patients and the public. Can the Minister share those recommended changes with the Members of this House so that we have some confidence that things are being done in that unit for the safety of our patients, staff and public? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I will do that.

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

## QUESTION 573-16(5):ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL ABILITYTO IMPLEMENT HOTEL TAX

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement today I raised again the issue of a hotel tax. I feel very strongly that that could be one method our government could do to empower municipalities and give them a chance to raise new revenues to help encourage the tourism industry in good partnership with NWT Tourism. My question would be directly to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, because any modification for the municipal statutes, obviously, would be directed at him. Does the Department of MACA have a position on the possible amendments to the municipal statutes that could allow municipalities to achieve this type of authority and if they so chose to implement a hotel tax they would be enabled to do so? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, the NWTAC, as the Member had mentioned in his Member’s statement, had passed a motion asking for the municipalities to have the authority to levy hotel taxes. That being the case, we obviously have to listen to that and do our consultations and see what support is out there. This was something that was tried, I believe, in 2000, to levy a hotel tax, and a lot of the stakeholders that were opposed to it at that time are now speaking out in support of it. It’s one obviously we’d have to have a look at and see how we can go forward from there. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Clearly, with that great answer you can tell that the Minister is obviously having a very good birthday, because that was a very good answer.

Mr. Speaker, I’d like to continue in the same positive vein in the sense of the answer he provided. He is correct; back in 2000, actually it was groups like the Hotel Association that were completely against these types of things, as well as others, but just to name one in this particular case. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be willing to commit to doing a review on this particular initiative that is being jointly proposed by individual municipalities, the NWT Association of Communities, and certainly is being supported by the hotel industry and NWT Tourism? We’ve got a lot of partners that would like this particular initiative, certainly the authority. I should highlight, Mr. Speaker, that not everyone wants this and this is not something everyone would use, but it’s about empowering those municipalities who would like this. Would the Minister be willing to take that type of initiative on and do some work on it right away? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, this is one that does seem to be picking up steam and it’s one that we’d definitely have to have a look at. I will commit to the Member that we will take up the discussion. It is one where there is going to be some consultations that need to be done. All interested stakeholders that have something in this will have to be consulted and I’m not sure if during the life of this Assembly we would have time. It’s one issue that we could put in the transition document for the 17th Assembly to have a look at.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, with the research that I’ve done on this particular issue I’ve seen that the Manitoba government has empowered their municipalities to make these types of amendments. What I’m wondering is, first, I appreciate the commitment provided by the Minister thus far, but I’m wondering if he can take it a little further. If I’d provide that example and perhaps maybe if other people from industry support by providing other examples, would the Minister empower his own officials to see if they could do some work on this in advance of the upcoming NWT Association of Communities meeting, which is in about three months from now? It would certainly be a good particular issue for them to evaluate among their peers of what work can be done and what work could be done and see what type of feelings and perhaps support around the room when they actually see the type of wording that could be considered. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the department has already started some of the work in comparison to some of the other jurisdictions in the South and how they deal with the issue that we’re discussing today. I’m sure as they go into the NWTAC annual general meeting to be held in Tuktoyaktuk this year that they’ll have some information, because obviously they’re going to get questions on it, and as they normally do, they go there very well prepared and I believe they will be on this one too. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister seems to be quite well on top of this particular issue and it’s good to see. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister, finally, on a particular issue, be willing to commit to provide me a summary of the work that’s been done to date? I have a number of interested constituents on this particular matter and I want to assure them that the work is being done, as well as I want to see what work is being done from my own point of view to help support the department if that’s the direction that they end up going, as this is an important issue for the City of Yellowknife as well as other municipalities, the NWT Tourism, Hotel Association, as well as many others. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be willing to commit to sharing that information? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, there has been some preliminary work done on what some of the other jurisdictions are doing and I would be willing to provide what I have to the Member so he can see what other jurisdictions are doing. Then again, as I said before, the NWTAC AGM, the department will probably be expecting some questions on this and they’ll be doing more research, so they’ll be well prepared to answer any questions that they may have. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 574-16(5):NORMAN WELLS BLOCK LANDTRANSFER LEASE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of MACA. It has to do with an issue that was brought up in the House on March 1st, with Mr. Bromley and the Minister, an exchange of the Norman Wells land sale, land base. The comments I’ve read and the exchange that I’ve read, it was pretty brutal and the people of Norman Wells we’re pretty well taken back and very hurt about this deal and they really are hurt about the comments made in this House.

I want to make it clear to the Minister here, when this deal was going through and this history of this deal, did MACA exclude the interests of the Town of Norman Wells in this land deal?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Norman Wells Land Corporation identified a piece of Commissioner’s land that they were interested in. They approached MACA and made application. They were hereby approved for it, and I assure the Member, as I did the other Member, that all the proper processes were followed. The municipal government in Norman Wells had some concerns with it. I met with them personally. The deputy has met with them and the lands people have met with them. They’ve expressed their concern. But at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the Norman Wells Land Corp followed all the processes as it’s laid out in acquiring Commissioner’s land; therefore, we entered into a deal with them. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, again, reading the comments it seemed like something shady was happening and I take offence to that, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister is an honourable man whose department is a good department and that they follow policies and practices. I know it takes a lot of good work there. I was appalled by the comments here. I want to ask the Minister, did we, as the government, violate our own policies, as a comment was made that we violated our own policies and put together a secret deal that saw a benefit to a corporation that had their own interests in this land here.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. We followed all policy as it’s laid out in the acquisition of Commissioner’s land. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Again, as I read further into the comments, I don’t know what to make of it. I want to ask the Minister, in this transaction that happened between the Norman Wells issue here, the Land Corporation and MACA, when the Minister is taking a look at it will he do a review to satisfy some people out there that we did follow policy, all transactions happened in a fair manner and that this deal here is one that should never be questioned again to the extent that I saw in the Hansard?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions with municipal government on a number of occasions laying out the process that we use and the process that was followed. Having said that, I really see no need for a review of this situation and how the deal went down. There will still be opportunities for input because there are still some conditions that they have to meet in the next little while, so there will still be opportunity for input. I am sure the community government would be prepared for that and take up every opportunity they can to voice their displeasure on how this transaction went down. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the transactions of this deal here, did the Town of Norman Wells have opportunities throughout the application process or the interest of the process of this deal? Did they have opportunities to voice their interests? Did MACA note their interest? However, as it has been stated in the exchange, they weren’t taken very seriously. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, once again, the Norman Wells Land Corporation made application for the property and we entered into an agreement with them. The Town has had opportunities to voice their concerns with the deal. They have done so on a number of occasions. I pointed out to the Member before, I had personally met with council and my senior officials have met with council, so they have had ample opportunity to voice their concerns on the deal that was made with the Norman Wells Land Corporation on acquiring the Commissioner’s Land. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 575-16(5):CARBON TAXATION

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about the carbon tax. The carbon tax government revenue option paper in 2008 indicated that the GNWT, when they did the assessment stating that carbon tax would increase the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. This goes contrary to one of our goals to reduce the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister of ENR with the carbon tax that is coming up for some discussions here, we need to protect seniors and low-income residents and recognize the regional cost of living. How is the Minister going to propose to look at supporting our goal but also looking at this issue here where it says it is going to increase the cost of living?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent has been and continues to be right from the start, that any taxes that we were looking at, but in this particular case, the carbon tax, it was premised on the assumption that we would be looking at it within the context of making it revenue neutral so it didn’t raise the cost of living. It would look at dealing with carbon emissions and such but making very carefully structured if it was going to be considered, but it was always within the context in the North. Anything we do with taxes, anything we do in terms of revenue generation, we have to be very sensitive to the issue of driving up costs, especially in the smaller communities. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, the cost of the carbon tax, I am having a hard time because in our region, we depend on fossil fuel. We do not have a hydro facility like some of the other regions. The cost of living is very high. My people depend on fossil fuel, so this would bring the costs up in my region. How is the Minister going to look at it if it is being considered to bring in the carbon tax and how do we look at some regions and communities that fully depend on fossil fuel?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, first, to reassure the Member, tomorrow we are going to give third reading to the budget bill and it is going to get assent by the Commissioner. In that bill, there are no new taxes.

There is work being done, as we discussed it in the House today with Member for Weledeh, in terms of the Greenhouse Gas Strategy. There was a roundtable held by the group Mr. Bromley was part of on looking at having further discussions on the carbon tax. All that work is going to be pulled together and it will be there for the consideration for the 17th Assembly and then there will be very careful consideration as there was, for example, during the Electrical Rate Review. We tried to come up with a way that is sensitive to the differences in Electrical Rate Review case between thermal communities and hydro communities, small communities and large communities. I am assuming the 17th Assembly would fully follow that same type of process. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, with our small population, compared to the province of Alberta, I want to ask the Minister, does it make sense to have any type of carbon tax in the Northwest Territories going forward in the 17th?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the issue of our carbon emissions targets taxes has to be seen within the broader context in which we are trying to do through the Greenhouse Gas Strategy and the recognition that we all see as Northerners, the majority of us Northerners see of the rapid and dramatic and visible effect of climate change and what is driving that climate change in terms of world population and, of course, the anthropogenic or human-caused emissions.

In the North, we are very carbon dependent, as the Member indicated. The question is, what do we do in order to be responsible citizens of the country of the North, of the globe, to deal with those emissions which we know are, in fact, aggravating and leading to some of the problems that are facing us with permafrost, with climate change, with ice melting, extreme weather events, diminished snow caps, water flows, all of these types of things. We have to look at it within that broad context and have the discussion of how do we collectively put our minds to do all the right things and to bring in the resources to do those things. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated before, our region is very dependent on carbon and fossil fuel. Mr. Speaker, we do not have the luxury of having hydro power in our communities. Just recently INAC issued one of the largest land bids in the Northwest Territories: 11 parcels. There are a few more up in the Beaufort-Delta. We depend on fossil fuel in the Sahtu. Until we see some hydro initiatives coming into the Sahtu to lower our costs and to look at carbon tax, I cannot support this carbon tax issue right now. What is the Minister doing on a going forward basis to show that we are bringing down our cost of living in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the most immediate example I can give is the electrical rate restructure was done that, in fact, lowered the price of commercial power in the Member’s communities in his riding by many cases 30, 40 or 50 percent and would have, in our hope and our plan, to have an effect on the food basket costs. That is probably one of the single biggest things in the life of this Assembly that has been done, an issue that has bedevilled Assemblies since before the 13th Assembly where we have tried to deal with the issue of the power rates to push for a one-rate zone but that particular decision had a dramatic impact in terms of the cost of commercial power, for example, in thermal communities. Thank you.

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

## QUESTION 576-16(5):AUDITOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT OF THEDEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a few more questions today for the Minister of Transportation getting back to the Auditor General’s report. Honestly, this bridge is being built in a very challenging environment across the Mackenzie River, one of the great rivers of the world, and in a very remote location of the Northwest Territories. Construction costs, Mr. Speaker, would seem to me to be a risk that would be evident from day one. I’d like to ask the Minister of Transportation how the Department of Transportation is managing the risks on construction costs on that project going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’ve put together a team of experts from across the country, I should say across the world, that are very experienced, probably the best in their field and they’ve put together a risk matrix that identifies all the potential challenges that are out there. Anything that may happen, they develop an action plan that would require a response and this is the area that the Auditor General has flagged as having some concern.

Mr. Speaker, we should, I guess, put into perspective first of all what risk means to the Auditor General and everybody else, the ordinary person on the street. The Auditor General assumes risk to mean potentially delaying a project by a month. I would assume when people hear the word “risk” -- and I’ve had a few comments -- it’s an issue with the construction and then maybe the bridge will fall down. That’s not the case, Mr. Speaker. We have a team that’s put together a very good plan. We’ve identified all the risks that could be attached to this project. There are certain areas that have some risk having been identified that are considered low. I mean, we’re not going to put a risk to identify an action plan if a buffalo walks into a construction yard. Those types of things are not realistic. I think we have a very good team, a very good plan and a very good response program. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you and I thank the Minister for that. It would be easy to identify risks. Risks are easily identifiable and in the Auditor General’s report she calls the department’s risk matrix weak. It’s how you manage those risks, Mr. Speaker, and that’s what I want to ask the Minister about. The Department of Transportation seems to figure that by including a delivery date in the contract, that that transfers that risk to the general contractor. The Auditor General found no information on this transfer in the risk matrix, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to ask the Minister how he accounts for that omission. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** The Auditor General identified the risk matrix as being weak. It didn’t cover some areas that we consider as low. There’s also been concern from the Auditor General that the wording itself was too general when we used the best efforts or best practices and those types of terms, she figured that we should have it word-specific to an actual response, Mr. Speaker.

We have a contract, we have a plan to deal with any issues that come forward and there may be issues that are unforeseen, but for the most part, Mr. Speaker, we’ve engaged risk management experts to put this plan together, they’re the best in the country, best in the world and they’ve put together... I’ve put together a very efficient project management team. We have engaged more project managers than we had historically. We require industry best practices for quality control, quality assurance and we now do and have spent a lot of energy identifying any potential risks and incorporated tracking mitigation measures to ensure that it's followed. So, Mr. Speaker, we’ve done everything we can possibly. I’m not sure what more we can do. Maybe there could be some suggestions from the Member that has taken the Auditor General’s recommendations and raised the concern. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired. I’ll allow the Member a short supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d have to wonder whether the team that the Minister speaks of was hired before the audit was conducted or they’ve recently been hired to address the weaknesses that the Auditor General identifies in her report. Mr. Speaker, obviously one of the most important risks going forward is the construction costs on this and in that matrix it does not address the risk the department might face should the bridge be completed late, and we’ve talked numerous times about this. I’d like to ask the Minister specifically about that question. How is the department going to handle that project should the costs come in over what they’re scheduled to be? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you. I’m glad the Member pointed out risks. Mr. Speaker, this is the risk of asking for an Auditor General operational audit a few days after we assume the project completely in the responsibility of the government. The Auditor General did a lot of this work as we were putting our team together, as we were putting our plans together, and this document reflects that, Mr. Speaker. It’s unfortunate. Our preference would have been to have the final audit at the end of the project. I stated many times before that it’s really stretched our resources. We’ve been audited for eight months out of the 12 months that we’ve had this project in our hands. However, we are managing and we are moving forward.

As to the question about who would pay for this project, Mr. Speaker, this is a government project. We’ve assumed full responsibility for this project and if there is a cost overrun, if we go into December or into January, for that matter, we would have to see if there are any dollars left in the construction budget. Failing that, we would have to look internally to see if there’s any slippage on any other projects, and worst-case scenario we would have to come back to this House through supp. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could sum it up concisely, I just want to get a better idea on whose responsibility it is should the project go past November of 2011 and cost more. Is it the general contractor or is it the Government of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, if there was any potential loss of revenue due to the contract going past the completion date, we would seek recovery on that. Thank you.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item number 6 on the orders of the day.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

# Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery(Reversion)

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d just like to recognizea few people in the gallery with us today: Margaret Leishman, Judy Desjarlais, Susie Tsetso, Beverly Bagnell, Faith Embleton, Lynn Doan, Darrell Beaulieu, and even though he’s already been recognized, I’ll recognize him again because I love him, my dad, Dick Abernethy.

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

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to recognize a former resident of Fort Simpson, Ms. Susie Tsetso. Mahsi cho.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to recognize Darrell Beaulieu as well, a resident of Weledeh.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to recognize Margaret Leishman. This is her second visit here during this session and I’d like to welcome her here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome everyone in the gallery. I hope you’re enjoying the proceedings.

Item 9, written question. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

# Written Questions

## WRITTEN QUESTION 25-16(5): GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS TRAINING

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive.

1. Please provide details of the content of the department’s gender-based training program, a copy of materials provided to participants, and a copy of the instructor’s training module.

2. Please provide a summary of the results of any evaluations completed by participants in the department’s gender-based training program.

3. Please provide some examples of policies that have been modified or updated as a result of the gender-based analysis lens, noting specific changes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

# Returns to Written Questions

## RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 19-16(5):OBSTETRICAL AND MIDWIFERY CARE

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 19-16(5) asked by Mr. Bromley on February 10, 2011, to the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding obstetrical and midwifery care.

While the average length of out-of-community stay varies, most women will spend between four and five weeks away from home if they travel to Yellowknife or Inuvik to deliver their baby. The majority of pre and post-natal care is provided by their local health care provider. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table Number of Hospital Discharges of New Mothers In and Outside of the NWT.

The Department of Health and Social Services cannot accurately estimate the average cost of care and travel for mothers who deliver at home under the care of a midwife versus those that travel to Inuvik or Yellowknife for delivery in a hospital.

Fort Smith is the only community offering home births. Very few women choose the home birth option. Of the 42 births in 2009-2010 there was only one home delivery and none so far for 2010-2011.

While midwives in Fort Smith provide all pre and post-natal care to all pregnant women, they only deliver about 50 percent of the babies. The other approximately 50 percent choose to travel to Yellowknife or another health facility out of territory to deliver and as a result would still incur travel costs.

## RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 20-16(5):BIRTHS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2007-2011

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 20-16(5) asked by Mr. Abernethy on February 10, 2011, to the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding births in the Northwest Territories from 2007 to 2011.

While the average length of out-of-community stay varies, most women will spend between four and five weeks away from home if they travel to Yellowknife or Inuvik to deliver their baby. The majority of pre and post-natal care is provided by their local health care provider. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table Number of Hospital Discharges of New Mothers In and Outside of the NWT.

## RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 21-16(5):LOCUM AND AGENCY NURSES EMPLOYEDBY THE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Speaker, I have a provisional return to Written Question 21-16(5) asked by Mr. Ramsay on February 10, 2011, to the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding locum and agency nurses employed by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The request requires a significant undertaking to compile. The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to gather this information. It will be provided by May 11, 2011.

## RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 22-16(5):STATISTICS ON ADMISSIONS AND GRADUATION RATES FOR THE AURORA COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM FROM1999 TO PRESENT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 22-16(5) asked by Mr. Abernethy on February 10, 2011, to the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding the statics on admissions and graduation rates for the Aurora College Nursing Program.

As requested, the Aurora College Nursing Program statistics on admission and graduation rates from 1999 to the present have been provided. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table Program Enrolments and Graduates for All Nursing Programs Between 1998 to 2011 for a breakdown of enrolment and graduation rates by year and program.

Students have the option to identify their ethnicity on the Aurora College student application form. Consequently, the number in the category of non-Aboriginal students is difficult to disaggregate as it reflects both students who reported as “other,” as well as those who chose not to report their ethnicity.

For the Nursing Diploma and Degree programs, a total of seven part-time and 534 full-time students were enrolled between 2006 and 2011, of which 215 were Aboriginal -- one part time and 214 full time; and 326 non-Aboriginal -- six part time and 320 full time. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table Bachelor of Science in Nursing Enrolments by Ethnicity and Year 2006 to 2011 for a further breakdown of enrolment and graduation rates by year and program. Due to limitations of the Aurora College student records system, information on the ethnicity for the graduates of these nursing programs is currently not available.

For Introduction to Advanced Practice course a total of 299 part-time students were enrolled between 1999 and 2011, of which 15 were Aboriginal and 284 non-Aboriginal. A total of 287 students completed this course between 1999 and 2011, of which five were Aboriginal and 282 non-Aboriginal.

For Community Health Representative Program, a total of 79 students were enrolled from the time the program started in 2003 to 2011, of which 63 were Aboriginal and 16 non-Aboriginal. A total of 78 students completed this program between 2003 and 2011, of which 63 were Aboriginal and 15 were non-Aboriginal.

For the Masters of Science in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Stream (Masters), a total of 19 students have enrolled since the program started in January 2009, of which one full-time student is Aboriginal and six full-time and 12 part-time students are non-Aboriginal.

Additional information on the Nurse Practitioner Diploma Program from 2000 to 2009 is being sought and will be provided to the Members once it becomes available.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

# Tabling of Documents

## TABLED DOCUMENT 165-16(5):NWT WOMEN GIVING BIRTH -NUMBER OF DISCHARGESIN AND OUTSIDE THE NWT2005-06 TO 2009-10

## TABLED DOCUMENT 166-16(5):PROGRAM ENROLMENTS AND GRADUATESFOR ALL NURSING PROGRAMSBETWEEN 1998-2011

## TABLED DOCUMENT 167-16(5):BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, ENROLMENTS BY ETHNICITY AND YEAR,2006-2011

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my returns to written questions earlier today I wish to table the following three documents entitled NWT Women Giving Birth - Number of Discharges In and Outside of the NWT 2005-2006 to 2009-2010; Program Enrolments and Graduates for All Nursing Programs Between 1998 and 2011; and Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Enrolments by Ethnicity and Year, 2006-2011.

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

## TABLED DOCUMENT 168-16(5):LETTER TO MINISTER LEE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, FROM SAMUEL GARGAN, GRAND CHIEF, DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS, ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLISDAIR LEISHMAN INCIDENT AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

## TABLED DOCUMENT 169-16(5):LETTER TO MINISTER LEE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, FROM HON. NICK SIBBESTON, SENATOR, ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLISDAIR LEISHMAN INCIDENT AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

## TABLED DOCUMENT 170-16(5):LETTER TO MINISTER LEE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, FROM CHIEF JOACHIM BONNETROUGE, DEH GAH GOTIE FIRST NATION, ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLISDAIR LEISHMAN INCIDENT AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three letters to table today. The first one is to Minister Sandy Lee from Samuel Gargan, the grand chief of the Dehcho First Nations. The second is to the Honourable Sandy Lee from Nick Sibbeston, the honourable Senator for the Northwest Territories. The third one is to Minister Sandy Lee from Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge from the Deh Gah Got’ie First Nation. All of them are requesting an independent external investigation into the events leading up to Allisdair Leishman’s injuries within Stanton Territorial Hospital.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

# Motions

## MOTION 40-16(5):ELDERS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS,CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** WHEREAS it is critically important that elders in the Northwest Territories share their knowledge and culture in our schools;

AND WHEREAS elders in most communities are willing to teach the young people in schools, or as part of school programs on the land;

AND WHEREAS the simple presence of supportive elders in school and the high degree of respect that they get adds to students’ sense of security and strengthens their ability to learn;

AND WHEREAS elders should be compensated for their work and time, like anyone else providing a valuable service to the GNWT;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut has organized the teaching role of elders in schools and made policies for their involvement, including compensation, in its “Innait Inuksiutilirijiit” program;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Department of Education, Culture and Employment devise a certification program to certify elders to teach in NWT schools in time for the start of the new school year in the fall of 2011.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ll be brief. I want to thank the Member for Weledeh for seconding the motion. I want to say a few comments here to this motion.

In this day and age and with the vast challenges that the youth have with the conflicting values that they are being taught at home and school and what they see on TV, and how the community is running these days, it’s critically important, it’s actually life and death that we start to enrol our elders into schools so that the youth can get valuable teaching and get some of the knowledge that the elders have and have held and want to pass on to the youth. I think the young right now are ready to learn. They’re willing to learn.

When I was up in the Sahtu I would witness some of the students who went out on the land and, man, you should have seen their eyes. They were happy, they were laughing, they were learning out on the land. They just came right to life. There were a lot of them.

The youth are asking and we need to listen to them. When they did a number of programs on the land and the elders were there, things were so good. The young ones are ready to learn. As legislators let’s help them. The elders are waiting to teach them. I think we need to put it together and get them into the schools. We need to get the elders there in time for the fall school year. Let’s put our minds to it and work hard so that all the barriers and things that could prevent them from being in the school, let’s deal with them. Let’s wash them away. I’m asking this government here to do that for the sake of our children’s lives, for the sake of our culture, for the sake of our languages. Let’s get our elders into our system. For too long they’ve been standing outside and being ignored and not being respected.

I ask, the young want these elders, the young need them right away. I’m asking for this motion, let’s create that environment that the elders can come in and out of our schools. Let’s create that environment to live, to know our beliefs and our cultures and our legends and know the value of our elders.

I say let’s do it with respect. Like professors that teach in universities and colleges, these elders are the university professors on the land. They know about life. If we don’t use them, we’re going to lose. Elders have always said that. Listen to us. If you take a part of the story that they tell you, you’re going to live a long life. Elders have said if you’re not going to listen, you’re not going to last too long. It’s very important what the elders say to us. It’s very important that we take what they have to teach us and use that in the future.

I want to say how happy and proud I was to read that Nunavut had this program already and that they were certifying their elders through a certification process. That takes leadership. I think our Minister here has that with the Cabinet to put elders into our school, to get the real professors into our school, the real teachers. So we could do that through our smarts, through the certification and certifying them.

So I want to say I look very forward to the day that we certify elders through a certification program and hopefully we can do it by this fall by getting them into our school and start off a new way to teach our young people.

I do want to thank my seconder Mr. Bromley for this motion here. I look forward to the support from the Assembly to deal with this motion today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to make some very brief comments here. I also would like to give a big nod to the Member for Sahtu for taking the initiative to bring this motion forward.

There is a really key role for elders to play in our schools. I think the Aboriginal achievement programs will recognize that very early on. You don’t have to look beyond the K’alemi Dene School right in Ndilo to see an example with Mrs. Fwasi, 70 years old this year, been in the school for a decade, and there’s a record of achievement there. K’alemi Dene graduated their first grade 12 students this year.

The simple presence of our elders in our community schools brings a security and a learning environment to the students that allows them to click in and start learning not just the languages and cultural benefits they get, which are added dimensions, but it allows them to develop the learning habits with the support of the elders that can lead to academic achievements as well. As the Tlicho have said, a foot in both worlds, the strength of two cultures.

Let’s get our elders in the school. I look forward to all our colleagues supporting this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Today I will be talking about education. [Translation ends]

Young citizens are learning how to speak the Chipewyan language, Denesuline, as I walk around the community now much more than it was in the past. Small kids are coming up to me and speaking the language and so on, and I think that putting the elders in the school will only enhance that and make it easy for the elders to communicate with the kids in the school in both Chipewyan and Denesuline and English.

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

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise too in support of the motion for certifying elders in the school. We’re already using it there but it’s just the next level up certifying them and even providing them with some small remuneration. I believe that’s incentive enough. Just the positive experiences that the youth have when they interact with the elders bring a smile to everybody’s face.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise in support of this motion. I’ve seen the fact that elders have a strong influence and a positive influence on our younger generation and I think at times people have gotten away from it and have missed out on great values that could be taught to them. Some of them are spiritual, but certainly emotional connections to family and practical connections that tend to get missed by people’s thirst for going forward with new technology and forgetting about the past. It’s the things about the past that link us as we go forward to the future to understand it. It’s those types of foundations that give us a good stability in our life, be it family values that are very important to me as well as I know many of the Members here and that type of connection I think is good for everyone. I support this motion and I think it’s a real valued contribution to our schools and certainly our younger generations that we’re trying to support who are following us.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] The knowledge of the elders is very important. [Translation ends]

[English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the Member for putting this motion forward. As I stated in my language, it is because of the elders of the past and the elders of the present that I still speak my language. I would like to thank them for that. I am a firm believer in having elders in school as well. We do have elders in schools and we’ll continue to provide those services.

I think this motion basically provides us more strength to move forward on what we have done in the past and where we are now. As we move forward, we need to strengthen our stand as the GNWT as the Department of Education, along with the Members, along with the communities, the leadership, the educators in the communities, because it has to start from home, as well, at the community level. We’ve heard over and over at the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiatives, regions that we visited, that elders should be in schools. They carry the tradition. They carry the stories. We’re firm believers in that and we want to carry that message forward. We need to revive the stories of the past, Mr. Speaker.

The Member alluded to the Government of Nunavut, the elders handbook to support their elders certification initiatives. This is an area that we are exploring and work is underway. Mr. Speaker, this is an initiative that’s before us in various aspects of the work that we do and it’s just giving us more to strengthen our role as a department.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is instruction to government, Cabinet, so we will be abstaining from the vote. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. I’ll allow the mover of the motion closing comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to say that with this motion, hopefully we would legitimatize, I guess, the elders into our education system. We do have them in our schools, yet they’re still struggling in terms of compensating them. They still are nice to have but not really essential. This certification would make it just like a teacher or any other profession in our education system. They will be equal partners. Right now it’s just listen to the elder and if they’re there, they’re there; if not, we’ll do something else. It doesn’t put them on the same level playing field in our education system. This certification would do that. It’s like asking the elders to come to our meetings and say a prayer and then asking them to sit down because we’ve got business to discuss that would not include the elder.

What I’m saying, from our point of view from our small communities, the elders need to take their rightful place in our education system. They need to be in their rightful place in our community. We need to lift them up to a place where they once stood, with high esteem, in our community. Over the years we have put them through a rough system. We have done it ourselves. This motion is one step to move them to their rightful place in our society. They bring that knowledge of truth.

I read in an article in the Calgary Herald the other day that Imperial Oil was discovered by a geologist, Ted Link. I was reading that and that’s what’s printed. I said, oh, my God, do they not know the real truth about the Norman Wells oilfield and the Aboriginal people and the elders that knew about this oilfield for thousands of years? This is how history is portrayed. That’s what this motion will do, is bring the knowledge and the truth so kids who now are able to read, maybe one of them is going to read the newspaper and that’s what he or she is going to believe. The elders will set the road straight and say no, it is the Aboriginal people, the Northwest Territories and Denedeh that knew about the Norman Wells oilfield right down the whole valley. They knew a lot of things that is in their oral tradition. It’s not written. This is what this will do for them such as raising the young ones. The elders will set it right.

Hopefully this Minister, this government can say yes, we can. We will put the elders in through a certificate program, we will design one and have it ready for the fall of 2011, we would do that. That’s how much we owe it to our elders. And we would fix their compensation.

For the last seven years the Minister knows when he was on this side when we were fighting to have elders in. Now he’s on the other side still. So I’m asking the Minister and this government here to put the certificate program in place like Nunavut. Just do it like them. You can do it. We can do it. It’s a matter of all of us here together say yes, and it’s done.

That’s what I wanted to say with this motion here. Let’s do it for our elders. That’s how much we owe it to them. So I say get our elders into the school. Get the real professionals to start teaching our children. Thank you. I will ask for a recorded vote.

## RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

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

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

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Results of the recorded vote: in favour, 11; against, zero; abstaining, six. The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

## MOTION 41-16(5):INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENTAT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL,CARRIED

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, Mr. Allisdair “Azzie” Leishman was brought by ambulance to the emergency department at Stanton Territorial Hospital suffering from hypothermia and experiencing a psychiatric episode;

AND WHEREAS while under the care and attention of Stanton Territorial Hospital, Mr. Leishman exited the emergency room and made his way to the kitchen, where he took a knife and inflicted serious injury to himself by stabbing himself in the chest twice;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Leishman remains in extended care at Stanton Hospital to this day;

AND WHEREAS this incident raises questions about how such an incident could occur within Stanton Territorial Hospital, and about the overall safety and security of patients and staff within the hospital;

AND WHEREAS Stanton Territorial Hospital conducted a confidential internal quality management review, or mortality and morbidity review of this incident which contained no recommendations to improve the system or ensure that no similar incident would be allowed to happen;

AND WHEREAS the family of Mr. Leishman have been requesting a comprehensive external investigation which would explain how a patient of Stanton Territorial Hospital could inflict such personal harm while under their care and make binding recommendations which would ensure that a similar incident could not occur;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Social Services and Stanton Territorial Health Authority continue to deny all requests for an external investigation into this incident;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Minister of Health immediately order an independent, external investigation covering all aspects of the Leishman incident, with recommendations, as necessary, to improve safety and security for all patients and staff and improve the overall quality of care for all patients receiving care within the Stanton Territorial Hospital.

**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 rise today requesting that this government conduct an independent external investigation covering all aspects of Mr. Allisdair “Azzie” Leishman’s injuries which occurred while Azzie was a patient being cared for at Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that a horrible situation like this help us ensure that nothing like this ever happens again, that Azzie’s incident helps to improve the safety and security of all patients and staff within Stanton as well as help to improve the overall quality of care for all patients receiving care within the Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, November 4, 2009, was the day that the Leishman family will never forget. It was the day that Azzie, a helicopter engineer as well as a vibrant father, brother and son, was taken by ambulance to Stanton Territorial Hospital, reportedly suffering from hypothermia. Ultimately, we don’t actually know what was wrong with him. It could have been anything. Regardless, both prior to his arrival and once under the care of the staff of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Azzie was clearly experiencing confusion and disorientation. One person referred to it as a psychiatric episode. By all accounts, he was mentally distraught, disoriented, and not acting in a fashion consistent with his normal behaviour and demeanour. It is my understanding that, once he arrived at Stanton, he was put in a room with a door left ajar for monitoring. While in this room, he was monitored, walking in circles and mumbling to himself. At some point, Mr. Speaker, Azzie exited this room and left the emergency room. A short time later, Azzie appeared in the kitchen of the hospital and obtained a knife from somewhere in the kitchen. Non-medical staff was present in the kitchen at this time. Standing in the kitchen, Azzie took a knife and punched it into his chest, not once, Mr. Speaker, but twice. The second stab pierced his heart, severing blood flow to Azzie’s brain.

Mr. Speaker, many things could have happened at this point. A person experiencing psychiatric episodes is unpredictable. In this case, Azzie chose to inflict harm upon himself rather than inflict pain on others. Regardless, it is not unreasonable to assume that if a situation like this were to ever be repeated in Stanton, harm could be inflicted upon staff rather than onto the person with the knife themselves. As such, it is imperative that we understand how such an incident occurred so that we can ensure that it never ever happens again.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize the incredibly hard work of all the competent and qualified doctors and nurses who jumped into action and did save Azzie’s life. I have no doubt that if they were not there, Azzie wouldn’t be with us today. Their dedication is truly appreciated. They did save his life.

However, as I have said previously, something bad did happen and it is important to learn from it. To learn from it, we must know what happened. We must have a comprehensive non-biased analysis of the event.

I have had a number of conversations with Azzie’s mother, Margaret, since this horrible incident. She has been Azzie’s primary advocate, and has taken it upon herself to be his champion throughout this ongoing ordeal. Margaret has asked continually for clarity on the events that took place in the hospital on November 4, 2009, and how in a place of healing this could have occurred. She wants certainty that it cannot happen again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we are having a discussion on this motion today. After an incident like this occurs, hospitals conduct internal quality assurance reviews. These are sometimes referred to as mortality and morbidity reports. This is the normal practice. After Azzie’s stabbing, one of these internal incident investigations was completed. These reports are completely confidential and content is protected by Access to Information. This protection ensures that doctors and nurses and other health care professionals have mechanisms where they can provide input into incidents and provide evidence without adversely affecting their position or professional bodies.

Although individual practitioners are protected, Mr. Speaker, the general findings and recommendations are supposed to be shared with immediate family members. I have talked to Margaret. This was done. In short, this is what she was told by Stanton after they completed the mortality and morbidity investigation into Azzie’s incident: all existing protocols and procedures that exist within Stanton and its emergency department were followed appropriately and no recommendations are required.

Mr. Speaker, let’s be clear. No recommendations are required. How is it possible that a system has learned nothing from this horrible incident? Mr. Speaker, I just don’t buy it. It doesn’t sound reasonable to me, not even a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, you may not believe this, given the fact that I am the one moving this motion, but I do believe that staff did nothing wrong. I have a huge amount of respect for health professionals throughout the system. They have one of the hardest jobs that I can imagine and provide a critical service in a complicated environment. The stress must be significant. Fortunately, they are professionals who continue to provide an incredibly high level of service, regardless of the challenges we face here in the North.

When the mortality and morbidity investigation claims it did nothing wrong and the staff followed all of the procedures and protocols within Stanton, I accept this. I believe this could be true. What I don’t accept, Mr. Speaker, is that policy, procedures and protocols accepted by Stanton meet the needs and potential situations that could arise, that no improvements can be made as a result of this horrible incident is unreasonable. If nothing else, Mr. Speaker, Azzie’s ability to stab himself in the heart in Stanton’s kitchen with Stanton’s knife while under Stanton’s care and treatment suggests clearly that there are some gaps in the policies, procedures and protocols utilized at Stanton Territorial Hospital. For this reason, the suggestion that no recommendations are required is nothing but insulting to the family and to anybody else who has a reasonable expectation that policies and procedures are expected to ensure safety and security of staff and patients within the facility.

Mr. Speaker, a mortality and morbidity quality assurance investigation is conducted by the institution on the institution itself. I am not sure that, in this case, the institution has demonstrated a subjective perspective. As such, it is imperative that an external investigation be conducted.

I and my colleagues have requested a copy of the quality assurance investigation. We have been told no. We have also been made completely aware of the confidential nature of these reports and the importance with respect to health providers for keeping these reports closed. I accept their arguments for keeping these reports confidential. As such, we are not actually today asking for the department to open these reports. Rather, we believe that an independent external investigation is what is truly required of this situation. We aren’t asking Stanton to conduct another investigation into themselves. That would be like asking a fox to take care of the henhouse. That has already been done. We all know how that turned out. Mr. Speaker, precedents exist from other jurisdictions for external investigations in similar situations.

To this end, I would like to draw a couple comparisons within other jurisdictions where incidents occurred within a health care system that requires independent, non-facility-based investigations to ensure transparency, enhanced public and employee safety.

Mr. Speaker, the first comparison is from Alberta. On Friday, September, 17, 2010, a 34-year old man entered into the Royal Alex emergency room. He told the nurse at the triage desk he was suicidal. He was put in a regular emergency room without tightened security. He was checked every 40 minutes. Every hour he came out and asked the staff for a counsellor. At noon the following day, he came out and asked for a pencil and a piece of paper. Later that day, 12 hours after he arrived, he was found hanging from a lamp in his room by a strap from his backpack, a note and a pencil by his side. To their credit, Alberta Health Authority, not the Royal Alex Hospital, completed a comprehensive investigation into the incident. In the end, they admitted mistakes were made. As a result of this review, recommendations for improvements were made within Royal Alexandra as well as across the entire Alberta health system. Mr. Speaker, the family went on record stating that they originally thought the government would do a complete cover-up. Instead the family feels that the government was very honest. The family was told that they would eventually receive copies of the investigation report. Honesty and transparency, Mr. Speaker, not cover-ups. The Leishmans would like the same level of respect.

Mr. Speaker, my second comparison, a double amputee from Manitoba with a speech problem was found dead in a wheelchair after waiting 34 hours for care at a Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. The man died as a result of a blood infection brought on by complications of a bladder infection caused by a blocked catheter. His death could have been prevented if the blood infection had been treated. Initially, the local Minister of Health in Manitoba and hospital administration indicated that the incident was unfortunate but as a result of the individual not registering at the admitting desk. In short, the individual was responsible for his own demise.

Many people raised concerns about the issue, including the man’s family. They wanted to know what happened. Ultimately, the man told a health authority refused to release much of the requested information. Afterwards, the incident was reviewed by the medical examiner. As a note, in the NWT, we don’t have a medical examiner. Instead we have a coroner. The medical examiner’s report indicated the man did check into the triage desk at the hospital, that patients and security staff within the waiting room attempted to bring the man’s pain and physical labour to the attention of staff, that regardless of the man registering in accordance with hospital policies and procedure, the man died in the waiting room 34 hours after checking in. The findings were radically different from the Minister and hospital’s original assertions that this was the man’s fault.

Why is this important to the incident currently before us? It shows that internal investigations don’t always result in the most comprehensive and accurate findings. That errors in perception can occur when you’re looking into your own affairs, that having external bodies assist with assessing situations in the best interests of the public as a whole help assure transparency. Without knowing what truly happened and how it could have happened, we don’t have the ability to make reasonable recommendations that will result in fixing holes in our system.

Another interesting fact of the case in Manitoba is that the family has filed a complaint with the Manitoba ombudsman’s office. They continue to try to learn more about the events leading up to the death of this man. Unfortunately it appears that although the medical examiner has provided his findings, the regional health authority continues to refuse to provide the family with information on the horrible incident, and it sounds familiar to me. Because Manitoba has an ombudsman office, their residents have a mechanism to raise concerns about government services. An ombudsman’s office will help this family find out what went wrong within the system and help the system ensure that it never happens again. In the NWT, we have no ombudsman’s office. The Leishman’s have far fewer opportunities or mechanisms available to them to help them learn the truth. They have fewer mechanisms to help them feel confident that the system, or Stanton in this case, has learned from this horrible incident and that staff and patients will be safer in the future.

Mr. Speaker, like in Manitoba, it is critical that we know how Azzie’s incident occurred. What holes exist in our system that allowed a patient to harm himself in such a significant manner? Without knowing the answers, how can we as politicians and the public at large have any confidence that the necessary changes to Stanton’s policies, protocols and procedures are being made to ensure that this never happens again? Better yet, how can our Minister and the Stanton Territorial Hospital have any confidence an incident like this will not happen again? If holes are identified and changes are made, they should share this information with us and give us confidence that the public and staff safety is a priority for this Minister and this authority. Public and staff safety must be of paramount importance to us all. Mr. Speaker, these examples are different from Azzie’s situation in one critical way: both of these men died; Azzie is still alive.

This leads me to my last point of consideration, which is often the most difficult to contemplate. Mr. Speaker, if Azzie had passed away as a result of his injuries, there would have been a coroner’s inquest here in the Northwest Territories. It would have been independent, it would have been external and it would have been an external investigation covering all aspects of the Azzie incident, with recommendations, as necessary, to improve safety, security for all patients and staff and help to improve the overall quality of care for all patients receiving care within the Stanton Territorial Hospital. There is little doubt in my mind that the coroner’s report would have identified some gaps in Stanton’s policies, protocols and procedures. I believe it would have made recommendations to help close these gaps in the best interest of the public and staff.

Mr. Speaker, transparency, openness and honesty are required in this situation. Both Margaret and I look forward to support on this motion from my colleagues, and let’s encourage the Minister of Health and Social Services to do the right thing. Thank you for your time and for your consideration.

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

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to second the motion put forward by Mr. Abernethy here today to request an external and independent investigation as to what happened to Allisdair Leishman. I also support the mother, Margaret Leishman, a mother who just wants answers. I have seen her lobby efforts over the past year and I am really confounded that our system only gave her cursory answers and was unwilling to share any information with her.

I was involved in private industry for many, many years and anytime there was an incident, you always do an incident report or you do a post-mortem to learn from how to better yourselves, how it won’t happen again, how to prevent it, and in this case the system said yes, they’ve done it, but they’re not willing to share it with anybody else. In our government we should be more transparent and work together for the betterment of everybody and that’s all that motion calls for and that’s all the mother is calling for as well.

So, once again, I look forward to support from colleagues as we move this forward and once again it’s just calling for an independent, external investigation to get the answers out and I don’t know why we had to do it in the House like this, but here it is and we have to do the right thing, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion. It’s a terribly tragic situation and one which deserves an impartial and an honest and external investigation. I find it impossible to believe that in this situation that there are not some policies, some protocols, some procedures at the hospital that should be amended so that this doesn’t happen again. I support my colleague Mr. Abernethy in his request that we have this investigation so that it does not happen in the future to anybody else, and it’s entirely possible that without any changes to what’s going on at the hospital at this particular time, that we will have harm to another person or another person will harm one or more other people. So I really feel strongly that this is a valid request and I would hope that the government would see to, and the Minister would see to, acceding to this request. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ve known most of the Leishman family most of my life; actually and I grew up with many of them, including Allisdair.

I could not put into words in any way the feelings and emotions that the Leishman family are going through in this particular case, nor will I try. This is quite a powerful experience that they’re going through and let us try to imagine in a way how horribly this has changed their whole life forever.

Allisdair, I remember him well playing hockey and I still envision him with the smile and excitement and jest he’s had. He’s was a great guy. I knew his brother Ian extremely well, and who I always looked forward to seeing whenever I’d cross the ferry in Providence and I’d look forward to talking to him every time, and I know the family and I’d like to think that they’ve been good friends of mine for many years. I almost feel like hearing that the system has decided to deny them, perhaps, the truth, or the justice that they rightly deserve is not reflective of the values I believe in.

I think that with much consideration and concern, I’m worried about the impact of how this motion goes. I’m certainly worried about the impact that this has had on the family and I don’t deny that these are circumstances I probably could never comprehend.

Mr. Speaker, the primary message in this motion that I keep reading when I heard it -- and I thank Mr. Abernethy for bringing it forward -- is that people want answers. It’s hard to imagine that the mortality and morbidity review could come up with nothing. Mr. Speaker, no recommendations almost seems appalling. I mean, not even general ones, not even big ones, nothing. It’s hard to imagine that this type of incident could happen and no one could find one thing to improve in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I’m completely surprised; and surprise probably in no way puts the feelings of the family into perspective. I’m sure they’re outraged.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of outrage, you don’t have to look far into other examples. Mr. Abernethy mentioned about hospital examples about people reviewing themselves and the problems that can arise, but our country as a nation has swelled quite in an aggressive manner against police forces that review themselves and always the fear of it being biased or protectionist in some way and that that had changed and the lessons learned just from that alone of saying that people want a clear and objective review. I don’t think that’s in the context of saying that if you review your own agency, whether it’s a hospital or whatnot, you’ll make bad decisions or decisions to cover up. I think what it does is provide quality assurance that if you have clear eyes, you’re unfettered by any type of decision or outcome of those results that the families can be somewhat satisfied. They may not like it, but they can be somewhat satisfied that there was a clear effort to understand the situation and certainly make change.

The answers the family received -- I want to thank Margaret and Faith for coming to my office to talk to me the other day -- I think are left wanting. The more I think about it and the more I even try to comprehend the particular issue of how it happened, I can only imagine the family still feels a loss in the sense of trying to explain or understand the situation.

We need a policy that is reflective of our values. The motion is only a half step forward. We need a policy that reflects full disclosure so that families will be able to understand the situation, will be able to work to healing, will be able to work to understanding what happened. Again, as I said, maybe the results of full disclosure may not be the ones they want to hear, but honesty is something they will cherish for many years going forward.

It’s sad nothing will change this horrible accident. It’s a horrible thing. But how do we look forward? It’s difficult to look forward with no lessons learned in this particular situation. I view it as not necessarily a situation of just trying to find fault to pin blame on somebody. It’s also a situation of trying to figure out how we ensure that this doesn’t happen again. It’s been said already.

Undeniably many of us, especially myself, ran for office to change the status quo. I can’t imagine anybody here not feeling that way. I feel that the way this report is sealed and locked down and the family’s denied what I would say is the truth of the situation, by allowing that, we’re just protecting the status quo and I think that’s not why many of us, especially myself, made the challenge to come here.

In closing, I just want to say that I have lasting worry and concern for the strain that this family will carry. This is a grey cloud that had burdened their life back in November 2009. I think answers, true answers, honest answers, will bring some closure to this family as they go forward. I think the family deserves that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Next I have Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to thank very much my colleague Mr. Abernethy, MLA for Great Slave, for his determination in bringing this motion forward. It’s not an easy thing to do and I think he has shown a lot of courage and conviction in bringing this issue forward to the House today in an effort to get some answers for the family. I couldn’t agree with him more in his statement that the family deserves answers.

Stanton has to be taken to task for providing answers. We owe it to the public that we serve to have answers provided to that family. It’s this family in this case and, God forbid, that an incident like this takes place again at that hospital. We have to make sure that we are doing the best that we can to provide not only safety for the patients at that hospital but for the staff that work there and for the public that go there.

The answers might not be easy to come by but I think the Minister certainly should order an external investigation into this matter sooner rather than later. To me it’s a shame that it’s come to this. The Minister and the government should have done the right thing: listened to the family. If the family wanted an external investigation into what happened to their brother, their son, they should have got that. They should have got that respect from this government. They didn’t. Again, I’m very glad that my colleague Mr. Abernethy has brought this motion forward today and I certainly will be supporting the motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say a few words to this motion. I want to thank Mr. Abernethy for making this motion on the floor here for discussion. I want to say that I will support the family’s request to look at this incident and ask the government here to strongly consider an internal investigation into what happened. The family does want to know the truth of this and they want to make sure that this type of incident doesn’t happen anymore or doesn’t occur anymore at Stanton Hospital. To prevent it, they want to make sure that no other family could go through this if they can prevent it. That’s what they’re looking for.

I want to ask the Minister and this government here to give serious consideration to help the family, help the brothers, help the mother. It’s a very difficult time for the family, especially for the mother. The mother wants answers. Nothing worse than not getting answers for the mother. There are thousands of questions out there. Give some peace to the family and know that no other family in the Northwest Territories will be going through what the mother’s going through or the family’s going through. There’s no brain here. I think they want the answers. They want the truth. They want to prevent further incidents like this happening at any health centre in the Northwest Territories.

I have not yet heard the reason why government is denying this. I do not know why there were no recommendations coming out from the internal review. Something serious happened at one of our facilities. It’s a publicly run facility for everybody. Surely the family has rights and the people have rights in the Northwest Territories. They need to know it must be very hard on the family.

We should do the right thing, as my colleague for Kam Lake has said, and help this family and get this government to look at the truth of it. Is it us afraid of the truth? Is it the incident the family may be able to deal with the truth? We need to look at it and make sure this will prevent, God forbid, other families to deal with this type of incident with our government.

I want to again thank the Member. I will be supporting this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ve listened, with interest, to all the comments of my colleagues and I do appreciate Mr. Abernethy and the support that’s being shown here for the Leishman family. However, I will support the motion because this incident does deserve to be looked into and deserves to have a report provided to the family. But for Member after Member who has stood up and suggested that there has been something untruthful happen here, I resent that. That is pre-empting the results of an investigation. If the Members all on this side of the House already think that somebody has done something untruthful -- I keep hearing it. The truth, the truth. From what I understand from Mr. Abernethy’s statement is the truth, is the patient was brought into the hospital, was put into a room for assessment, the door was not locked, the patient left the room, the patient went into the kitchen, the patient took a knife and injured himself. I understand that is the truth.

Now, what the hospital could have done differently to prevent something like that from happening, I’m not sure we can afford enough guards on the kitchen or on the door of the patients when they come to the hospital to ensure that something like that never happened. How many guards would it take?

I think that the family is deserved respect. I think they deserve full disclosure of everything that happened that day. But I do resent the insinuation of Members on this side of the House who think that this is a cover-up and that something untruthful has happened.

As I have stood in this House and said before, this is not unfamiliar to me. As I just said a few weeks ago, my own sister took a bottle of sleeping pills, went out in a vehicle without a seatbelt on and ran her car into a concrete abutment and killed herself, essentially. It took her five days to die, but she killed herself. That’s a very unfortunate circumstance. I don’t know what could have changed that, but I’m not blaming the health care providers, the psychiatrists, the in-hospital outpatient program she was going into that it didn’t help her. It’s a tragic, tragic thing. It’s horrible that a family has to go through things like this and live with this.

I am going to support Mr. Abernethy’s motion because, as I said, the family deserves the respect and full disclosure on this incident. What we do about that as a government and as a hospital I assure you that people could have come into the hospital with a knife and brought it with them. We don’t have guards there. We don’t have metal detectors. They could have brought a gun into the hospital for all I know. Anybody can walk in the front door of Stanton any time of day or night and there’s nobody to check you or see what you have planned or what’s in mind.

Anyway, I don’t know what the solution’s going to be. I guess we’ll leave that up... I will support the motion but, like I said, I resent the constant reference on this side of the House to something being untruthful in this matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. With that, I will allow the mover of the motion closing comments. Mr. Abernethy.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have in front of me here today a letter from Margaret Leishman from Kakisa Lake to the Members of this Legislative Assembly regarding a request for a public, external, independent investigation regarding the incident that took place on November 4, 2009, to Allisdair “Azzie” Murray Leishman. I’m going to read it for you.

On November 4th -- and these are Margaret’s own words.

On November 4, 2009, an incident took place in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Stanton Regional Hospital that changed the life of my son Allisdair Murray Leishman. This incident left him severely brain damaged and disabled for life. It is my understanding that the following occurred:

On the day that this took place he was seen shovelling snow in his driveway. It was very cold; at least minus 25 degrees Celsius. Later that day he was seen by another person inadequately dressed for the weather and acting strange. This person knew him and immediately called the RCMP. He later arrived at his cousin’s house. Upon arrival he was inadequately dressed for the weather and in an evident mental state of confusion. His feet appeared frozen and, in the absence of any smell of alcohol, his cousin immediately called an ambulance and then me to inform me to come as she knew instinctively that something was severely wrong.

When he was picked up by the ambulance attendants he was coherent and cooperative when he left with them. He was then taken to the hospital and left in the emergency room receiving area. Next he was put in a room without supervision and, because a door was left ajar, he left. He ran out of the hospital and the hospital staff called the RCMP. They were already looking for him because of an earlier call from another relative who had seen him and were concerned about his safety.

Azzie then returned to where he was on his own and asked for a glass of water. I don’t know which desk they were referring to. When the nurse went to get the water, Azzie apparently left again. He was gone when she returned. The nurse said he was running through the hospital. It is my understanding a few minutes later a Code White and a Code Blue were made over the intercom. He had made his way down the hall and into the kitchen part of the hospital through an unlocked door where they prepare food. There, in front of staff, he was able to obtain a knife and stabbed himself in the chest.

I was told that the hospital medical team was not hasty coming to the aid of my son, who was lying in a pool of blood on the floor in the kitchen. From what I was told and understand, apparently those who could have helped my son that day were in a meeting and did not hear the pages. The person that did answer the page was not part of the medical team. He was a maintenance man. This man took upon himself to get help that was being requested by the kitchen staff. It was also mentioned to me that, unfortunately, there were no security personnel in place that day. Again, this is my understanding and without a public external investigation I will never know, nor will my family know, exactly what took place on the day of November 4, 2009.

Twenty-five minutes after receiving the first call in Kakisa Lake, Margaret’s home community, a second call came. It was the call no family ever wants to hear. I was told my son was on an operating table fighting for his life. And she lives five hours away. He was later medevaced to Edmonton Royal Alexandra Hospital to be stabilized. He was there from the 4th of November to the 9th of December, and was transferred back to Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife and put on the third floor medicine ward where they treat communicable illnesses.

This was of great concern to me as he was in a very fragile and vulnerable condition. It is my belief that many felt he would not live. Regardless of this, he lived because of his strong desire and will to live. The hospital staff on the medicine ward were plagued with lack of equipment such as proper mattresses to prevent bed sores, broken lifts, no proper wheelchairs to hold his head or to prevent pressure sores on his arms. Also, there was a lack of much needed services on a daily basis that were necessary for a better recovery and they were unable to provide. With the rotation of doctors, lack of service and equipment and the need of consistent care was lacking, his care was sporadic and not consistent. To me it was totally unacceptable. He especially needed specialized care during those first months and he should have been receiving intensive rehabilitation and physical therapy several times a day to maximize his physical mobility. This did not happen.

He was kept here at Stanton Regional Hospital and only when I pleaded to the doctors and made waves was he given one doctor to oversee his care. Further pleading resulted in Allisdair being sent to a rehabilitation centre, the Halvar Jonson Brain Injury Centre in Ponoka, Alberta, where his needs were met. As a result, he made positive progress in a small way and was also in a positive and sound environment. His overall health improved greatly, but only for four months. Much to our dismay, unexpectedly, without consultation with me, he was shipped back to Yellowknife. Sadly, we questioned if this move was more about money than the immediate needs of Allisdair.

When he was transferred back, some of the medications were overlooked and, as a result of a mistake, he almost died. He had some very rough days due to the move. The transfer back to the North was a huge adjustment and impacted him in a negative way. The North, to date, does not have the equipment or services to make his life comfortable or meaningful. His health is not as good as it was when he was in Alberta. On his return he was placed in medicine ward and when they had a room, they transferred him to extended care. I chose this for my son as a temporary placement to get away from communicable illness being treated on medicine as I thought this would be safer for him with a fragile immune system. I was told by hospital staff his needs would be better met there because there were fewer patients. However, I did not understand that the majority of patients there were in palliative care and often have some sort of dementia. To date, things are not a lot better there and my son often seems fearful of others around him.

The whole matter has been devastating. It is a tragedy we feel could have, and should have, been avoided. There are no words that can express to those here in the Legislative Assembly and in this community or country as to the tremendous impact this has had on his daughter, our immediate family and extended family and friends. Nor does it reflect the impact of the fact that this situation has potential on our whole community for the future care of those going to the Stanton Regional Hospital if not corrected.

We are grieving not only for ourselves but for Allisdair’s daughter, known dearly as Boo, who will not know her father as we all have, nor will she have the comfort of being provided for in her lifetime by her father if he remains as he is today. We grieve for this government who has turned a blind eye to the lack of services that should be in place to protect all of us when ill and in need. We grieve the Members of this government who only think in terms of finances. We grieve for the Members of this government who make decisions on incidents while hiding behind closed doors and boards, with no accountability to those they serve.

It is my opinion that there has been no compassion in all of this. The actions around us seem to be made out of fear and about the need to save money. No one here can begin to understand the excruciating pain that this has brought to my heart nor can they know the financial burden it has put before us as a family presently and for the future. I am not a young mother; I am an elder. I may not live long enough to care for my son. Who will do that when I am gone? Who can I count on?

I believe a grave injustice took place at Stanton Regional Hospital the day my son was injured. Further to all of this, I am frustrated by the perpetuation of lack of services and what motivates that. My main and utmost concern is for adequate care and rehabilitation for my son’s brain injury and for care of his physical, spiritual, mental and emotional needs. It is my opinion it is not appropriate that my son is cared for on the extended care unit with dementia patients or palliative care patients. He shows fear there and is unable to protect himself. He is only 37 years old. He is unable to speak or eat but he is very alert and is aware of what is being said and what is going on around him. He is locked in his body. In short, he knows what is going on and his facial expressions tell it all.

I am the first to understand that full recovery may not be possible, but I do understand proper care and money is a factor in all of this. It is the opinion as his mother and legal guardian and that of those who support him, that my son is entitled to the best possible care for his condition. This government and this community owe it to my son to give him that. It is my opinion that the government, without compassion, is not doing justice for the people that they serve. We believe he deserves a chance to develop to his fullest potential. It is in the best interests of this government, monetarily speaking, for him to recover as much as possible. However, I know that this will not happen here at the extended care unit where he is presently placed.

Although I’ve been told an investigation was done by Stanton Regional Hospital’s internal review board, the Morbidity and Mortality Committee, due to legislation passed by the House of legislation, they do not have to reveal to myself, to the public what happened that day. Surprisingly, in light of these committee meetings in regard to the incident with my son, not one recommendation was revealed to me as to how things could have been prevented in an internal review. Personally, I am forced to question this lack of cooperation to prevent it from ever happening again. How is it that even upon request to the ATIPP NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner requesting details I am denied this necessary information to enable me to understand what exactly happened and how. I question what this hospital has to hide and what they fear in releasing information to me. What interest to the public necessitates this kind of hidden information? How can the Stanton Regional Hospital justifiably hide behind legislation from this Assembly? When this Legislative Assembly’s duty is to serve and protect the people of the Northwest Territories, why are they given a place to hide behind an internal secret review board? A public review of a situation like this should, in my opinion, be in the best interests of this country and its citizens. Why shouldn’t the hospital be subject to the full scrutiny of an independent, external public review board just like other organizations that serve the public? I adamantly feel it should be done to help prevent this from ever happening again to anyone.

If my son had died I would have been entitled to more information. However, to make it very clear, his life had been altered forever that day. In fact, his life as we know it did end that day. To date, every avenue that we have tried has fallen on deaf ears or they have either replied with placations or noncompliance. In one way or another, including the Department of Justice, the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Board and the Stanton Regional Hospital have not provided any comfort as to how this will never have the possibility of ever happening again.

As his mother and legal guardian, our family demands that we be given answers as well as accountability to the public. We further demand that his care be of the utmost importance and be met. I assure that his family and supporters will not cease to stop asking until we receive full explanation about what happened and how he can receive the best possible care. I am requesting that all information including the release of all files, video tapes, security reports and any other information be opened and provided an external public investigation.

We are also requesting that the Legislative Assembly will recognize and make concerted effort to meet Allisdair’s needs and to be placed where he can receive proper rehabilitation care. Proper care is necessary to enable Allisdair to reach his fullest potential. We request this in order to know exactly what did happen on November 4, 2009, and to prevent it from ever happening again. Mahsi cho. Margaret Leishman.

This is also cc’d to anyone and everyone who has an interest in justice being served.

Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote.

## RECORDED VOTE

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. David Krutko):** Mr. Clerk. A recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed to the motion, please rise. All those abstaining from the motion, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Lafferty; Ms. Lee; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Results of the vote: 10 for the motion, six abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members’ Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 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; Tabled Document 135-16(5), Response to the Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act; Minister’s Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights; Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement; and Committee Report 7-16(5), Report on the Review of Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

# Consideration in Committee of the Wholeof Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I would like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee today? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to consider Committee Report 7-16(5), Report on Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, and also Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** With that, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to going on break we had agreed to review Committee Report 7-16(5), which is a report on Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act. Once we are done that review, then we will move along to Bill 16, which is the Act to Amend the Dog Act. The first thing we will do is Committee Report 7-16(5). Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Are there any general comments on Committee Report 7-16(5)? Detail? We will go to Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to provide a few comments if I could. I know, along with my colleague Mr. Bromley, we have read the report into the House the other day, but I just want to again thank the committee for the work it did on Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, as well as I want to commend the Minister of MACA, R.C. McLeod, for his work on the development of the amendments to Bill 16 and appreciate his work on that as well as the staff at MACA that brought this to us. We appreciate that.

Of course, the important thing is what the public had to say. I can’t believe the amount of traffic that we received on Bill 16 and the amendments during the public hearing process. There were just some big crowds in Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith and here in Yellowknife. There was a lot of interest in the amendments. A lot of people are watching the progress of the amendments to the Dog Act, Bill 16, not only in the Northwest Territories but around the country and around the world, for that matter. I’ve received e-mails from countries around the world that they’re interested to see what we’re doing in trying to prevent cruelty, neglect and abuse of dogs in our Territory.

So, again, I just wanted to say I really appreciate all of the comments we receive from the public. Everybody that made presentations to the committee while we were in the various communities, and maybe a couple of special mentions to a couple of people; Ms. Bonnie Dawson in Hay River. She’s worked tirelessly at promoting animals and protection of dogs in particular in the community of Hay River and around the Northwest Territories and she’s to be commended. She’s a great champion for the protection of dogs and animals and I want to thank her publicly for that devotion. Also Nicole Spencer, president of the SPCA in the Northwest Territories and also Linda Eccles with the SPCA in Inuvik as well, I wanted to just make special mention to those folks for all that they’ve done in getting the amendments to where they were. I think those folks had a lot to do with the turnout at the public hearings that we saw when we were in the various communities.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I’ll conclude my comments. Before I do that I just again wanted to thank the staff, Ms. Knowlan, Ms. Tumchewics and Ms. Langlois, as well as our Law Clerk, Ms. MacPherson, for their help in getting this to where we’re at today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Mr. Ramsay indicated, this bill certainly caused a lot of discussion to some of the clauses that we’ve worked on. It was quite a task for Members to come together and move it to this level here. I do want to say that this act is outdated and that we’re bringing it forward where it’s a somewhat controversial matter.

We did not have the opportunity as committee to go to the smaller communities and to listen to the Aboriginal people in the smaller communities. We took the onus, and it was our decision, to go into the larger centres. However, we missed the opportunity to go into small places such as Kakisa or Colville Lake or Tsiigehtchic or Ulukhaktok. We didn’t hear from the First Nations people, the Aboriginal people and we didn’t hear them in their own language where they can express themselves more clearly and better. We missed that opportunity to get their perspective on the Dog Act. We heard mostly from the larger centres where we went in and that was, for myself, a missed opportunity to have input from the communities, because there were some issues that we certainly needed to hear from our Aboriginal partners.

The smaller communities prefer you to sit across the table and talk to you in that manner, rather than send us letters or e-mails. It’s not really that way of communicating with us from our communities on such important issues as this one. There were a lot of good suggestions and a lot of things that we were talking about outside our committee meetings, to a point where people were saying that there’s something mixed up here because we’re now talking about...And there are many reasons that we heard for the protection of dogs. It’s a Dog Act here so we’re protecting. Usually dogs are to protect people. Somewhere we got turned around and we’re now protecting the dogs for a lot of reasons that we heard. A lot of reasons. Now that we’re spending a lot of time on this one here we have other issues that people talk to me about in terms of this Dog Act.

This Dog Act I didn’t think was going to get so much play time until I witnessed the large crowd that turned out here in Yellowknife. I heard it in Smith, and on the radio, and in Inuvik and, of course, in Hay River. A lot of people feel very passionately about the Dog Act. So I want to say that we never got the whole picture. We’re missing half of our population on this important legislation. I didn’t think that was fair or right. I do want to say we had some very important things to say about this legislation.

However, we’re at this point here, the juncture that we have to continue moving on. I want to make it for the record that we missed our Aboriginal partnerships on this piece of legislation. This government here represents all people. I want to say that, for the record, hopefully when we look at further legislation that it will encompass all communities such as this one here. The Aboriginal people believe that dogs are for protection for us and there are strong cultural and traditional beliefs on that. We never really got the meaning of those beliefs or traditions. We made assumptions. We thought we could understand it, but we needed to hear from the older people and people in our communities what they talk about this specific issue here and what we mean by traditional use or cultural use. The meaning behind what they’re trying to get across to us, I think we did capture it in some of our new wording and it’s a good compromise.

I do want to say to all the Members on the committee that we heard a lot of discussion on this and we had some good discussion in the committee meetings. We came to a compromise; I hope we can bring this through. I do want to say that I’d like to thank the chairman for your leadership and the Members for bringing it this far here. Those are my comments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to start by thanking the chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure for guiding us through consultations on this proposed act. It’s been a huge one, as my colleague Mr. Yakeleya has mentioned. Much bigger than we had expected. I’ve appreciated his guidance and the assistance of our staff. As I believe our chair said, I was very impressed and thankful to all the people of the NWT who took time to participate in those consultations.

We had tremendous turnouts, tremendous and enthusiastic turnouts, passionate presentations, both at our public consultations and through written submissions and comments. We had people from, you know, long-term dog mushers to representatives of various societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. A huge diversity of people. We had a lot of Aboriginals speak, a lot of lifelong Northerners, right down to people relatively new to the North. A lot of these are busy people, not necessarily comfortable in these sorts of settings. They came out and spoke frankly to us.

We decided in our consultations not to go into small communities but to centre our consultations on the large or regional centres with the option to bring people from small communities into those regional centres if they wish to present. Sort of a standard practice for many of our consultations.

I think I’ll leave it at that because our standing committee report basically covered things well. I just want to be sure to express my appreciation again to the people of the NWT who have participated in this, as well as my colleagues. I’ll leave it at that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The amendments to the Dog Act, I did have a constituency meeting in Fort Simpson and raised the issue. My constituency felt that the power was best left to the municipality. Now it’s before committee and introduced by government, the amendments.

It’s a very passionate subject, as I saw when I was very happy to attend the Fort Smith public hearing. Lots of people came out and shared their views and passion about it. They cited many, many examples of possible dog cruelty. It depends on your perspective too.

Our small communities, I travelled to them often, just like Norman does, and talked to the people and see how as an Aboriginal person we… I think the feeling is that in the small communities that the standards of larger communities and even national, I know that the committee got international comments there as well. To me, I always feel that they’re dictating to how small the communities and how Aboriginal cultures should dictate themselves. I always feel that’s something that’s fundamentally wrong.

However, I think the Dog Act came up for review because there was a loophole in there that was very difficult to convict somebody if there was an act of cruelty, because our dog legislation really didn’t speak about that. I think that the amendments, the difficulty with the amended Dog Act as it is, is that we try to make it animal protection legislation and we cannot. That’s what people, I really felt that’s what people are looking for. I’m with them and I believe that and it’s unfortunate that we weren’t able to do animal protection legislation in this term. I’m hopeful that our government will certainly see to that in the next government because that’s something that we have to do.

With the new upgraded amendments it will dedicate lots of our government resources. I’m not too sure how the regulations are going to roll out because there’s enough of a change now. We have RCMP involved, possibly our ENR officers chasing dogs as well. I don’t know if that’s the best use of a GNWT resource when we have many, many other issues and concerns out there. To me it does do the job. It’s a good step towards animal protection legislation. To me it might be a little bit of overkill, because I feel, like my constituents, that it’s best left to the municipalities. All we have to do is make a few changes to make sure that people who do contravene the act, the ability is there for them to charge them and up to and including conviction. Yes, some of the fines were low but we didn’t have to go so high. Now I see that there’s a bit of a balance in there. I’m comfortable with that.

In general, I’m supportive of the Dog Act. We had three significant high-profile cases in the North and the incident that happened at Whistler just kind of heightens the need for us to amend the Dog Act and to have convictions with that. With that, I’ll conclude my opening remarks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I have nobody else on my list. Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my colleagues, I’d like to thank our chair, Mr. Ramsay, with regard to all the meetings that we had attended. There’s been a lot of heated debate in some of our meetings in regard to wording in the legislation from our Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal members. We worked together. We got through this with the amendments. With the hamlet bylaws in the communities that I know, we never hit all the communities with the act, but all of the hamlet bylaws are still in effect with the communities as well. This is just something that’s going to support it.

We have the public meetings, we had good public meetings in Fort Smith. Unfortunately I missed the one in Inuvik due to the road closure and the ice road being closed. I wasn’t able to attend that one. My colleague said it was a good turnout and they heard a lot of good things in Inuvik. For myself, being a past dog musher, legislation like this is good for the dogs. I think if you just take care of your dogs, then you won’t have anything to worry about. This shouldn’t even affect anybody in the long run.

I’d like to thank the NWT Dogsledding Association and Grant Beck for all the help and guidance as he’s worked with me through this legislation. I’d just like to thank everybody who threw comments in throughout the Territory and for this legislation. That’s all I have to say.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. I have nobody else on my list. I believe we have some motions. The first motion, I believe, is Mr. Yakeleya.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 44-16(5):EXPANSION OF VETERINARY SERVICES,CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs initiate discussions with stakeholders and veterinary colleges to explore options for expanding access to veterinary services, and in particular spay and neuter programs, throughout the Northwest Territories, and where necessary, facilitate the implementations of such options.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. It looks like the motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Second motion. Mr. Jacobson.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 45-16(5):COMMUNITY CONSULTATION,CARRIED

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs consult with the community governments to ensure they have adequate resources, including staff training, to implement the Act to Amend the Dog Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 46-16(5):PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM ON DOGS,CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs initiate discussions with stakeholders on the development and delivery of a public education program on dogs, and as appropriate, assist with the development and the delivery of such programs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Jacobson.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 47-16(5):COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSEWITHIN 120 DAYS,CARRIED

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, 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. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Ramsay.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 48-16(5):COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION,CARRIED

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately begin developing comprehensive animal protection legislation for introduction early in the life of the 17th Assembly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, I’ve got this motion here today. Throughout our public hearing process and through comments through e-mails and phone calls that I’ve received on the proposed amendments to Bill 16, overwhelmingly people are saying across the Northwest Territories that it’s time the government move forward with comprehensive animal protection legislation.

My personal belief is it’s long overdue. The amendments to the Dog Act are long overdue. It’s a step in the right direction, but what we’ve heard is the society is not accepting of cruelty to animals in any way, shape or form, and this government has got to take action to protect animals of all variety in our Territory. Again, I don’t think we have to look too far to find a piece of legislation that might work or help us out in getting legislation here, and that’s in the Yukon. Mr. Menicoche talked about some high-profile incidents here in the Northwest Territories in the last number of years that have caused us a great deal of embarrassment on the national and international stage when it comes to abuse of dogs and animals in our Territory. We certainly need to get with the times.

The reality is it’s just not acceptable anymore to be abusing animals and we have got to move forward with this legislation. I know it’s late days in the life of this government but this has got to be part of the transition plan for the next government and has to be introduced early in the life of the 17th Assembly. With that, Mr. Chairman, I certainly look forward to hearing any other comments on this from other Members. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’d like to thank my colleague, Mr. Ramsay, for bringing this forward. It’s been a disappointment that we haven’t got to this. Early indications from the Ministers involved were that this would be coming forward. They later backed off on that. Apparently we have some limitations in our ability to draft legislation quickly and we certainly do have a lot of legislative needs. I can understand that, but I was, and I know many of our public were, disappointed that those early indications of commitments were not able to be met.

I think this does capture the comments we heard during our public consultations. We were not seeking consultations on the animal protection legislation but in my experience the majority of people speaking did mention that the Dog Act improvements were a good start but they definitely wanted to see comprehensive animal protection legislation. This is a step towards that and I think we want to be sure and follow up with this and make sure it’s profiled to the 17th Assembly as called for in this motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Are there any more comments on Committee Report 7-16(5)? Is committee agreed that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 7-16(5)?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed that we move along to our second item, Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We’ve agreed to consider Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act. I will now ask the Minister responsible for the bill, the honourable Minister responsible for MACA, Minister R.C. McLeod, to introduce the bill.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act.

In the past several years there have been a series of well-reported incidents about the abuse of dogs. These incidents fall far outside the traditional ways of managing dogs and dog teams. The abuses are also against modern standards of care.

The amendments we are seeking are measured responses that take into account the experiences of other jurisdictions as well as a unique northern approach to make legal solutions for the kind of dog abuse problems we are facing.

Further amendments proposed, as a result of public consultations and after consideration by the standing committee, are improvements to the department’s proposed amendments and help to clarify aspects that were not clear.

Both the department and the standing committee have heard from many groups and individuals during the development of this bill, and we appreciate the time and effort that has been taken to provide us with comments and feedback.

To date, all of the complaints about animal abuse that we know of deal with dogs. Through lessons learned and from the amended Dog Act, the government can decide later if broader animal welfare legislation is needed.

I look forward to hearing comments from the Members and answering any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. I’d now like to ask the chairperson for the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, which reviewed this bill, to make the comments. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ve covered a lot of ground on my comments already, but again, I think it was a challenge for the committee to come to some consensus on what the amendment should be. At the end of the day, there was a lot of debate and discussion about what they should be. My feeling is there probably still is and there always will be, but that’s the nature of what we do. Fortunately, Mr. Chairman, we live in a society and a place where we can get out and listen to the public and take what we hear and try to put that into place in legislation that’s being proposed. The public hearing process allows us to do that, and it’s the committee’s duty to take what they hear from the public and utilize that information in the legislation that we have.

Again, I want to thank everybody that was involved in the amendments to Bill 16, and again thank the Minister and his staff for the work they did and the committee members for their work both in committee meetings and at public hearings and as well as our staff that I pointed out earlier, Ms. Knowlan, Ms. Tumchewics, Ms. Langlois and Ms. MacPherson. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I will now go to the Minister responsible for the bill and see if he would like to bring witnesses into the House. Minister McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed that we allow the witnesses into the House?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if I can please get you to bring the witnesses into the House.

Thank you. Minister McLeod, can I please get you to introduce your witnesses for the record?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Laura Gareau is the director of corporate affairs at MACA; also we have with us today Ms. Kelly McLaughlin, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. On that, I will open the floor to general comments on Bill 16. Detail? Is committee agreed that there are no comments on Bill 16?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Can we now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of the bill?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We will defer the title and the bill number and we will begin our clause by clause. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Clause 4. Ms. Bisaro.

## COMMITTEE MOTION 49-16(5):AMEND CLAUSE 4 OF BILL 16,DEFEATED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion. I move that clause 4 of Bill 16 be amended by deleting proposed subsections 4(3), 4(4) and 4(5).

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to help out my colleagues. It is on page 3 of the bill. It is at the top of the page.

I wanted to make this motion because I believe... I know this is a recommendation from committee. I sat in on many of the committee meetings. I attended the public hearings here in Yellowknife. I did not travel with the committee to other communities, but I got a pretty good sense, I think, of where people sit in terms of the clause that talked about traditional practice and use of dogs in traditional practices.

It is my belief that we don’t need these three sections in the act. It references using dogs in the course of an accepted activity. I was struck by one of the presenters at the hearing here in Yellowknife, an Aboriginal man who has lived here for a very long time, all his life actually. He spoke and said, “Abuse of dogs is abuse of dogs. There is no reason, whether you are using your dog in a traditional practice or other. It is abuse of the dog and it shouldn’t be. That, in the course of normal activities, Aboriginal people do not mistreat their dogs.” I would say, in the course of normal activities, regular and non-Aboriginal people don’t mistreat their dogs either. I really feel that these three clauses are all related to the accepted activity notion and I just don’t think it needs to be in the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next on my list is Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee had gone to our small, remote communities and spoke with Aboriginal people, they would see a need for sections 4(3), 4(4) and 4(5). I would be remiss if I did not speak against this amendment and will not be supporting this motion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next on my list is Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly respect my colleague’s view of this. I also respect the fact that the committee’s wish was to get rid of the traditional and locally accepted practices, clauses that were in the original amendments, ones that the committee had actually asked for and the department brought forward amendments that contain that wording, local and traditionally accepted practices. The committee asked for that and we got it in spades.

When we went out to public hearings, we heard, again, overwhelmingly that we shouldn’t be allowing for any exceptions to the abuse, neglect or cruelty to dogs. If folks are in accordance with the legislation, they have nothing to fear. There should be no exceptions. We heard this from not only from Aboriginal people; we heard it from non-Aboriginal people and Aboriginal people at public hearings across the Northwest Territories. I found myself in a very difficult position being the chair of the committee and having a committee that... Again, I respect the process.

The motion here to amend the Dog Act by taking out these clauses that reference acceptable practices which give people an exception, in my mind, another loophole, it just isn’t on with the public that I heard. That is the way I see things. We want to put forward the best piece of legislation we can. In fact, wording to this effect is contained in the Manitoba Animal Protection Act. There have been protests on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature asking for the resignation of the Agriculture Minister in Manitoba based on the fact that convictions are hard to come by. People are not being convicted under that legislation.

Mr. Chairman, that is the problem that we have. That is why we went to the amendments for our Dog Act so that when people are neglecting, abusing or mistreating dogs, they are going to be charged and convictions will happen. That just wasn’t the case under the old Dog Act. I thank the Member for Frame Lake for bringing forward the motion. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be supporting this amendment as well. I have to say it was almost unanimous, the input I heard people speaking very clearly to not try and define these sorts of activities, that abuse and cruelty was certainly not acceptable in any situation. I have to stress again that these were people from all walks of life and certainly included the most respected of Aboriginal leaders who represented the essence of tradition and traditional practices. Again, they spoke in a very clear way that helped me tremendously in discerning what is appropriate here and for which I am very appreciative of, as I said before.

I think some other amendments that we have incorporated are a good effort to try and make sure that this doesn’t go beyond what we wanted, that it serves all people and it has been my experience that people enforcing this legislation are typically long-term Northerners who have a strong grounding in understanding of our society. Legislation is a blunt instrument, but it does tend to reflect the overwhelming trends in our society and the best thinking that we can capture in legislation. I think that’s what we’re dealing with here, and again the comments have been very clear to me. On that basis I will represent those people that I’ve heard from directly and support this proposed amendment. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When putting together this act we depended a lot on feedback we got from standing committee, and standing committee had moved a motion to include this and we respect that so we’ve included it. Therefore, we will be voting against the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just in hearing the comments from the Minister I did want to point out that my experience in observing at committee meetings was that the committee was literally divided on whether or not these three sections needed to be in the act. The decision was that it would come to the floor of the House and that we would discuss it and debate it here, but to the Minister agreeing that this is the will of the committee, I guess I would have to disagree with it. I think it was the will of half of the committee and I think you have to take that into consideration. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to my earlier comments where I had stated that the committee had asked the Minister for...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** My apologies, each Member only gets to speak once to the motion, except for the mover of the motion. She’s already done it twice. She was mover of the motion. Everybody gets to speak once, except for the mover of the motion. She closed debate so we’re theoretically done. Because we went to Ms. Bisaro, that would have been closing the debate on that. I’m going to confirm that that’s correct. Okay, it was my error. Anybody who has not spoken who wishes to speak can be put on the list. Otherwise, the debate is concluded. Anybody who hasn’t spoken who wishes to speak. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to vote in favour of the motion as put forward by Ms. Bisaro. There was a lot of discussion and controversy over whether or not this clause that people have named a loophole, they’ve named it all kinds of different things. In fact, after listening to so much of the discussion around this particular clause, it’s my opinion that there’s a colossal misunderstanding and people taking extreme positions on what these things mean.

I think it boils down to the difference between the way that a pet dog is treated and the way that a working dog is treated. Both can be treated with respect and in a way that is humane. A lot of the debate, like I said, that I heard was extremes on both sides of that topic and I don’t think that we need to have any provision in there for traditional, or as the Manitoba clause reads, I don’t believe that we need to have that in there. I think that we can agree and the legislation should clearly state that all dogs that will be affected by this new legislation, we’re hoping all dogs don’t go to heaven, but...

---Laughter

...at least not anytime soon. Anyway, I will be voting in favour of the amendment as brought forward by Ms. Bisaro in this motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, it’s been indicated before that the committee did not go to the smaller communities to hear some discussion around this work. We went to the larger centres. We certainly heard very passionately from the larger centres that we went to, but we did not go to the predominantly smaller communities of Aboriginal people, we did not get their view, really get their view and their definition of this clause. When we did talk about it in committee it was the majority of Members that wanted to go with this section of the legislation. So I’m going to, and this is what we worked out in terms of a compromise, so for myself I’m going to go with the motion on what’s in the legislation. I’m not going to be supporting this motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think when reading clause 4 and we talk about the ownership show, it basically makes sure that the dog is without any distress. I think that really speaks to the whole problem. An animal in distress is an animal in distress, period. I’m convinced that good judgment will prevail in this particular case. I think that I put my faith in the judgment of the courts if someone does bring forward a charge, an ill-directed charge and a charge that I think has fair and unreasonable interpretation of what distress means. I think any decent northern judge, which I believe in the quality of the bench we have here, but I think anybody here, living here long enough would know what reasonable activity and distress is.

I’m not proposing a new definition by any means, but I know it’s an ambiguous term that someone is going to say that that dog shouldn’t have been outside and it was under duress, or that dog ran too long in a race, or was out chained up too long and it’s duress. I think that I’m convinced common sense will prevail. So I think I’ll have to vote accordingly.

The one thing I would say, though, in all honesty, is as a measure of courtesy I would have appreciated finding out this amendment would have come forward a little sooner than it being dropped on my desk and told to vote one way or the other. I mean, I would have liked to have had more time to hear my colleagues who feel that no change should happen to the act and I certainly would have enjoyed a little more time to take the consideration into seeing the deletion of this. So I would say to the mover, I’m still disappointed on the shortness of how this was now dropped on my desk without any sort of full understanding or impact of this particular motion. The reason I sort of say that is I’m going to have to lean towards the amendment as proposed, because I think at the end of the day common sense should prevail and I think our bench will make sure that that’s a reasonable interpretation, regardless of the activity, whether it’s hunting, trapping, fishing, or even just being tied up outside.

So, Mr. Chairman, that’s my thoughts on this particular thing. I wanted to clearly say how I’m disappointed at how it’s being delivered, the amendment, in this manner. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Any other Members wish to speak who haven’t already spoken? Okay. Because of my confusion I will go to the mover of the motion to close, because there was some confusion. So I’ll allow the mover of the motion to officially close and I have the discretion to do that. Thank you, committee. Once again my confusion is just gotten straightened out. We don’t go back to the mover of a motion in Committee of the Whole a second time for concluding discussion and debate on a motion. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, I request a recorded vote.

## RECORDED VOTE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Hold on one second. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour of the amendment?

**PRINCIPLE CLERK OF OPERATIONS (Ms. Bennett):** Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** All those opposed?

**PRINCIPLE CLERK OF OPERATIONS (Ms. Bennett):** Mr. Yakeleya; Mr. Lafferty; Ms. Lee; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. Roland; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South; Mr. Menicoche.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** All those abstaining? Thank you, committee. The results of the vote: seven in favour, nine against. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

We’re on clause 4.

---Clauses 4 through 12 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Does committee agree that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, is now ready for third reading?

---Bill 16 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. If I could please get you to thank your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, if I could please get you to escort them out of the Chamber. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I’ll just wait until the Minister gets back to his seat.

---Carried

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

# Report of Committee of the Whole

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You’re committee has been considering Committee Report 17-16(5), Report on Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act; and Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act, and would like to report progress with five motions being adopted and that Committee Report 17-16(5) is concluded and that Bill 16 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

# Third Reading of Bills

## BILL 14:AN ACT TO AMEND THECONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

--Carried

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

## BILL 15:AN ACT TO AMEND THEFIRE PREVENTION ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

## BILL 17:AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

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

## BILL 18:AN ACT TO REPEAL THE SETTLEMENTS ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 18, An Act to Repeal the Settlements Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

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

## BILL 19:MUNICIPAL STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 19, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

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

## BILL 20:AN ACT TO AMEND THE EVIDENCE ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

# Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Friday, March 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers’ Statements
3. Members’ Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
* Bill 25, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2011-2012
* Bill 26, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2010-2011
* Bill 27, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011
1. Second Reading of Bills
2. 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
* Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to CR 3-16(5): Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act
* 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
* Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement
1. Report of Committee of the Whole
2. Third Reading of Bills
* Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Dog Act
1. Prorogation

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, March 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:51 p.m.