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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, February 16, 2012****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Colleagues, before we begin today, I'd like to comment on the attire of some of our Members. Our guests in the gallery and those watching at home will notice that many of the Members are wearing pink today.

This is in recognition of Anti-Bullying Day, or Pink Shirt Day, which is designated as the last Friday in February.

Pink Shirt Day started as a protest against a bullying incident at a Nova Scotia high school. Wearing pink is one way to support this cause, but the best way is to teach our children that it is okay to be different and it is not okay to bully or to be bullied.

Members have chosen today to wear pink to symbolize that bullying will not be tolerated in our communities. Thank you, Members.

Welcome back to the Chamber. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 21-17(2):
RESULTS OF THE SHELTER POLICY REVIEW**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the Shelter Policy review which began during the last Legislative Assembly and is now almost finished. The Shelter Policy review was a broad-based examination of housing in the Northwest Territories and was intended to provide a long-term strategic framework for housing.

Improving housing conditions is one of the key priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly, and completing and implementing the Shelter Policy review was identified as a key component of advancing this priority.

The Shelter Policy review included broad-based engagement with Northerners on housing, an independent evaluation of the existing home

ownership programs, a rent scale review for the Public Housing Program, an analysis of other elements of the housing continuum, and a review of best practices elsewhere.

I want to thank all Northerners that provided their input through the engagement on the Shelter Policy review. The participation of so many residents is appreciated and I know there were many good discussions. I want to make clear that the voice of Northerners and their concerns about the future of housing have been heard.

The work on the Shelter Policy review has led to the development of a broad strategic framework, Building for the Future, which includes specific strategic priorities and actions that will guide the GNWT approach to housing over the next number of years.

We are all aware that housing involves a range of issues and the strategic plan we will be releasing will address all the various aspects of the housing continuum. The key strategic priorities for housing that are identified in Building for the Future include:

- strengthening public housing;
- improving home ownership supports;
- increasing housing options in non-market communities;
- improving housing services;
- strengthening the approach to homelessness and transition housing;
- addressing housing challenges for the working poor;
- developing infrastructure solutions based on individual and community needs; and
- addressing the declining federal funding.

Each of these strategic priorities has a number of actions associated with them. Our approach will be to build on the successes and progress over the last several years, to strengthen self-reliance and support for residents to meet their own shelter needs, and to recognize the difference between market and non-market communities in designing northern solutions.

While it will take a number of years to implement all of the elements of Building for the Future, residents can expect to see some immediate action on

housing. In 2012-13 we plan to take the following steps:

- We will implement new public housing rent scales to a simpler, more predictable and fairer system that helps address the disincentive to work. This new rent scale means that all tenants of public housing, including seniors, will be charged a fair rental rate that recognizes their economic and life circumstances.
- We will make changes to the current home ownership repair programs to improve accessibility which will help reduce housing quality problems, particularly in non-market communities.
- We will invest in a new emergency repair program to help lower-income homeowners address emergency situations like freeze-ups, furnace problems or emergency plumbing situations before problems get worse.
- We will begin to address housing supply issues by expanding housing options in non-market and emerging market communities, with a particular focus on housing for critical staff.
- We will develop and invest in a rent supplement program that will target the working poor and address affordability problems for those in market rentals.
- As announced last week, we will finalize arrangements for a \$2.3 million contribution to the Betty House initiative in Yellowknife to provide transitional housing for women.

As noted, new rent scales for public housing in the Northwest Territories are currently being finalized. The rent scales for public housing have long been identified as critically important, with residents clearly telling us that they want a simple, predictable and fair rent scale that addresses the problem of the disincentive to work. The new rent scales will be a major change for many tenants and we are planning considerable communication activities leading up to the planned July 1, 2012, implementation.

In designing the new rent scales, we were conscious of the need to address the concerns that residents have expressed about the role that public housing rents have played in creating barriers to residents wanting to improve their own and their family's well-being. We were also very aware of the declining funding from the federal government to operate the Public Housing Program and the need to have a system of public housing that is sustainable in the future.

We have provided the final draft of the strategic plan and proposed new rent scales to the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review and comment as a follow-up to the previous presentations we have provided on the work related

to the Shelter Policy review. It is our intention, upon completion of the consultation with the Standing Committee on Social Programs, to release this material publically prior to the next session. The release of the strategic plan and the implementation of identified actions are the first steps in advancing the collective priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly to improve housing conditions. I look forward to working with all Members and committee as we continue to work on our priorities. Thank you.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 22-17(2): INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to provide this House and Northerners with an update on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

The Government of Canada describes it as "a project of national significance." We also appreciate that the Caucus of the 17th Assembly has identified it as a strategic infrastructure investment to help strengthen and diversify the Northwest Territories economy. Strategic investments in our infrastructure will be an important part of this government's plans for growing our economy and realizing the vision of this Assembly.

The Department of Transportation has accomplished a great deal of work since I last spoke about the project in December of 2011. The Environmental Impact Review Board has moved its assessment into the technical review phase.

During this stage, the information submitted in the draft environmental impact statement is subject to detailed scrutiny by the review board and interested parties. The assessment examines the impact of the proposed development, the significance of the impacts, proposed mitigation measures and follow-up and monitoring programs.

Responding with the appropriate level of detail will require the department to conduct geotechnical investigations, surveys, consultations, and studies into fisheries, vegetation, wildlife, archaeology and hydrology. Much of this work is currently underway.

I appreciate the support of the House in advancing the approval of \$2.5 million for the department to conduct this work. I will come back to Members with more information as it becomes available.

While the environmental review process moves forward, the department is examining procurement options, assessing the project risks and determining how to achieve the best value for money. This information is being compiled into a business case study, which will be completed over the next month. The study includes a focused market sounding exercise to assess the P3 market's appetite for the

project. Department officials have held discussions with local contractors and operators in the Beaufort-Delta about their capacity and interest in this project.

The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway will be 135 kilometres long. Of that, just over half will be on land belonging to the Inuvialuit. Initial positive discussions are underway with the Inuvialuit Land Administration to secure land tenure for the highway surface right-of-way and negotiate rates for granular royalties. Initial estimates indicate we will need approximately 4.5 million cubic metres of granular material to build the highway.

The department is preparing to conduct geotechnical investigations of granular sources along the proposed route, a required component of the environmental assessment process. This will confirm the quality, source and volume of granular material required to construct the highway. These results will refine the cost estimates, determine royalty payments and reduce project risk. Moving ahead with this work sends a strong message to Canada that the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to the project.

Negotiations are underway between the department and the Government of Canada toward a funding agreement for the \$150 million committed in the June 2011 federal budget. The agreement will define the makeup of the funding and determine when the federal cash begins to flow.

Northerners are excited about the opportunities on the horizon. We are on the verge of constructing the northern-most section of the Mackenzie Valley Highway and advancing aspirations Northerners have held for generations: to build a highway connecting Canada to the Arctic coast.

The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project fulfills every aspect of the vision this Assembly is committed to achieving: strong individuals, families, and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd like to welcome back a former Member for Range Lake, a former Minister and a Member of the 14th, 15th and 16th Legislative Assemblies, Ms. Sandy Lee. Welcome back, Sandy.

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, Wednesday, February 29th, is Pink Shirt Day across Canada. Since the House will not be in session on the 29th, Members are acknowledging the importance of that initiative today. And we're not alone, Mr. Speaker. In the gallery today is Ms. Carrie Heldman and her Grade 5 class. They walked here from N.J. Macpherson School wearing their pink shirts to join us today and to highlight bullying along with us in the House.

I'll use the words of one of my constituents, Michael Elms -- Michael is in the gallery today -- to explain the importance of maintaining or starting anti-bullying initiatives in our schools. Michael said, "Bullying is a huge problem around all schools. I know this because I have friends in the other schools. There are a lot more types of bullying, there's physical, hurtful and through Facebook and so on. My friends were being pushed and kicked by one of the girls, and his little sister had a bigger kid sending her mean messages on Facebook. When someone bullies someone, they want to know what it feels like, so someone bullies someone and it keeps on going. In the end, everybody's feelings are hurt." Michael goes on to say, "To stop bullying, we need to do things like how Pink Day started. In the end, the entire world ended up doing Pink Day, so there are almost four consecutive pink days. It shows that bullying is not okay. Bullying is mean and no one should ever bully anyone."

We have to also consider the issue of bullying in the larger context. We must look at the work of schools, and district education authorities, and education councils and what they are doing to combat bullying, and use their strategies to combat family violence as well.

Minister Lafferty stated in the House on Monday that we needed to have a coordinated approach. Well, we don't need to look far to find a coordinated approach to combat bullying and family violence. The Alberta government has committed to end family violence and bullying. They have developed websites for residents, they support a bullying hotline and they have enacted legislation to combat bullying and family violence. Nine government ministries are working collaboratively with communities and implementing a cross-ministry strategy that will provide coordinated responses to family violence and bullying that will help Albertans live violence free.

What are we doing here? The good news is that we have a good start. We have what we need to make a difference. We have the will of our residents like Michael and his classmates. We have the anti-

bullying strategies that are practised and promoted by educators across the NWT.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: We have the Coalition Against Family Violence which consistently raises the issue through initiatives like Family Violence Awareness Week. What we don't have and do need is legislation to formulate and coordinate an approach across the GNWT and across the whole of our territory to address bullying and family violence in our schools and homes in our territory.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HARMFUL EFFECTS OF BULLYING

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Respect, kindness, caring, love, peace, these are core values that we are taught as children. These values if learned and upheld become the fabric of our society values that binds people and nations together.

Bullying is a harmful and sometimes tragic and despicable act committed by a person upon another person, often a child or an elder. Bullying leaves wounds that are visible and painful injuries, and sometimes leads to the tragic ending of someone taking one's own life. What is more disturbing is that bullying leads to internal and lasting pain, and mental and social problems.

Bullying should not be tolerated at home, schools, communities, or in society in general. Too often we hear of this tragic story: the scene in the schoolyard during recess of children bullying another helpless child. Bullying often results in the greatest pain of all, one to lose their own human spirit, the gift of life that we all greatly embrace and cherish.

Often bullying is an act of intimidation and teasing that causes both physical and mental pain. It causes one to feel inferior and threatened. I often wonder why some of my peers left school and quit. It disturbs me that some of them were victims of bullying. The greater question I have is, why? Why is bullying tolerated in today's society? Bullying has to stop.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BULLYING IN NAHENDEH SCHOOLS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Parents in the Northwest Territories have a legitimate expectation that their children will be safe in our schools and neighbourhoods. Children should feel confident that no one will hurt them or

threaten them and that no one will say demeaning or sarcastic things to them. Parents in my riding are deeply concerned about bullying and so are students. They recognize the seriousness of the issue.

When students in Jean Marie River had the chance to work with TV star Dakota House, they produced a play centred on bullying and gossip. In Fort Simpson we've seen lives damaged and families leave town because of bullying. Schools in Fort Simpson have tried to prevent schoolyard bullying by introducing new games that include everyone and by signing up parents to help with supervision, but it's hard for school authorities to watch every moment.

Timothy Gargan-Lacasse, a student who represented Nahendeh in last year's Youth Parliament, presented a motion demanding zero tolerance for bullying. He said, "So many kids are getting bullied these days and might drop out and never come back, and in extreme cases, commit suicide." Suicide, Mr. Speaker. You can't get more serious than that.

Mr. Jack Yeadon, a concerned parent, wrote in the Liard Times last April that bullying is a life and death issue that we ignore at great danger to our children, to ourselves, to the future of our community.

In the North and in my riding of Nahendeh, we may be even more sensitive to the issue of bullying than people elsewhere in Canada. One well-known impact of residential schooling was to make some students bullies and abusers, taking out their own pain and oppression on weaker children. That's part of our history. As Mr. Yeadon says, it's not enough just to identify and stop individual bullies; we have to look at how and why the bullying is happening, how a child becomes a bully or a target of a bully and what role bystanders play. Only then do we have a chance to stop the cycle of violence that for some began in their parents' and their grandparents' day. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BULLYING

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It used to be that bullying was seen as a normal part of growing up. Kids who were bullied just needed to learn to stick up for themselves. Fortunately, our thinking has changed and we've become aware of how much bullying really does hurt. Even as adults, many people still carry emotional scars from what used to be thought of as just the ordinary rough and tumble of the schoolyard.

At its most basic, bullying is when someone keeps saying or doing things to have power over another person. It can take the form of name calling, threats, leaving a person out of activities, stealing or breaking their things, posting mean comments on Facebook or Twitter, or other tactics aimed at making a person feel scared or uncomfortable. It can also escalate into physical violence or even murder, as we've seen in a few high-profile cases in Canada.

The victims of bullying can feel lonely, unhappy, frightened and unsafe in their schools and communities. They may be sick from the stress. They may lose confidence in themselves. Or they may not want to go to school anymore.

I cannot tell you how sad it makes me that some young people have resorted to suicide because they saw this as their only escape from bullying. This is not something to be taken lightly.

As I understand it, we do not have a territory-wide policy on bullying, but leave it to individual schools to establish their own ways of handling it. I have heard some disturbing stories from concerned parents and I am not convinced that the approach we have now goes far enough to protect our youth. I want to be sure that we are taking this matter very seriously, that we are keeping up with the absolute best practices, policies and legislative tools available, and that we are sending a clear and consistent message: Bullying hurts and we will not tolerate it.

On a personal note, and judging by the statistics that we read in a CBC report today, I'm sure there are other people in this room that were bullied as a child. I was bullied as a child and I will briefly share the story of going to a girlfriend's house to stay overnight and her parents came home drunk. I got very scared and I wanted to go home to the security of my own home where I'd never seen drunk people or I'd never seen alcohol. My dad had to come pick me up. Well, that girl whose father came home drunk was so offended that she made it her life's career after that to make my life miserable in school. I didn't like school very much to start with and I sure didn't like it after that.

It does leave scars and it does change the way you interact with people. I will say one interesting thing...

I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: A very strong support network of your family comes in at these times, and I think it's very important that our children do feel the security and acceptance of their own family when these kinds of things happen in the world out there at large.

I think it's a good message to parents that we can't always control everything that happens to our children. I know that in my foray into politics, people have asked me, how can you stand people saying things about you? How are you thick-skinned enough to go out there and do it? And in a strange kind of a way, maybe it was because I did develop that ability to kind of shield some of that. That's a bit on a reaction that's been positive. But for the most part, bullying does hurt. It's completely not tolerable in our society and we should do everything we can to stop it. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of us have our own memories of bullying. Some of us probably have been bullied. I'm sure a few of us have helped defend someone against bullying. I'm guessing none of us have actually been bullies. The victims of bullying feel hurt, stress, humiliation, fear and even depression. Some attacks that pass as bullying might more accurately be called assault. It really saddens me to think that this still goes on in our schools and our schoolyards, not to mention cyberspace.

I know that since 2001, the Department of Education has had some sources to help schools and school boards that decide to implement their own programs against bullying. Diamond Jenness School in Hay River started down this road in 2009, as outlined in its education plan. But this voluntary system is not the solution to the problem.

I think that we need to adopt strong measures. The Education Minister has heard about bullying problems in every region, as he acknowledged in his Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan.

Bullying is also a factor in poor student school attendance. So the Minister has heard from students, teachers and parents. I do not know what is standing in the way of a territorial-wide policy against bullying and implementing a system to discipline the bullies.

It is very basic, Mr. Speaker. When are we going to stand up next to our courageous young people who help protect each other from bullies? When are we going to shoulder our share of the responsibility to provide a healthy school environment? We cannot leave these brave students and teachers alone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF BULLYING

MR. MOSES: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In one time or other, a lot of us have been bullied. In some cases, some of us may have been the bully. Today we come into the House talking about bullying as a major topic within our schools, but it doesn't only happen within the schools. It happens within our communities. Kids get bullied but more on top of that, adults get bullied. Elders get bullied. Co-workers get bullied. People in the work force also get bullied. This is not a problem that is only in the schools, but I am really glad that the schools have addressed it.

We did have a presentation in the House in the Great Hall one day about My Voice, My Choice. It seems that this government is getting a lot of direction and encouragement, a lot of motivation from our youth, which is really amazing and something that should be looked upon in a very positive way.

We all have a voice. Let's use it. We have to stand up, take a stand against all the bullies in our communities. We have to stand up and talk to our counsellors, talk to our teachers, talk to the RCMP officers, our leaders, the adults in the communities that can help us. We can't sit back and let it continue to happen. We have to take action on this.

We want to let the people across the Northwest Territories know that they are not alone, whether they are getting bullied by coworkers or other people in their schools or even in some cases our biggest bullies out there are the drug dealers, which I will have a few questions about that later to the Minister of Justice.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, we are behind everybody. They are not alone. Use your voice, stand up and let's address the issue and tackle this issue of bullying so that it does stop. People who do get bullied face depression. They face isolation. They bully themselves, like one of the Members said, just to see how it feels. The worst-case scenario is suicide. We can't give in to that action, let that happen. We have to address the issue before it even gets there.

There was a news report on CBC the other day about one in two people being bullied. That is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. I believe this government can make a change, take a stand against this and help the people of the Northwest Territories by creating policies and legislation to support our people in the Northwest Territories so that they can live a life, and our children can be children and play and have fun and learn how to be a child. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEED FOR ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I had the opportunity to talk about anti-bullying and cyber-bullying and my commending the Quebec government for introducing new measures to counter bullying in schools. Questions earlier this week posed to our own Minister of Education also asked about the Northwest Territories embarking on a journey of creating better sound legislation to combat bullying. We have heard some promise, but we need these measures now.

I can't tell you the vast number of parents, teachers and students that contacted me since my Member's statement earlier in the week in support of stopping the violence against bullying. This just reinforces that this issue is well overdue. On top of that, I have to commend that we have some visitors here today from N.J. McPherson. Thank you guys for coming out today and supporting us.

Mr. Speaker, all of this should tell the government that the people of the Northwest Territories are concerned about our youth and that we, as legislators, need to rally together to stop bullying in its tracks.

I want to take a moment just to talk about victims of bullying. Shockingly, recent reports that we heard today that 50 percent of all Canadians have been bullied at one time or another in their lives, that a small minority were victimized regularly and repeatedly. Research has also shown that this minority is not very likely to outgrow the problems caused by such victimization. Without the proper help or intervention, these chronic victims very often are lonely, unhappy or depressed for many years after the bullying started. Admittedly and regrettably, some had no recourse and chose suicide as a means to escape their violence, and my heart goes out to those families.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let this happen. We have to stop this pattern of behaviour. We cannot let this minority suffer anymore. In fact, we need to look at our very own Mental Health Strategy and open our doors to these people and give them the hope they so desperately deserve. We need to realize that we have the responsibility to both protect and help these victims who need us on their darkest days and hours, and this responsibility starts with us drawing a line in the sand to bullies everywhere in saying no more.

I wish to thank my colleagues here today, addressing in their own way and from their own point of view their support for anti-bullying. As I said the other day, together we can change behaviour and I think today, Mr. Speaker, we are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEED FOR PREVENTION OF BULLYING
IN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a parent and a community member, I am disturbed by the bullying that I see going on in our society. When I hear about something that's happening at our school, I ask myself whether it's just a mirror of the rest of the world that we live in. Where are the kids getting the idea that it's okay to push each other around or to say mean things to each other or to try to get power over others?

Bullying isn't just happening in our schools; it's happening at Aurora Colleges, it's happening in workplaces, it's happening in homes, it's happening on sports teams. Some leaders are bullies. Some countries are bullies. The Roman Empire was a bully. Hitler was a bully. This is not a new problem, it's just gotten bigger.

The question I asked my wife, how do we fight bullying, her first response was, well, take karate lessons. I think we need to look at the cultural values and the family values. Really we came to the conclusion that it comes down to respect of others. Respect has been taught to us either at home or in residential schools. Respect is highly valued in our traditional culture. Above all, that's what keeps the culture alive and strong. If you go against respect, the culture weakens. But today I'm seeing a lot of disrespect of parents, institutions, governments and even our elders. Is it a coincidence that there's so much bullying happening today?

Bullying is not okay. Enough is enough. There's a saying that goes something like this: hurt people, hurt people. I hope as legislators we can all stand up and help each other to prevent bullying in our society. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ADDRESSING BULLYING THROUGH
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the House considers the issue of bullying, I want to ensure we consider the postnatal, the preschool and early childhood development aspects of prevention. Based on evolving studies, educators strongly urge that bullying and peer-directed aggression be tackled early in the child's life. The suggestions make sense. Home life, child care and preschool set the tone to a child's future perception of school and community, one that can persist throughout the child's entire school career and life.

Bullying can be aggravated if a disconnection occurs between home and school. Some caregivers report that children come to their programs with difficult behaviours. That's where the help of postnatal support and nurse-family programs can pay off. Positive support and modeling of appropriate skills at home encourage children to acquire and maintain friendships, a critical foundation for social, emotional and educational success. Sorting out mixed messages is key.

Early childhood experts provide basic recommendations that qualified support workers are needed to deliver the infant and toddler programs that assist positive relationships within families. New mothers and families benefit from understanding what "normal conflict" is, so parents understand what behaviours are developmentally appropriate for their children.

A major issue in parenting is the need to control screen time. That's child viewing of TV and computer images. Studies show that exposure to media, aggression and the glamorization of crime desensitizes children to violence and creates a perception that bullying behaviours are normal, and can even affect brain development. Postnatal nurse family advisors can warn parents that children under two years of age should watch no media, and other preschoolers no more than one to two hours. A challenging task in today's world, but vital knowledge to have.

Above all, we need to start early to bully-proof each child. Children need to be empowered early and encouraged to know what bullying is, when they are being bullied, and that it's okay to share their feelings. Young people look to parents and caregivers for authority, so those with authority need to encourage little people and tell them the rules. Here again it's a vital need for effective early childhood development that will grow our next generation of healthy, fun-loving and functional citizens.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MILDRED HALL SCHOOL PEACEMAKER
PROGRAM RE ANTI-BULLYING

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to talk about bullying as well. I want to highlight and celebrate the great work being done at Mildred Hall School. Mildred Hall has been working hard to develop anti-bullying policies and procedures because they believe strongly in early intervention. At Mildred Hall they recognize that bullying doesn't just happen at school, it also happens outside on the school grounds and on Facebook, cyber world, on the streets and in our

community. They also see that the fact is they have a role to play and to provide positive support.

They are taking many important steps and prevention measures. They proactively do outreach through educational sessions with their staff and their students. They teach kids to act. Even as bystanders, they need to report bullying to help stop and break the cycle to prevent future actions. They work hard to teach students that standing up for themselves and recognizing that self-esteem is an issue they need to be supported with. It's not just the victim who needs self-esteem and support, the bully sometimes has self-esteem and support issues as well.

Mildred Hall works to support their students and to teach them to report their problems. They teach them that reporting a bullying incident is not being a tattletale or ratting out their good friend, it's about taking real responsibility for actions that should stop.

Over a number of years at Mildred Hall, Wendy Wile should be credited for being the leader in the Peacemaker Program where she involves Grade 6, 7, and 8 students to help with their peers. They provide support for students on the playground during recess. They wear yellow vests so they can be identified. These Peacemaker students receive training. They even do presentations and skits in classrooms, because Mildred Hall recognizes peer-to-peer discussions are extremely effective.

Mildred Hall is working also with Aurora College through a partnership to identify some anti-bullying research and program class prevention, and I'd be remiss if I overlooked the fact that the community liaison officer Constable McGillivry provides great support. Mildred Hall recognizes that bullying is more than just being annoyed or bugged one day. They recognize that this is about people providing repetitive and unwanted behaviour and action. It goes on from there, but power, control and intimidation seem to always be one of the underlying issues. They work hard with their motto, which is: Responsible, Respectful, Safe.

In closing, I want to say that YK1 is working hard with its other partners such as YCS, and they view bullying as a community issue and that they are taking steps and a proactive approach, because they don't want their students affected and they care very deeply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT-WIDE POLICY AGAINST BULLYING

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the anti-bullying campaign. I fully support the initiatives that our schools have taken

on and our communities' support. We must remind ourselves time and time again to keep up our work to stop bullying. It will not stop itself.

Some victims take out their pain by turning to alcohol and drugs. It can be a vicious cycle.

The more we educate our children and let them know that there's help for them, the more they will not be afraid to step forward. When our children do step forward, they have to know that action will be taken so the bullying stops.

I recommend to my colleagues that we start talking publicly about this. We require the full support of community leaders, who must also step forward to help us in this campaign.

This is a touchy subject for many people. Many of our very own people have been bullied for most of their lives. Some were victims of bullying in residential schools. Today we will support each other and make this subject easy to talk about and easier to address.

Bullying is not just an issue in schools. We have elders who are also bullied by their own children and by community members who take from them and return nothing. Abuse of our elders is a serious issue. There have been posters, workshops and meetings about this. Awareness is building in our communities. Helplines are another way to help our children and ourselves.

We need an NWT-wide policy against bullying. All departments should be involved. I want to add that bullying is a widespread problem across the country. Half of Canadian adults say that they were bullied as children or teenagers, according to a recent poll. The NWT must be a leader in stopping bullies in their tracks.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. 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 Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my very great pleasure to recognize and welcome the Grade 5 class from N.J. Macpherson School. You guys look great in your pink. Thank you so much for coming.

I have some Frame Lake constituents that I would like to recognize specifically. Maybe you guys could stand up when your name is called so we know who you are. Diana Rockwell; Elaine Cronk, and mom Carolyn Cronk is also here; Michael Elms, instigator of this event today – way to go, Michael – and his mom, Megan Holsapple; Liala Noksana; and their teacher, Carrie Heldman, also a wonderful Frame Lake resident; and last but not least I'd like

to recognize my CA, Amanda Mallon, who is hiding in the back and did lots of work to get this organized. Thank you and welcome.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a great pleasure to have young people in the House today. An extra energy to enjoy here. I'd like to recognize a couple of Weledeh residents. Miss Aurora Nind – Aurora, if you could stand up – and Miss Thea Guy.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the young people in our gallery this afternoon. I'd also like to recognize the former MLA for Range Lake, Sandy Lee. Also I'd like to recognize a former leader, still a leader, Charlie Furlong from the Mackenzie Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Charlie Furlong, who is with us in the gallery, who has served as a community leader for many years in Aklavik.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to welcome the Grade 5 class from N.J. Macpherson located in the great riding of Kam Lake. I'd like to welcome all our young visitors to the Assembly today.

In particular I've got a few constituents I wanted to recognize. Sade Blondin, Brady Harbin, and Julia Bikbaeva. I also believe Aidan Drew is my constituent, as well, so I'll recognize Aidan as well. I once again thank them for wearing pink on Anti-Bullying Day and welcome to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome the students here from N.J. Macpherson and thank you. You, too, look awesome in your pink today.

I've got some residents here from Range Lake I'd like to recognize here in the gallery. I've got Aidan Drew... No? How about Zach Smith? My good swimming buddy Mr. Liam Philipp. Mackenzie Pariseau, Destiny Hobbs-Stewart, Kealan Harper and Meadow Munroe. Thank you, students, for coming out today.

I have one more resident here from Range Lake who is no stranger to this House, Ms. Sandy Lee.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to also recognize Mr. Charlie Furlong from Aklavik, and a former colleague and good friend to Judy and I, Ms. Sandy Lee.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite a pleasure to recognize the Grade 5 N.J. class who walked all the way here from their school. Very impressive to them getting some active living. Although recognized already, I would like to recognize Aurora Nind. She is also a resident of Yellowknife Centre. If she could stand. And Kelsey Robson. Thank you both. Thank you to your class on your great effort. You guys look fabulous today as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'd like to welcome all our visitors in the public gallery here today, that you're taking an interest in the proceedings here today. Thank you and welcome. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to today recognize two Pages from Hay River South, Angela Roy and Kateryna Staszuk, Grade 8 students from the Ecole Boreale school in Hay River, and also the chaperone, Kateryna's mom, Michelle Staszuk.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 7, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 3-17(2):
CONGRATULATIONS ON
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
TO GEORGE AND CELINE CAMPBELL
IN TULITA

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the Christmas holidays the community of Tulita celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of a truly respected couple, George and Celine Campbell. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell made their vows to each other on December 29, 1961, in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I'm proud to say that our community was part of that history when the celebration took place to honour George and Celine. I want to recognize them today for their commitment to their vows and for keeping each other in their hearts. Spending half

a century in love with one person is a wonderful testament to the gift of marriage. Celebrating a golden anniversary certainly deserves recognition. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 95-17(2): ABORIGINAL CURRICULA IN SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS BULLYING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the bullying and how it is not part of the culture that I grew up in. It was more respect for the people and the culture. I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if the Education department is looking at how to include more Aboriginal teaching or mentoring programs that can be introduced into our education system that would look at more of respecting each other, respecting the environment and to prevent bullying.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We definitely don't accept bullying in schools. Part of the going forward basis, I guess, there are certainly individuals that we heavily depend on. There are elders in the schools that we're going to be introducing and, as the Member alluded to, Aboriginal-speaking teachers. Most of the students look up to their teachers, look up to their siblings, as well, older siblings. That is part of the plan with the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, to introduce those individuals who are highly respected at the community level that can teach our children. That is the overall plan, long-term goals and objectives. We are exploring those areas as well.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly look forward to the day when we can have elders into our schools. We worked on it long enough. I think the Minister is going to make an announcement, hopefully soon, that we're going to have elders in our schools.

Getting back to how do we work with bullying, I know there are many other areas that we need to work on as a society as a whole. However, our children now spend most of their time in the schools Monday through Friday throughout the year. Can the Minister look at a program where possibly it could be a pilot project where the Aboriginal culture could be taught more forcefully, maybe introduced strongly to have this issue looked at from the Aboriginal perspective on bullying?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We do have certain programs in the school system that promote on-the-land programming and cultural orientation. We could do more in that respect. We do provide funding to the school boards to promote even more culture-based and community-based programming even at the school level. I can definitely share that with the board chairs with whom I have quarterly meetings and I can promote more of these types of important programs that should be delivered in the schools as well.

MR. YAKELEYA: I was in Tulita when the students went out to do an on-the-land program, and the instructor said these students were just having fun and they were respecting each other because they depended on each other. But he said once they got back into the school system, they started to get a little more out of that respectable behaviour. I want to ask the Minister would he again look, with his colleagues, the boards, at whether we can put more of these types of programs more than just once or twice or three times a year, have these types of on-the-land programs that would be introduced into the education system?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, I gave a directive to the school boards, because we provide funding for culture-based programs and we noticed some of the money wasn't being expended thoroughly into the culture-based programming. There's been a directive given, so the school boards are fully aware that we need to do more in those areas and utilizing the elders, utilizing the community members as expertise. We will continue to push that forward with the school boards as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister look at programs within the school, like I mentioned to my spouse, that maybe some type of organized program could be there to help the students develop into some wonderful athletes and look at their own self-esteem such as sport and recreation programs that could be used throughout the year?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the overall plans. We noticed there was an article in the South Slave Journal highlighting various programming, which highlighted me, as the Minister responsible, to work closely with the principals and the school boards, which we've done in the past and will continue to do, as well as working with Municipal and Community Affairs, working with Health and Justice. This is a collaborative approach when it comes to the wellness of all children of the Northwest Territories. That is our overall mandate. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 96-17(2):
AFFORDABLE POWER FOR
SOUTH SLAVE MINING DEVELOPMENTS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. I'd like to ask him what the current negotiations are with some of the potentials that affect the Hay River area such as companies as Avalon and Tamerlane, a couple of mining companies.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been discussed around the Cabinet table. As well, the Power Corp has had discussions about what may be possible among its board members and within the corporation. As well, there have been some discussions with the proponents of these various projects about the need for affordable energy and power, how critical that could be and what's possible, especially looking at the area by the Buffalo Junction where some of the proposed sites are. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: My next question is concerning some of the potential high demand for some of that power and is there any potential for the expansion of the Taltson hydro system.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is significant potential. We've spent, over the last Assembly and before, about \$13 million doing all the technical work, getting all the permitting and environmental work done when we initially contemplated going up to the diamond mines. That has not proven feasible, so now we are looking at options both north and south with grid connections with putting the power into the communities, a possible hookup to Yellowknife. The Member has mentioned two potential mine projects that could put that power to use. We know that the Taltson has up to about 200 megawatts of power if fully put to use. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: I think the Minister kind of indicated a little bit about this, but my question is: Is there still consideration to build a transmission line south to Alberta or Saskatchewan to allow us to sell some of our power during peak demands in their areas and actually buy cheaper power when the demands are lower at different times of the day?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is an option that is currently under consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is about the potential of biomass and the generation of power through biomass, both buying power from maybe a provider or supplementing some of the high costs up north, generating power maybe through biomass. Has the Power Corporation investigated this potential and where are they currently at with that?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has done a significant amount of work on the whole area of biomass and released a Biomass Strategy. We have invested significantly as a government in converting buildings. We are talking to a proponent now, currently, who has some very ambitious plans to look at a pellet plant in the North that would bring value-added industries into the North for the provision of biomass. NTPC itself is going to be looking at the possibilities in some of the smaller communities to try to look at replacement of diesel. As well, as we consider the circumstances in Inuvik, that is as well one of the options being considered. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 97-17(2):
NEED FOR ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. In my Member's statement today I talked about bullying, but I also, at the end of my statement, called for legislation that this government needs to put in place, legislation to counteract bullying and to create awareness and so on against that particular activity.

There are many statistics that are out there. Members have mentioned many of them in their statements. I think the importance is recognized, and I think it's been recognized by the department and by the Minister. I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not there is any possibility, whether or not it is on the radar of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment any time in the near future to develop a piece of legislation that addresses bullying. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the areas that is of great interest to us, as well, since we've heard in the news the bullying has increased. We do currently have policies in place that deal with the local school boards, the regional school boards, but we talk

about the legislation for the overall Northwest Territories. That is an area that we are exploring.

I wish to come back to the Members within six months or within a year to highlight what we found, and we are comparing with other jurisdictions as Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec. We have an ongoing dialogue with them. We will provide that information to the Members. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that we have a great, very long line-up of legislation that is waiting to be done. I really appreciate the fact that it is on the radar for the Department of Education. I look forward to getting something back in the near future.

The Minister mentioned that there is a policy. I would like to know from the Minister, is this a policy that directly addresses bullying or is it a different kind of policy. If I can get a bit of an elaboration on what policy does exist within the department that schools are asked to implement. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, there are various school boards that have policies addressing bullying. I don't have the specifics of those policies before me, but each school board has their own jurisdictional policy that deals with their students in that region in the communities. I can provide that information once I get my hands on them. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Minister for his response. I thought he had referenced a policy that would be an NWT-wide policy. I understand now he is referencing policies that each school board or education authority has. I think there is a need within the territory for a policy that is territory-wide. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not his department will lead a coordinated action to bring the education authorities together so that we have a coordinated and a common approach to bullying across all of our schools. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Most definitely this will be one of the topics of discussion when I meet with the board chairs.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that it is going to be on the list of things to discuss with board chairs, but my question to the Minister was whether or not the department would take the lead and would initiate some action to coordinate bullying. I would like to ask him if he is willing to do that. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The answer will be yes. We are gathering all of the information. We will provide those to the board chairs as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 98-17(2):
IMPACTS OF FEDERAL CRIME BILL
ON NORTHERN YOUTH

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my opening Member's statement I mentioned that I was going to have some questions today for the Minister of Justice in regards to the new proposed crime bill and how it is going to affect our Youth Criminal Act as well as our diversion programs.

How is the new crime bill going to affect how our youth are treated in the court system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done an analysis of Bill C10. Our analysis shows or we understand and believe that we will see some young offenders in custody for longer periods of time under Bill C10. One of the primary changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act under Bill C10, is it is changing to the main principles of the bill to include protection of society. In that we see some increases of sentences for young offenders by adding specific deterrence and denunciation principles of sentencing, expanding the definition of violent offenders, violent youth offenders may see more time in our facilities, and include behaviours that endanger life and safety of themselves and others. Our cursory analysis does show that we will likely see some increases within our youth facilities.

MR. MOSES: In respect to the theme day we had today, a lot of our drug dealers in the communities are bullying and getting our youth to sell drugs for them. In some cases, when it comes to drugs, you do tend to have violent crimes, so it is good to hear that any youth that are participating in this kind of behaviour are going to be starting to get sentenced as adults.

In regards to that diversion, I know we look at a lot of diversion programs. Is the Minister looking at the diversion programs in terms of sentencing our youth, or will they be put on the crime bill, as well, in terms of getting sentenced to jail? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify one point. The amendments proposed by Bill C10 with respect to trying youth as adults, it only would apply when the Crown would be required to consider seeking adult sentences for things like murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and aggravated sexual assault. Not every condition under any potential crime that they might commit, that there are going to be different penalties out

there for youth involved in violent crime. There are, under the Criminal Code and changes to provisions around organized crime, particularly folks in drug selling and involving organized crime, there will be some changes there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: Like I said, drug dealers preying on our youth to sell their product for them and some cases when the youth do get sentenced, it is usually just a slap on the wrist or diversion to another program where they are let back out into society and they continue to repeat the same type of actions. I want to get commitment from the Minister that he will speak on our behalf to ensure that if the drug dealers aren't getting, I wouldn't say punished or convicted, then the youth should understand that by them participating in this type of action, they are going to get convicted under the same type of criminal convictions that an adult would if they were selling drugs, and harming our people in the community, and continuing to keep our society down and contributing to our problems. Will the Minister commit to speaking on behalf of people of the Northwest Territories that he will address drug dealing, in this case, with youth?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There is a lot that needs to be done. There is no question that drugs and alcohol in the Northwest Territories are a problem. The Department of Justice is trying to focus more on prevention and diversion rather than incarceration. The department is doing things like supporting the Not Us campaign, which we got real positive responses on.

In the day, those youth that are involved in violent crime, those individuals that are involved in organized crime will likely receive stiffer penalties under C10 and the changes to the YCJA. That doesn't change the fact that we still want to focus on diversion. We want to actually keep people out of the system, by preventing the crime in the first place. I think there are better results from actually focusing on the root causes of the crime and dealing with that. Those individuals who do get involved, those and youth that do commit serious crimes, under Bill C10 will receive stiffer penalties. The department will continue to focus on prevention and trying to find solutions to the root causes of crime. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to diversion and keeping our youth out of the system, will the Minister commit to creating a territory-wide awareness campaign to youth to educate them on the consequences that, if they participate in drug dealing or other violent crimes when this new bill comes in, we can protect our youth so they don't have to go through the system? Will he commit to creating a territory-wide

awareness campaign so that our youth understand and know what they are getting into, and that we keep them out of the system and keep them living a healthy lifestyle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, it is a good suggestion. Once again, we do have the Not Us campaign and the Department of Health and Social Services have their campaigns as well. I am interested in working with my colleagues in Health and Social Services but also with Social Programs on this type of initiative. I would like to have more conversations to figure out what would be the best way to go forward with that.

In the meantime, we will continue to move forward with Not Us and allow the communities to design programs that work for themselves, rather than us telling them what the message should be. We will certainly have those conversations. I am looking forward to those conversations. In the meantime, we have Not Us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 99-17(2):
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF BULLYING

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked a bit more about the mental strain and struggles that a lot of victims go through with respect to bullying and cyber-bullying. If there was ever an ideology to put forward in terms of the Mental Health Strategy, I think this would be one of the best cases going forward.

My question for the Minister of Health is: Given the fact that, in my Member's statement today and I am sure the Minister would agree, we're dealing with a lot of potential depressive illnesses here, prolonged psychological issues with victims of bullying, can the Minister indicate to me, if I was a parent who is out there listening today, what means and what measures do we have out there to help these victims of bullying right now in our schools? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that the department is doing is offering community counselling programs in every region in every community. So the counsellors and wellness workers are available to assist youth, and youth who are showing problems, and emotional problems, and having emotions in dealing with issues of being bullied in schools. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister for indicating about the community counselling programs we have there, but the question to the

Minister is: These counsel programs, are they really specialized to deal with bullying in nature? Bullying is a separate condition I think in cases that because of the repeated and constant repeating and violations that these people and victims have to go through. Are our community-based counselling programs equipped to deal with this type of issue?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The department is also piloting and talking about mental illness programs with Grade 8 students in Yellowknife. This program focuses on decreasing the stigma associated with mental illness, which could result from being bullied, causing depression for the youth, including suicidal thoughts and so on. So if youth are experiencing those, it's more likely that they're able to reach out for some help. The program also strives to build empathy with the youth, so they're able to recognize somebody who is struggling and also recognize people who are being bullied and not saying anything. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I thank the Minister for indicating we have a pilot project out there. That leads me to think that with a pilot project, we obviously must be working towards something. I'm hoping that that issue is potentially a Mental Health Strategy. With that question in mind, can the Minister indicate is this the precursor to the Mental Health Strategy that this government has been so desperately looking towards?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: It will form a part in the Mental Health Strategy. The idea of the program, once it's been reviewed, piloted, evaluated, the idea is that the department plans to expand the program right across the territory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister for going on record that we do have a Mental Health Strategy in the works. My final question will always be that proverbial question: When can we see this on the floor? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Sorry, I don't have that timeline with me in the House today, but I can provide that information to the Member later on today or tomorrow when I have that information. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 100-17(2):

FUNDING FOR VETERINARY STUDENT SEAT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask questions of the Minister of ECE today. A motion was passed in the Assembly, a previous Assembly, calling on the Minister of ECE to reinstate the policy of sponsoring a placement in the University of Saskatchewan's Western College

of Veterinary Medicine. As I explained at that time, we have an ideal NWT-born, trained and committed candidate coming forward for application to that program. The Minister said he would ensure consideration of reinstatement of this sponsorship in the current review of the Student Financial Assistance Program. I'd just like to start by confirming the Minister has so directed his staff to make that inclusion in their considerations. Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This particular area, the budget obviously had been cut in 2008 and for the one seat that we're talking about, the \$25,000 seat with the University of Saskatchewan, we do have currently an NWT student that's studying at the University of Saskatchewan and the funding is not provided to the individual, but that individual will be completing academic year 2013-2014 and we're very proud of that. There are students out there exploring those areas. So with that, I'd just like to highlight that this program was cut in 2008 as it stands. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Of course, that was well known. The motion passed in the House was well after 2008, so the Minister will be aware of that. I'm talking about a veterinarian seat here, not a veterinarian's assistant. So whilst this student assistance review is underway and will be considered in next year's budget, this candidate has given us three years' advanced notice to come up with this support, and there's obviously a desperate need for a veterinarian across the NWT and it's been well established. So I guess I'd like to just start by asking the Minister if he does agree that there is a desperate need for veterinarians, full veterinarians in the NWT, not just assistants, and that he's aware of that information or has seen correspondence on that. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. This particular program at the University of Saskatchewan is a veterinary program. As I stated, there is a student that's attending. We sponsor 1,400 students and we're talking about one seat that's \$25,000, and just imagine – we have huge numbers – the cost of that, and on top of that there's additional costs as well. But it is needed. We've seen some articles in the newspaper, as well, in the Northwest Territories and other parts of the country and we do have veterinarians coming out, as well, to work in the Northwest Territories and other parts of the provinces. So we'll continue supporting those areas. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate those perspectives from the Minister. I've repeatedly asked whether there have been other veterinarian students and the only information I've ever been given by the department was on veterinarian assistants. So I'd

be happy to have that information confirmed, but of course we're not talking about many seats. It's rare that we have students come forward with the qualifications for going after a veterinarian degree, and recognizing the need and the interest from the Sahtu for example, recently, I think we need to get this done. So I'd ask the Minister, will he go after this so that we have this seat established within a year. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. We have to keep in mind that there are other professions, as well, doctors degrees and other professions. It wouldn't be fair to just highlight one profession, sponsoring the \$25,000 seat, where other students are exploring and pursuing, whether it be the nursing degree, master's program, doctors program, lawyers and so forth. So all of those professions do come back in the Northwest Territories and they contribute back to the Northwest Territories. So it's very difficult for me as the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, to support this one specific profession on a going forward basis. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, this is a very different situation than the Minister has portrayed here. All those careers don't require a seat at a university. Anybody with basic education can get in for lawyers and so on. This is a veterinarian seat. There are extremely huge schools in Canada and you need an established seat to get into that program. Obviously, we have a desperate need for veterinarians. Does the Minister agree that this is a bit of an exception compared to the normal professions that we'd like to see our students go into as well?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There are six universities in Canada that provide doctor of veterinary medicine programs. After consultation with the University of Saskatchewan in September 2009, after the cut in the programming budget, my department was advised by the University of Saskatchewan that they do not have the policy that would charge NWT students the out-of-province tuition and that they would look at each NWT student's application on a case-by-case basis. So there is an opportunity there for those students.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 101-17(2):

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES PARTICIPATION

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to deviate from today's theme of bullying, but I don't believe bullying should be tolerated and I think there should be efforts by this government to try to stamp it out and make it stop so that kids enjoy the best years of their lives just experiencing life in

general and not having the burden of responsibilities that we adults have.

My question today is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Seeing that it's only about three weeks or so left before our team travels all the way to Whitehorse to participate in the Arctic Winter Games, can the Minister give us an update as to the progress of organizing the Northwest Territories team as we head to the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The team is pretty well finalized. We have over 350 players, coaches and chaperones that will be going to Whitehorse from March 4th to 10th. We were quite pleased this year that we had over 970 athletes participating in the territorial trials, and out of those 970 there were about 680 from outside Yellowknife. I think that's reflective of the good work that all the sporting partner organizations are doing in getting sports out into the communities. Everything is on schedule. Our team is set to go. They will be in Whitehorse from March 4th to 10th bringing back straight gold ulus.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for his reply. My question is just to follow up on the first. Seeing that we have a theme and we need to muster up our athletes and get them prepared, what is the theme this year for the Arctic Winter Games, seeing that it's been a common practice for the Northern Territories to come together and share in culture, spirit, and sports?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not quite sure what the theme is. I'd have to check on that. I know, I know, I should know what the theme is. There are people over at... If I talk long enough then they might get it over from MACA. I'll just keep going for the next 10 or 15 minutes. Anyway, I'll find out what it is and I'll come in here and let the Member know.

MR. NADLI: My question is in terms of what would be maybe a friendly projection in terms of how much gold our athletes might bring back to Yellowknife.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Well, first and foremost our goal is to have our young people out participating in the games. We've been very fortunate in the past. We've always sent strong teams to the Arctic Winter Games and they've always been able to do us proud. Whether they win gold, silver, bronze or just the fact that they participate, they've done us very proud. I think one of the most important awards in the Arctic Winter Games is probably the Stuart Hodgson Trophy which is presented to the team that combines the best sportsmanship. I think that's a very important award. The fact that our young people have an

opportunity to get out there and participate, I think it says a lot about our young people and the people in the communities, it says a lot about the support that this government has given them. We just want them to go over, do their best, and if they happen to come back with medals, that would be a bonus.

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

QUESTION 102-17(2):
PROSPECTORS GRUBSTAKE PROGRAM
TRAINING COMPONENT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In December I asked questions about the return of the Prospectors Grubstake Program. On Friday, February 10th, the Minister made the announcement that that program will be reinstated. I can tell you that there's some very positive news from constituents of mine. At the same time in December, I asked questions about the training component and I have to say the Minister's announcement fell quite silent on that particular subject. I'm wondering what the Minister has to say today regarding the possibility of reinstating a training component to the Prospectors Grubstake Program.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A training component to that is something the department is interested in and something that we will look at.

MR. HAWKINS: Will is quite a big word. What does "will" in this particular case mean? Is it his direction from a Minister's point of view of instructing the department to reinstate that type of programming or is it just a matter of a case of "if they feel like it?"

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: My belief is that there are many individuals in the smaller communities who could benefit from becoming field assistants when it comes to prospecting and that's the angle that I'd certainly like to see the department continue to pursue so that we can get people to work in the smaller communities, helping prospectors out on the land.

MR. HAWKINS: Is this an initiative that could be implemented in the upcoming business plans this fiscal year of the 2012-2013 that we'll be reviewing in May?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, that's something that we could certainly look at in the upcoming business plans.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 103-17(2):
AIRPORT RELOCATION IN TROUT LAKE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation some questions. I was reading the Deh Cho Drum today, and the Trout Lake residents, of course, are concerned that the new airport construction is being delayed. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation how much of a delay in the construction is anticipated.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had many discussions with the community of Trout Lake. We continue to pursue the relocation of the airport in Trout Lake. It has been delayed, but we continue to work with the community to maximize the benefits for employment and training at the community level. We will continue to work with the community of Trout Lake to finish the project.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly Trout Lake has been looking forward to the completion of this project and to have it delayed by another year.... What date was the anticipated completion date for the project?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That would be until sometime in the winter of 2013.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I know that there was great concern over getting access to gravel to complete the airport and it could have been done this winter but it was delayed. Is the Minister anticipating the department to move forward with the gravel haul by next winter?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Those discussions have taken place with the community. There was some concern about spacing the work out so that the community had the ability to do the gravel haul. Under the discussions, I do believe they have agreed to that gravel haul next winter. So that work will proceed at a future date.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the Minister to provide me with a brief project update before I return back to my constituency so I can provide it to the community so they can expect the work timelines?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I'd be happy to provide the Member with that timeline and an update on the status of the relocation of the airport in Trout Lake.

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

QUESTION 104-17(2):
PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL ARREARS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing a couple of questions on his statement. As July 1, 2012, is the implementation of the Shelter Policy review, will the Minister consider an extension to mid-August for evictions, as many people in the smaller communities have seasonal employment?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are planning on implementing some of the changes to the rent scale on July 1st. As far as delaying any evictions until August, I'm not sure we would have evictions in place. If the Member is referring to the moratorium, that's still going to go ahead on April 1st and between now and August. Let us hope that we don't have any more people that are in positions where they're going to be evicted. I think with some of the changes that are being proposed to the rent scale, people will find those changes very beneficial and it will address a lot of the concerns that communities have had over the years.

MR. BLAKE: What is the minimum amount of funds that is needed for the payment plan?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I don't think there's been a minimum amount of funds. What we're asking people to do again – I think we're going back to the moratorium question – is to enter into a repayment plan, a fairly reasonable repayment plan and not just enter into it for the sake of keeping themselves in the unit, but to enter it with the intent to honour it and then they'd be able to stay in their units a lot longer. As far as I know, there really is no minimum set, but that may vary between LHOs. I can follow up and let the Member know.

MR. BLAKE: I look forward to the response. No further questions at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Replies to Opening Address

MR. YAKELEYA'S REPLY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three points I want to speak on in my opening address. It has to do with the motion that the Sahtu Secretariat passed at their meeting. The Sahtu Secretariat

asked if the Aboriginal governments and the First Nations governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories talk about a process where they can sit down together and start discussing constitutional development. It's imperative that the Sahtu people want to have this discussion to continue to protect the dignity and culture of the Sahtu people, more so now that they have a land claim. They want to know how we will continue to coexist in the future and what type of laws will uphold the Aboriginal way of life.

We are creating a new home. A devolution agreement is not too far away. The Sahtu people are saying that they need to sit down with this government here, and with all First Nations governments and look at how we're going to develop this new constitution in the Northwest Territories. That is what they want to do.

Another thing that the people in the Sahtu region have some problems with, and I want to talk about the land and water board restructuring and the regulatory process that's going on. When the Sahtu Land Claim was settled, it was in the spirit and intent that as much control would come to the Sahtu people in the communities. Hence, the reason that the board was set up. People wanted to have this when the land claims were negotiated. Governments agreed. We shook hands on it. But now we look at it. The government has found a way to open this very important chapter and say we could do it without going back to the table. We don't know if the governments shook hands in good faith or if their hands were held behind their back, crossing their fingers, saying that's okay.

This is not fair, it's not right and it's not just to the people in the Sahtu. I say this because I was the chief negotiator in the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement, and I know that when we sat across from Osborne, the chief negotiator at that time, that this is what the people wanted in their land claim agreement. Here today we talk about some McCrank report. All reports say we need to streamline. We're doing fine in our region. If we go ahead with that report, we're going to take the control out of our region.

Government has a funny way to work and get its way. I think the word is bullying. That might be something that we want to look at with the federal government. This issue here was talked about when I talked to the chairman in the Sahtu region and Norman Wells. Basically, he said what are they doing. We don't have an issue with this. That tells me that the federal government has a plan, had a plan that totally disregards and disrespects the spirit and intent of a negotiated deal that we had. We made that deal. We went to the communities and we told them about the deal, and I truly believed David Osborne when we shook hands on

this deal. But somehow it seems that is not the case.

History is repeating itself. Broken promises once again are being told, are being seen, and we're witnessing it.

My last point here has to do with my discussion last night – actually, yesterday morning – with one of the leaders in the Sahtu communities that talked about the government policies. Some of them work against my people and their culture. For example, having traditional foods at government facilities such as the Aven Manor, the correctional institutes, the hospitals. Why can't we get the Aboriginal foods into those systems? We always seem to come up with policies and policies that say we can't do it. Our people grew up on wild animals, caribou, fish, seal, ducks. But when you come into a government system, they have so many papers that it discourages you from bringing food into our facilities or helping our elders with their life in the community.

Our culture teaches us to go into the people's houses and help them with medication. We went to Colville Lake. Two old elders live there and their nephew helps them. He said, you know, one time I went there and they were taking their medication and these elders couldn't read or couldn't understand how much medication they took. Then they are taking them and after awhile they were walking around like zombies in their house. It was kind of comical when the guy was telling me, but that's the case of how we come to this day that it makes it hard for people to take care of the elders.

We have just completed some budgets. We just completed how we want to do the operations within the government for next year. I hope this government and ourselves here look at how we start bringing some of these programs to the people, but more so, change some of these programs that could fit the people's needs in all our communities.

These are my comments for the opening address.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 9, written questions, on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

Written Questions (Reversion)

WRITTEN QUESTION 4-17(2):
AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

MR. BROMLEY: My questions are directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and it's on the availability of agricultural lands.

1. What is the amount of land leased for commercial agricultural use according to total area, number of parcels and average size of a parcel?
2. What work is underway to evaluate and inventory land that could be offered for commercial agricultural use?
3. What activities is the department carrying out, including working with municipalities, to increase the amount of agricultural land available and to promote the commercial development and productive use of agricultural land and what supports are being offered to potential developers?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 13-17(2):
MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION'S REPORT
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF
DANGEROUS GOODS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Minister of Transportation's Report to the Legislative Assembly on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 14-17(2):
NWT ENERGY CORPORATION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "NT Energy Strategic Plan 2012-2014."

TABLED DOCUMENT 15-17(2):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE GNWT 2010-2011
SECTION I AND II

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled "Public Accounts 2010-2011 Section I and II."

TABLED DOCUMENT 16-17(2):
PENSION ADMINISTRATION REPORT –
RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT
AND SUPPLEMENTARY RETIRING
ALLOWANCES ACT
AT MARCH 31, 2011

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Colleagues, I have tabling of documents. In accordance with Section 21(1) of the Retiring Allowances Act and Section 11.1 of the

Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I hereby table the Pension Administration Report - Retiring Allowances Act and Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act at March 31, 2011.

TABLED DOCUMENT 17-17(2):
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MLAS'
PENSION PLANS FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

Pursuant to Section 21(1) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and Section 11.1 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the Annual Report on the Northwest Territories MLAs' Pension Plans for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011.

TABLED DOCUMENT 18-17(2):
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING
ALLOWANCE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Fund Financial Statements for the year ended for March 31, 2011.

TABLED DOCUMENT 19-17(2):
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES
FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 7, 2011, TO
FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the period of December 7, 2011, to February 6, 2012.

Mr. Bromley.

TABLED DOCUMENT 20-17(2):
LETTERS AND E-MAILS RECEIVED IN SUPPORT
OF THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TABLED DOCUMENT 21-17(2):
PROPOSAL FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PRE-TREATMENT/AFTERCARE
AND COUNSELLING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. The first is entitled, "Letters and E-Mails Received in Support of the Need for Urgent Action on Climate Change." The second one is entitled, "Proposal for Substance Abuse Pre-Treatment/Aftercare and Counselling." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Dolynny.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 5-17(2): ANTI-BULLYING MEASURES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that, on Monday, February 20, 2012, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying, including cyber-bullying, and provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims and bystanders;

And further, that the government review anti-bullying legislative measures being undertaken in other jurisdictions and bring forward a bill for consideration by this Assembly within 18 months;

And furthermore, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Dolynny.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

Motions

MOTION 5-17(2): ANTI-BULLYING MEASURES, CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS bullying includes a range of repeated, intentional or hurtful behaviours such as threats, name calling, physical abuse, physical violence, shunning, shunning and excluding, stealing or breaking of person's things and coercing people to do things they do not want to do;

AND WHEREAS in recent years, the use of social media and other information and communication technologies to bullying, also known as cyber-bullying, has become increasingly problematic;

AND WHEREAS people who are subjected to bullying may experience a range of harmful consequences including a loss of self-esteem and confidence, feelings of being unsafe and scared, depression and physical injury;

AND WHEREAS the effects of bullying may continue to be felt long after the bullying ceases;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories does not have a territory-wide public education initiative, policies or legislation to counter bullying;

AND WHEREAS the Members of this Legislative Assembly which denounce all bullying behaviour in our schools and in our society at large;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying including cyber-bullying and to provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims and bystanders;

AND FURTHER, that the government review anti-bullying legislation measures being undertaken in other jurisdictions and bring forward a bill for consideration by this Assembly within 18 months;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank our colleagues for allowing us to stand here today. These are the first steps towards what I refer to as proper legislation. We have to start with the measures first. This is why the motion is on the floor today.

As indicated earlier with my Members here, the idea to create, and formulate and coordinate all the needed measures that go against all the inter-department boundaries that this motion will have to touch on, it takes a coordinated effort to get to the proper legislation in the future.

We need this government to denounce bullying. By this motion and by giving the parameters thereof, this gives our government the ability to move forward. You have to provide an aggressive campaign on TV, radio, Internet. You have to find every means possible to get this message out to all the citizens and especially the children of the Northwest Territories. This measure that we have before us today as a motion, I believe is a symbol. This is a starting point this government can use, and use for all, including our victims, but for all people and territories.

We have heard earlier today from our children out there through Our Voice, Our Choice. This is being student driven. We owe it to them to go forward and help them along their way.

This also helps us to look at the root causes of this behaviour. I think that is a very underlying issue that tends to be forgotten in the process as we prepare for legislation in the future. As indicated here by one of my Members, we have to talk about the postnatal, the preschool and early childhood

development. These are critical areas that the measure of this motion will be balanced against.

Mr. Speaker, this can't just be a yearly campaign. Our government owes it to the people to be something more than an annual event. This has to be something within the breadth of our existence as government and something we can be proud of. Everyone here were either children or are mothers and fathers. We can't allow our children and our students to live in fear. We need to support them. It is our turn, Mr. Speaker. This motion I think is the first step that we can tip the scales and help these victims. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak in support of this motion. I believe bullying has to stop and should be stamped out in the communities, and in our homes and also generally in society.

I would like to also thank my colleague and acknowledge the leadership of Mr. Daryl Dolynny for bringing this forward, plus to acknowledge the students that are involved in this project today and this initiative.

I think this is a start. Ultimately, we should be aspiring to ensure that bullying as a practice should not be condoned or tolerated. It should be stopped. We need government action. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the mover of this motion, for bringing this issue to the Legislature today, and also for Ms. Bisaro's enthusiasm and support to get everybody here to talk about this issue.

It not only affects students in Yellowknife. It affects students right across the Northwest Territories, in homes and communities. Like I said, it not only affects students, it affects leaders, families and everybody.

I want to thank the Member for the motion here. In the motion it talks about some recommendations that this government could do to denounce bullying. Mr. Speaker, in my younger days in the '70s, I liked the rock band Quiet Riot. The band would say we're not going to take this anymore. That is what we have to say about bullying in our communities. This government should have a good campaign. The Minister is really pumping me up here to talk about the bullying campaign and do it, and these communities that we represent have to stand up and say we're not going to take it anymore. Bullying is not welcome in Ulukhaktok, Tsiigehtchic, Colville Lake, Tulita, Wrigley, Gameti, Smith and Hay River, or in Lutselk'e and Yellowknife. It is not welcome in

the Northwest Territories. Take it outside the North. Start learning to respect the culture, the values and the people. We have to have a strong campaign that will be a sweeping change of attitudes of people in the North.

What the heck's going on with cyber-bullying? That's scary. People are looking to see what they can do about it.

I want to support this motion. I look for some bullying legislation from this government. We have to draft it. We will draft it. I understand Quebec has done that as a result of some pretty serious stuff that happened with bullying. That government has taken the lead to say enough is enough. We, as legislators, are legislating behaviours of people. We think that's common sense for them, but it isn't.

I want to say that we want to ask, through this motion, if the government can consider putting together a legislative proposal, maybe, or a discussion paper and say this is what we can do. This will deter any type of bullying in the North here.

I'm going to support this motion.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, would like to thank Mr. Dolynny and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion to the floor. I think we've had an excellent expression of varying views on bullying today. I think it's created a very good awareness both in the House and outside of the House. I think the event of having the students here and our statements will be very educational to many people. I think we've also created maybe one or two budding radio and TV stars with the media activity that was happening upstairs before the House.

Society as a whole is impacted by bullying, even bullies themselves. Through their own actions and the inaction of others, people learn that antisocial behaviour and exerting control over others – whether it be verbal, physical, social, e-mail or so on – is acceptable and that it works. We all, everybody has a role to play in making that kind of behaviour unacceptable and that, in turn, will create safer communities.

Our schools are, as usual, ahead of the government. There are many programs happening in the various schools across the territory and in the education authorities. My own experience has been with Yellowknife Education District No. 1. That board has had a Safe Schools Policy since the early 1990s. I was a part of helping to develop that particular policy that is now pervasive through all of YK1 schools. Other boards, as well, I know are doing activities on bullying, but they are doing it in isolation. It's not a concerted and coordinated effort across the territory. That's what we need and that's what this motion asks for. Our schools recognize

the issue and the problem. I reiterate that we, as a government, have to do the same.

The negative effects of bullying are well known. They're listed in the whereases of the motion. It has a huge impact on any individual who is bullied and it's something that we have to take action to try and stop. A territory-wide campaign which is called for in the motion, to my mind, is a way to do that and to start to defeat the negative aspects of bullying.

I also agree very strongly that legislation is needed. In Alberta – I mentioned Alberta in my statement – we're not Alberta but we are somewhat like Alberta. We are similar. In Alberta, 80 to 90 percent of their residents felt that family violence and bullying should be a priority or both of those should be priorities for their government. I suspect if we did a survey of NWT residents, we would come up with a very similar figure.

Alberta has started action and I feel very strongly that it is time for us to start action. This motion calls for a coordinated campaign of educational awareness. It also calls for legislation. I fully support both of those actions. I encourage all Members to support this particular motion, even those on the other side of the House.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off I'd like to thank Mr. Dolynny for bringing this motion forward. I appreciate the initiative and certainly the enthusiasm from our new Member for Range Lake. He's already starting to have a defining impact on the 17th Assembly. This is a clear example of his efforts. At the same time I'd like to recognize Mr. Yakeleya for supporting this, because it takes grassroots territorial support to bring an initiative like this forward.

Undoubtedly, anti-bullying, or I should say bullying efforts and countering them go from one tip of the territory to the next. It's not just a large community issue; it's also a small community issue. It's a community issue. It's everyone.

The statement made here by many of the Members in their Members' statements should have brought forward the passion and concern that many of our constituents suffer from. It's hard to deny that when somebody's being bullied about, you cannot see or in many cases you probably can't erase the irreparable impact that's had on their lives and how it's changed them.

The fact is that in my Member's statement I tried to highlight Mildred Hall, which is a school in the downtown. I consider what an amazing little school it is. It's certainly the little school that could and it's certainly the little school that can. It's a school that uses a lot of their efforts to focus in on what's the best they can do for their children. Those students

there every day preach responsibility, respect and a safe environment. I think that's something that's very impressive. The students, you can feel it resonate how they respect each other, they respect authority, they respect their friends, they respect who they are themselves. Out of that builds self-esteem, as I talked about earlier today.

Just on the self-esteem note, as I said in my Member's statement and even in my dialogue with some folks in Mildred Hall, they talked about identifying that sometimes it's a self-esteem issue with the bully, that they actually have to narrow it down to say how do we stop this particular problem. They say, well, wait a minute, the bully not only is the problem per se, but the bully has a problem themselves. When they drill down, sometimes they find that that's the person that needs the support and that's how they're reacting. If they want to help break the cycle, they're spending that type of time and effort to make sure they get to know these folks and understand the problem from the full gamut, not just what brought us to the last part, but all the way back and say how can we make a difference. I want to applaud Mildred Hall. I want to applaud YK1. I want to applaud YK1's partners with YCS and the RCMP, who send their community liaison officer over there to work with them.

Sometimes they're not as simple as just talking to a student. Sometimes they're not as simple as talking to a parent. These are troubling problems. I'd be surprised if one of us here has not been touched in the sense of a tragedy that's happened out of a bullying effort. I'm not talking about someone who's been ashamed by the colour of their clothes or the colour of their skin or even the language they speak.

I can speak and remember growing up in Akaitcho Hall, in particular – and I thank Mrs. Groenewegen, I'll say, for sharing that personal story – I remember someone who, quite frankly... We would not speak the word "gay" in our time in the '80s at Akaitcho. There was a young man there and he was gay. He hid from everyone because they bullied him there. It was horrible. He came from a well-to-do family. The fact is, no one stood up for him, and years back, from this point I should say, as I look back years ago and I think what a shame that no one stood up for him. It's one of those horrible stories. I wish we could end with it all worked out fine. But he disappeared; he didn't come back the following year. The next time we heard about him we heard that he threw himself down a garbage disposal in some apartment building unit because he just couldn't take it anymore. That story just always reminds me about... It bothers me now just talking about it. It always reminds me that the bully isn't just the person doing the punches and the words. The bully isn't the person doing all those hateful things. Sometimes the crowd, by doing nothing, becomes part of the problem. I'm sorry I brought

that up, Mr. Speaker. It's statements like this that we think about it.

This motion today, I often call them creative suggestions, but I certainly hope it resonates with this particular government. As I said earlier, I want to thank Mr. Dolynny for bringing this forward, and I'm convinced that if this government doesn't act, I suspect that in somewhere between six and 12 months Mr. Dolynny will be working out his own private member's bill to bring forward this initiative.

This initiative here supports our school systems. Let us not forget that. Right now many of our good school systems do have supporting policies that work very hard to work with the students and parents in the community. I can tell you they need support of good legislation that helps them when they need to do their job. This is more than just a motion today. This is telling our schools, and teachers, and administration in those districts that we care and we support them.

If it isn't evident by now, I'll be voting in favour of this particular motion because I feel that it is very important. As a parent, I'll tell you that nothing is sadder than when your kid comes home and talks about being bullied. I'll tell you, this motion means a lot to many of us in many different ways and I've shared them today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I can honestly say that I'm very honoured to be standing in this House today, discussing an issue and a matter that's important to a lot of people in the Northwest Territories; right across Canada, for that matter. This is something that we're talking about and that legislation is on the floor now. I do hope that we get support from all Members today on something that affects everybody: our friends, our family, our youth, our kids. I feel very strongly about this, that this legislation should be put into place and that we start discouraging the actions of bullies everywhere.

Bullies, as some of the Members have said previous, have issues as well. They have problems that we have to address through this legislation and some of the work that we do. What is the reason? What are the underlying causes that make people bully? Address those issues. It could be home life. It could be community life. We need to help those people out as well. The victim is the victim, but we also have to help some of the people who are put in positions where they are bullies.

It's kind of unfortunate that we're bringing the legislation forward now. I feel very sorry for the people that have been hurt because of bullying and because actions from adults and people in society not taking action and standing up for people in our

community. That's something that we should be doing.

Earlier in my Member's statement I said we all have a voice. Let's speak up and talk about this. Let's make sure things happen so that people in our communities don't have to hurt anymore.

I'm very honoured to be here today so that we can make this move forward and take action. I hope it doesn't come down to a private member's bill, because it shouldn't. We should take action on this and move on it. I'm very honoured to be standing up in front of the group here and in front of the people of the Northwest Territories in support of this motion.

I'd also like to recognize some of the schools. We had a grade school here today, a class come in and kick-start this off. Because one school did it, hopefully we can start bringing that awareness, that campaign into all schools across the Northwest Territories. It doesn't have to end at schools. It should go into the workplace. It should go into the work areas and protect the people that work with the bullies in the workplace as well.

I am in support of this motion and I hope that all Members today do support this motion, because like I said, it affects everybody. It affects our families, our youth, our friends, our leaders. Even our leaders. Our leaders get bullied into making decisions when that shouldn't be the case.

Today when we pass the motion, I hope we do get unanimous consent from everybody.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the timely action NWT-wide with anti-bullying measures. I want to begin by thanking my colleagues Mr. Dolyunny and Mr. Yakeleya for their good work putting an excellent motion together. I'd also like to thank Ms. Bisaro for excellent work in coordinating our work to profile this issue in the House today.

I appreciate all the comments in our Members' statements and here in support of the motion from my colleagues. I think they were very informed, passionate and often experiential. So people are going right out there. I think this is a straightforward indication that we want to move forward quickly and well on this issue. It's probably no surprise that I particularly would like to see the territory-wide campaign include a focus on the prevention opportunities we have to avoid the development of bullying.

With that, I will leave it at that and look forward to rising again in support of this motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members for

bringing this motion forward on the floor. As you know, bullying is a destructive and shameful thing and we cannot tolerate it anymore.

As I stated in this House today, that at ECE we are exploring with other jurisdictions in North America their stance on bullying legislation. We are very serious about anti-bullying in our schools, in our communities, in our homes. Together, with the support of parents and community leaders, I'm confident that we can ensure that our students are safe from this type of behaviour. I'm very glad that this motion is on the floor today and commit to working with the Members to treat this issue very seriously until it is completely eradicated from our society.

This is a recommendation to our government. Since it is a recommendation to our government, the Cabinet will be abstaining from the vote. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We'll let Mr. Dolyunny have final comments to the motion.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleagues here today in support of this motion who spoke. I'd like to take a moment to thank the Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro, for coordinating a concerted effort with our students out there at N.J. Macpherson, and I appreciate her doing so. I'd also like to thank the seconder of this motion, my esteemed colleague from the Sahtu. As a new Member, I'm getting to know and learn his genre of music. We've gone from country to R and B and now to hard rock. We are not going to take this anymore. I'm looking forward to what he is going to choose for rap soon.

Ideally, what we've brought forward here is, really, the framework for measures for a proper campaign. As I mentioned, it is to preserve our culture. I think this is a clear message that we want to denounce bullying everywhere, and I think it's time that this government needs to put that best foot forward.

In time we're hoping that this will cause legislative behaviour changes. With that, we can do a lot more investigation in terms of some of the root causes of bullying out there, as mentioned by some of the other Members as well. I think those are critical factors. Both of those, between finding the root causes and finding legislative behaviour, are two ships that have to sail on the same ocean. We've got to make sure we don't lose fact and focus of that fight.

We've heard from the Minister across the floor, they may be abstaining from voting, but I'm hoping that 120 days from now, if we don't hear anything forward, I can tell you, and I assure you, that it doesn't matter which Member from this side of the House, there will be a private member's bill coming forward. I can assure you of that, whether it's me or one of them.

To summarize, I'm hoping a change of heart. I'm hoping for all Members within this Assembly to vote with your heart and to vote for the victims of bullying out there, because they are there and they're looking towards us for our guidance and our wisdom. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 4-17(2), which I gave notice of yesterday. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 4-17(2):
IMPROVING ALCOHOL AND
DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS enhancing addictions treatment programs has been identified as one of the Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Northwest Territories rates of substance abuse are among the highest in Canada and clearly related to and aggravated by equally high rates of major negative social indicators, and that police report substance abuse as a factor in more than 90 percent of complaints;

AND WHEREAS an innovative addictions treatment approach was piloted in Old Crow, Yukon, in 2004-2005 with a 50 percent rehabilitation success rate over the succeeding 12 months;

AND WHEREAS the program is based upon preparation of participants in the community before they depart for a program at a treatment facility, and providing community-based follow-up programs after formal treatment is completed;

AND WHEREAS the effectiveness of formal treatment has been shown to improve as a result of the mutual support enjoyed by grouped participants preparing for and returning from treatment together, in contrast to the current approach of individual treatment without the availability of peer support;

AND WHEREAS this program approach is ideally suited to integration and coordination with on-the-land treatment approaches, and could draw upon community wellness and other local resources at limited additional cost;

AND WHEREAS this community-based approach addresses the weaknesses of current programming;

AND WHEREAS the improvement of programming based upon piloted and newly proven approaches responds to the critical need for more effective substance abuse treatment programming;

AND WHEREAS preparation for the anticipated increased court and corrections costs resulting from introduction of the federal Bill C-10 provisions requires urgent action to prevent and reduce the criminal activity so commonly associated with substance abuse;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that the Department of Health and Social Services investigate the potential for successful implementation of similar programming and work with standing committees to test and introduce a similar program in the NWT;

AND FURTHER, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. I will give Mr. Bromley closing remarks.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I moved this motion because I believe the program described is too good an idea to ignore. Debates in this Assembly in recent days, throughout our term to date, and throughout the previous term indicated the priority placed upon effectively treating the plague of substance abuse that causes such sorrow to our people and harm to our economy and cultures.

Combating addictions is a specific action item in the Believing in People and Building on the Strength of Northerners priorities adopted by the 17th Assembly. This program approach appears to offer an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of our current addictions treatment programs in a culturally appropriate way, possibly with little increased costs and maximizing the effectiveness of the resources currently being devoted. The dramatically higher success rates described in program reports on pilot projects are extraordinary.

The program is straightforward and based on that rarest of talents: common sense. In a nutshell, rather than having individuals go through treatment isolated and alone in their community with nobody available that can relate to what they are experiencing, it begins by grouping them in two or three or four people. Weekly meetings would be held for a couple of months prior to the group entering a treatment program during which they

would learn about and explore what will happen during treatment and how they can maximize their benefits as they go through it.

The group would then attend the treatment program together, then return to the community with a by now closely-knit support group with the same experience to share. They would again go through 10 or 12 weeks of weekly meetings to provide mutual support and to be available to each other for support as they reintegrate into the community in a healthy way. Community wellness workers seem well situated to provide support during this process.

As we look for ways to avert the anticipated upsurge in costs anticipated from the passage of federal Bill C-10's regressive measures, we must urgently pursue programs that not only treat sufferers more effectively but divert offenders from the policing, courts and corrections route.

This motion does not call on the government to incur immediate costs. Rather, it provides a program free of infrastructure and well adapted to meeting spaces readily available in our communities. It can potentially be delivered through community wellness workers with a simple addition of a coordinator to begin to evaluate the program. This recommendation only looks at the possibility of introducing similar programming ideally based on some analysis and testing.

It's been developed and tested in the Yukon by Mr. Wade Meszaros, who now happens to be a resident of Yellowknife, and undoubtedly would be approachable to discuss this work, should this Minister of Health and Social Services and/or Justice, whoever wants to take this one, be interested. Those are my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for a recorded vote, and recognizing the fundamental and ubiquitous NWT-wide nature of this issue, I think it would be really great for the Premier to enable a pre-vote for Cabinet members on this motion and drop the policy of Cabinet solidarity for this instance. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Colleagues, before we go, I would like to welcome back former colleague of ours, a good friend and former CA to Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Joe Bailey. Welcome back to the House, Joe. It is always good to see you.

---Applause

To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion. The second whereas of the motion talks about NWT rates of substance abuse. We are among the highest rates in Canada. It seems to me that we have been doing the same thing to deal with our addictions and our substance abusers for a very long time. Our treatment programs really haven't changed a lot. We have

gone probably down in the number of treatment programs that we have over the last number of years. In my mind, we haven't been successful doing the same thing over and over.

I think it is time to reconsider what we are doing. It is time to reconsider our drug and alcohol treatment programs. They certainly need to be increased in one form or another. I think this is a really viable alternative that we have to seriously consider. This motion asks for us to look at a different way to run our drug and alcohol treatment programs. It is interesting that Mr. Bromley mentioned common sense. I also feel that common sense says that pre and post support for any activity is necessary. That is, again, what I think this particular motion is asking for in its approach. We do it in our health care system. I don't think anybody would contemplate an operation on their knee, for instance, without pre and post op support. Yet we don't do that with our drug and alcohol treatment programs.

I want to mention a couple of things, give a couple of quotes. One is that addictions cannot be addressed in isolation. There are factors that affect addictions that run right through our community and it is a community issue. It is also a family issue. We can't expect to deal with addictions without also considering the family and the community. This quote, "All the historic evidence indicates that significant community development takes place only when local community people are committed to investing themselves and their resources in the effort. This observation explains why communities are never built from the top down or the outside in." I think this particular approach to treatment is not top down and it is not outside in. It does involve the community and therefore makes it successful. Addictions treatment is one of this Assembly's priorities. I think that has been mentioned several times already today. This motion allows us to bring success to that particular priority. It brings success to the program users. I think it has to be noted as well that, if we get successful addictions treatment programs, that will eventually lead to safer communities. I think that is what we all want. It fits in with the theme today, bullying, safer communities, the whole issue. I think we are right in line with supporting this motion certainly. I urge all Members to do that, to support the motion. I would like to reiterate Mr. Bromley's request that the Members across from me, across the floor, seriously consider being able to vote on this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya from the Sahtu.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mr. Bromley and his seconder for putting some thought to this motion and bringing it to the floor so we can have some discussion. What I

understand from this motion is that Mr. Bromley is asking this government for some formula for success for our people. There is a formula out there. He is asking the Assembly as a whole. We are asking our leaders that we elected for Cabinet to investigate, look at the possibilities of a successful program, look at success for people in our communities, look for success in our children and to look at and come back to us and say this is what we found that is going to be successful.

Several years ago I was watching the program in United States. They got really radical in the States on issues with drug and alcohol and substance abuse, so radical that this school in the States is called Sobriety High. Young kids were in the schools and they were drinking and missing school and all that. The community got behind this issue and said we're going to have a sober school. It's called Sobriety High. They have a pilot project where the kids were in there. They did the school but they also introduced many self-supporting techniques, meetings, 12-step programs that these young adults were doing. It's so cool to see these young people in Grade 11 and 12 going for lunch and having a 12-step meeting. They are so cool to listen to them talk about what it's like to be sober in school. It wasn't 100 percent successful, but it had a high degree of success for these people in the United States. They had a really good celebration. People teased that school because it was called Sobriety High. You could see the sparkle in their eyes, the enthusiasm and the success. I think that's what we are asking through this motion that we do some innovative thinking.

We have a lot of reports where 90 percent of our RCMP time is spent because of drinking or drug use or some contributing effect because of the abuse of it. We can cut down the alcohol. RCMP is going to have many other things to do that will help the communities, but they are so busy.

This motion here is asking this government, the ones that we elect to be our Ministers, to get your department behind you and say, what can we do? Can we come up with a successful formula? Education, Justice, Health, what can we do when we put our heads together and say, is this the right formula? Can their departments look at what we're dealing with? A disease that is in the North and it is hitting us hard.

When you deal with a disease as in a medical field, you have to have a remedy. There are remedies. Mr. Bromley talked about it in Old Crow. Good for those people in Old Crow. Maybe we should invite them with us and talk to us. That is our own people that have the tools. We have a lot of good people even in Yellowknife who we could talk to. We have to get everybody together. This is not a race issue. This is a humanity issue right across the board. It

doesn't matter if you are rich or poor. I think we need to get a new remedy, talk about it.

You go to the Justice correctional facility. I bet you 98 percent of those people are in there because of alcohol. How much do we pay each day for them to stay there? They have it good because we wheel down the food to them. They don't even have to get up to eat it; we push their food to them. They have it good, but most of them are there because of drugs or alcohol.

That's what I like about this motion. It talks about going back to the land and healing from the land. It may not seem quite right for some people, but most of the issues we need to work together on. The land is where you are going to find the healing. That is why I like this program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say, for the record, I will be 110 percent behind this motion.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we come across a program that is as successful as this one in a community that is so similar to a lot of our communities across the Northwest Territories, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that we should be putting a program like this or something similar into place to affect one of our factors in the health and social services system. Our Health and Social Services budget is the biggest out of our whole government budget. If we can put a crack or dent in that by finding programs such as this that is going to help our people thrive and become part of society, we should do that.

I am in support of this motion. I'm very honoured to second it. Thanks to Mr. Bromley for bringing it forth onto the table. I hope that we do seek such programs so that we can start making our people part of society again. It doesn't take a very long walk from here to understand the issues that we're facing here in the Northwest Territories in our regional centres. Inuvik has a big issue. This is one thing that we need to address in Yellowknife as well. It's a huge issue.

I strongly support this motion and want to once again emphasize something I've said time and time again in this House, and that's dealing with drug dealers and bootleggers. I've questioned Ministers on that. I want to address those issues in the communities. The underlying factors that keep our people down are the drug dealers and the bootleggers in our communities. Those are the people that we need to get out of the communities so that our people have a chance to go into programs like this, and not be worried that if they do come out of programs someone is going to be waiting around the corner for them. Those are the guys we need to get out of our communities, out of the territory so that we can be a healthy territory

once again. It's something that I've brought up and something I will continue to fight for over these next four years, that eventually if it's not in the territory, then hopefully in Inuvik we have a drug-free community.

I do support this motion and I'm very happy to hear that the community of Old Crow has a successful program as this and they're helping their own people out. We should take the reins and follow suit and help our people out in the Northwest Territories.

I am in support of this motion and I, too, reiterate my fellow colleague Mr. Bromley, that the Premier allows his Cabinet members a free vote on this one. I'm sure that all Members of this House have had somebody with alcohol and drug issues, either a friend, family, a relative, go through the system. It's not funny. It's a serious issue. It's our number one driving force in the health and social services system. That keeps a lot of our people employed to take care of them. I would like to see that today, first time ever, and something that touches everybody.

Thank you, and once again I thank Mr. Bromley for bringing this motion forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake is exactly right; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to bring this motion today to the table, it takes a bird scientist.

---Laughter

And I want to make that known.

Addictions are, no less, the breakdown of the moral fabric of our society. I don't think anyone in this room would contradict that at all. Abuse, whether it's the addiction to alcohol, drugs, prescribed drugs, these are not going to go any time soon. In fact, our statistics are showing that this is growing at an alarming rate. We need to think outside the box. We've got to look outside the box to the current on-the-land programs. We've got to look at ideas that were brought forward by Mr. Bromley and seconded by Mr. Moses. These are areas we've got to put into place and into practice.

We cannot continuously use square-pegged holes for round-holed solutions. This has to stop. We've got to provide tools to the tool belts of our workers so that they can go fix this addictions bus. This bus is broken.

I'll be voting towards this new toolbox, this new toolkit and this new tool to help support our bus.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we know that the rates of

substance abuse are far too high amongst our residents and we need to take action. Substance abuse contributes to crime rates and is a cost-driver in the health care system. It also takes a terrible toll on our communities and our families.

In my travels through the communities over the past few months, I have heard repeatedly that we need to find more efficient ways to help our people with addictions. There is no one approach that works for everyone. We need to develop and offer a range of options within our system to help people deal with their addictions.

Aftercare in the community is important support for people returning from residential treatment programs. We also need to look at other creative approaches. For example, some communities have successfully piloted day treatment programs as an alternative to residential treatment. The department currently offers a variety of services for people who are struggling with addictions. We offer a 28-day gender specific residential treatment at Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre located on the Hay River Reserve. This treatment centre is open to all residents over the age of 18 from the Northwest Territories.

In addition, the department offers community counselling programs to all the regions in the NWT. Community counselling programs provide counselling and support to all age groups and help all age groups with mental health addictions and family violence. The department works with the authorities, Aboriginal governments and communities to try to find approaches to treatment that are culturally appropriate and work at a local level. For example, the Deh Cho Health and Social Services is currently working with funding from Health Canada to pilot youth addictions treatment programs and this will fill a major gap in our system. The department has funded the Gwich'in Tribal Council to pilot an aftercare program for people returning from residential treatment. The department has made \$25,000 available this year to all communities who want to sponsor on-the-land programs.

Before Christmas Minister Lafferty and I met with the Tlicho Services Agency. They told us in no uncertain terms that their priority to develop a substance abuse treatment program is grounded in Tlicho values, beliefs, language and culture. We need to find ways to respond.

As this motion gives direction to the government, the Cabinet will be abstaining from the vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member asked for a recorded vote. I'll give Mr. Bromley closing remarks. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments from all Members of the

Legislative Assembly here today. Basically in summary, we have exceptionally high rates of addictions in the Northwest Territories. Our current programs have stagnated, but we need a practical approach. This program draws on the tried and true buddy system, it's community-based, it allows us to work together, it recognizes the high costs of addictions in terms of human health, correctional and community costs and so on. It's a priority of this Assembly and it's a step toward addictions-free communities. This is only one of a range of options and creative solutions, as the Minister has said, and fits well with an on-the-land program and we do indeed need to have this and other programs, other steps and options that we do develop, soundly based in cultural and spiritual aspects for people.

So as a bird scientist, a previous bird scientist, I'd like to thank my colleagues and I'd like to thank my colleague Mr. Moses for seconding as chair of the Social Programs. I appreciate that support here and again request a recorded and ideally free vote. Mahsi.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member has asked for a recorded vote. Question has been called. All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Dolynny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Moses.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Results of the motion: yes, nine; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, February 17, 2012, 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. Replies to Opening Address
 11. Petitions
 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 14. Tabling of Documents
 15. Notices of Motion
 16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 17. Motions
 - Motion 2-17(2), Old Age Security
 - Motion 3-17(2), Aboriginal Languages Secretariat
 18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriations Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2011-2012
 - Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriations Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2011-2012
 19. Second Reading of Bills
 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 23. Prorogation
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, February 17, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.
- The House adjourned at 4:12 p.m.