



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

**Day 30**

**17<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

Pages 1621 – 1660

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

---

**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

*Minister of Justice*

*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

*Minister of Health and Social Services*

*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Ms. Wendy Bisaro**

(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Mr. Robert Bouchard**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

(Weledeh)

**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

*Deputy Premier*

*Minister of Education, Culture and*

*Employment*

*Minister responsible for the Workers'*

*Safety and Compensation*

*Commission*

**Hon. Bob McLeod**

(Yellowknife South)

*Premier*

*Minister of Executive*

*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*

*Intergovernmental Relations*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Status of Women*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Minister of Municipal and*

*Community Affairs*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Housing Corporation*

*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**

(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**

(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and Natural*

*Resources*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister of Transportation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

---

### Officers

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Tim Mercer

**Deputy Clerk**

Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Principal Clerk  
of Committees**

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

**Principal Clerk,  
Operations**

Ms. Gail Bennett

**Law Clerks**

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Ms. Malinda Kellett

---

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>1621</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1621</b>
95-17(3) – Deh Cho Bridge (Ramsay) .....	1621
96-17(3) – The Role of the Northwest Territories on the Arctic Council (B. McLeod) .....	1622
97-17(3) – Update on NWT Barren Ground Caribou (Miltnerberger) .....	1622
98-17(3) – Community Wellness Planning Project (Beaulieu) .....	1623
99-17(3) – National Aboriginal Women’s Summit – NAWS III (B. McLeod) .....	1624
100-17(3) – Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Report (Lafferty) .....	1625
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1625</b>
Passing of Paulousie Ittungna of Inuvik (Moses) .....	1625
Midwifery Services (Bromley) .....	1625
Student Financial Assistance for Aboriginal Graduate Students (Yakeleya).....	1626
Trout Lake Doctor Appointments (Menicoche).....	1626
Remembrance Day (Bouchard) .....	1627
Standards and Regulations for Oil-Fired and Wood Use Appliances (Dolynny) .....	1627
Territorial Respite Care Program (Bisaro).....	1628
Barren Ground Caribou (Hawkins).....	1628
Remembrance Day (Groenewegen) .....	1629
Passing of Georgina Biscaye (Beaulieu).....	1629
Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Mr. Louis Goose (R. McLeod).....	1630
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>1630</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1631</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1631</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1641</b>
<b>RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1642</b>
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>1643</b>
<b>REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES</b> .....	<b>1643</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>1645</b>

<b>MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>1646</b>
21-17(3) – Federal Changes to Environmental Law (Bromley) .....	1646
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS .....</b>	<b>1654</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE .....</b>	<b>1657</b>
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS .....</b>	<b>1657</b>
Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2 .....	1657
Bill 13 – An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act .....	1657
Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3 .....	1657
<b>PROROGATION .....</b>	<b>1658</b>

**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, November 6, 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, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 95-17(3):  
DEH CHO BRIDGE

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform Members and the public that the Deh Cho Bridge will officially open on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

---Applause

The bridge represents a tremendous improvement in the level of service over the current ferry and ice crossing and will increase economic development in our territory both now and for the foreseeable future.

For the first time since the road to the North Slave region was built, people will not have to concern themselves with ferry schedules, ice conditions, or disruptions to operations when crossing the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The bridge will provide 24-hour access every day of the year. Children born today will still be using this bridge well into their retirement years.

We have used the ferry and ice bridge for so long, many of us do not even think about all of the issues that this operation created. Trucks idled, sometimes for hours, wasting gas and releasing greenhouse gases. Businesses in the North Slave region had to pay to stockpile food and other goods. Some of them even paid extra freight charges to airlift merchandise from Alberta or over the crossing. All of these costs were passed on to customers, and all of these costs are now gone. The ferry burned half a million litres of fuel every year. We had to develop emergency plans about what would happen if there was a fuel spill. We were vulnerable to climate change, with warming temperatures and changes in water levels.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight a key decision of this Assembly, to provide the needed resources to accelerate construction and settle claims. This was critical in achieving the opening this year. Without additional funding, I would, most assuredly, be standing here today, announcing yet another year's delay. This would have resulted in substantial direct and indirect costs and lost toll revenue.

On the subject of tolls, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation is ready for collection of the tolls. Regulations governing the tolls have come into effect, we have completed information sessions with motor carriers, we are able to process toll permits and the electronic tracking system is fully operational. Carriers that choose to enter into remittance agreements with the department for payment of the toll will be able to submit their documentation on-line. This is the first on-line service as we upgrade our motor vehicle information system.

This project had its beginnings in the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, with the passage of the Deh Cho Bridge Act, and received the support of each Assembly that followed. I call on the Members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to continue to have a long-term vision for transportation projects that improve access for our communities, create economic development opportunities and provide lasting benefits for future generations. We need to look beyond our own doorsteps. We need to have a territory-wide approach to major public infrastructure that benefits all of us.

In conclusion, I would like to invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to attend the opening ceremonies on November 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be a grand celebration with the ribbon cutting at the north abutment of the bridge, a community feast, traditional spiritual offerings, fireworks and the final transit of the Merv Hardie. I hope to see you all there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Premier McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 96-17(3):  
THE ROLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
ON THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is being presented with an exciting opportunity to engage on northern priorities on both the national and international stage.

On May 13, 2013, Canada will be taking over chairmanship of the Arctic Council for a two-year term. The Arctic Council is a consensus-based, high-level intergovernmental forum that works to promote the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development in the Arctic region. All eight circumpolar nations sit on the council and receive direct input from the six permanent participant organizations representing the indigenous people of the Circumpolar Arctic.

As Canada begins preparing for the upcoming chairmanship, and recognizing the power of a pan-territorial approach, the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut have been closely working together to define our common interests. As articulated in the pan-territorial document A Northern Vision, the territories are committed to speaking as a unified northern voice in advancing Canada's participation in the Arctic Council.

I have communicated our commitment to support Canada on the Arctic Council to Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Member of Parliament for Nunavut, who was recently appointed as Canada's chairperson to the Arctic Council and will guide the Arctic Council vision over the two years of the Canadian chairmanship.

I have committed to Minister Aglukkaq that the Northwest Territories will play a larger role in supporting Canada as they prepare for their chairmanship of the Arctic Council and throughout the entire two years. The Arctic Council is Canada's premier forum to advance its Arctic Foreign Policy, which is the international dimension of Canada's Northern Strategy. Many of our Government of the Northwest Territories priorities complement the pillars of the Northern Strategy and we will work with Canada throughout its chairmanship to advance these common interests.

Our commitment was further reiterated by Deputy Premier Lafferty on my behalf this past weekend, when he met with Minister Aglukkaq during her visit to Yellowknife as part of her Northern Engagement Tour. This northern tour has been an opportunity for Minister Aglukkaq to engage with the territories on Canada's chairmanship theme, which is, "Development for the People of the North."

Deputy Premier Lafferty, accompanied by Minister Ramsay, Minister Abernethy and Minister Beaulieu presented many of our priority issues such as search and rescue, cost of living, sustainable housing, employment opportunities, energy,

infrastructure and climate change as important issues being faced by communities and regions across the Northwest Territories and the Circumpolar North.

During her visit, the Minister also hosted three separate roundtables with Government of the Northwest Territories Ministers, Aboriginal and Municipal Leaders, and Northwest Territories stakeholders. The roundtables gave participants an opportunity to engage with the Minister and provide input on Canada's theme of "Development for the People of the North," and three sub-themes of arctic resource development, responsible and safe arctic shipping, and sustainable circumpolar communities. Canada's theme and sub-themes align well with our territorial and pan-territorial priorities, and we hope to continue to engage with Minister Aglukkaq in a more formalized role during Canada's chairmanship.

We appreciate Canada's commitment to the Arctic Council and support them in their theme and positions on many topics including sustainable development, the inclusion of new observers to the council, and support for permanent participants.

The chairmanship is an exciting opportunity for Canada's North. The Northwest Territories is an ideal location to host many Arctic Council discussions throughout the two-year Canadian chairmanship and presents an opportunity to showcase the immense potential of Canada's northern communities to the rest of the circumpolar world.

We look forward to supporting Canada in achieving our many common goals, while bringing tangible benefits to the North and Canada as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 97-17(3):  
UPDATE ON NWT BARREN GROUND CARIBOU

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to update the people of the Northwest Territories on the status of the barren ground caribou and the condition of the various herds.

During this past summer we were able to complete full surveys on the Cape Bathurst, Tuk Peninsula and Bathurst herds. A partial survey of the Bluenose-West herd was also done. Surveys of the Bluenose-East and Porcupine caribou herds could not be done due to weather conditions. Surveys are planned for both these herds next summer.

Preliminary results indicate the Cape Bathurst herd has increased to about 2,400, from 1,900 in 2009, while the Tuk Peninsula has declined to about 2,200, from 2,700. We also see that the Bluenose-

West herd has seen a slight increase since 2009, with a count of about 20,000, from 18,000. More analysis is being done on the results of the 2012 surveys and final numbers will be shared with Members as they become available.

A survey of the Bathurst herd was also done this past summer. I understand that the survey was done under ideal conditions, and because of the tight concentration of breeding females, it was one of the most precise surveys ever done on that herd.

I'm happy to advise that this herd, which was in rapid decline only a few short years ago, has now stabilized at about 35,000, a slight increase from 32,000 in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, while the halting of this decline is good news, we are not out of the woods yet, as the overall size of this herd remains very low. In addition, the number of breeding females has not increased and there has been poor calf recruitment for the past two years.

Given this, we remain concerned about the overall conservation of the Bathurst herd. The harvest restrictions, as recommended by the Wek'eezhie Renewable Resources Board, remain in effect for the 2012-2013 harvest season. This includes 150 hunting tags for the Tlicho people and 150 for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

In addition, ENR will begin working with our partners in the WRRB, the Tlicho Government, the YKDFN and others on the development of a harvest management plan beyond 2013 and leading to the next planned Bathurst survey in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, while we were unable to survey the Bluenose-East herd in 2012, the results of the 2010 calving and post-calving surveys indicated the herd has increased to about 100,000 animals.

These numbers give us an opportunity to open discussions about an unrestricted Aboriginal harvest as well as the possibility of considering a limited resident harvest on this herd. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we will have to work with our co-management partners on any such proposals and look forward to beginning that task in the immediate future. Our plan is to work with our co-management partners to draft a proposal on harvest options by December 2012 so that the board can make recommendations on harvest levels in time for the 2013-2014 hunting season.

ENR is also eagerly awaiting the results of survey work done by the Government of Nunavut on the Beverly/Ahiak herd. This data, expected to arrive in November, will help inform decisions about current and future management actions for both subsistence and resident harvesters. Discussions with the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and the Government of Nunavut are expected to begin as soon as the data arrives and

we hope to see harvest recommendations on this herd in time for the 2013-2014 hunting season.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the sacrifices made by so many throughout the NWT to help conserve our barren ground caribou herds.

These sacrifices have made a big difference in helping these herds stabilize and, in some cases, increase. Other factors, however, including weather events, climate change, predation and other disturbances mean the future is uncertain.

We continue to look to our co-management partners, Aboriginal leadership, communities and stakeholders for their continued support and advice on determining long-term management actions for our NWT barren ground caribou herd.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the hardship harvest restrictions places on harvesters, especially subsistence harvesters, and I intend to provide an update to this House in February on final survey results as well as proposed management actions for ensuring their conservation. Thank you.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 98-17(3):  
COMMUNITY WELLNESS PLANNING PROJECT

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, in 2001 people from around the NWT gathered on the Hay River Reserve to develop a social agenda for the Northwest Territories. Addressing social issues was a priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories at that time, as it is for the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly today.

Every day we hear concerns about addictions, early childhood development, school success and family violence, among other issues. We all know that meaningful change happens when communities take control. The solutions to these issues come not from government headquarters, but from communities themselves.

One of the recommendations from that gathering was that communities should build plans to enable them to access multi-year block funding for community wellness programs.

Mr. Speaker, it has taken some time and lengthy discussions with our partners at Health Canada, but the time has come for this recommendation to be brought to life.

Our staff are building a schedule with our local and regional partners to support the development of community wellness plans in every community over the next few years. These plans will enable communities to access community wellness funding from Health Canada and our department through a multi-year block agreement. The agreements will simplify reporting requirements and allow for long-

term planning and local staff development. In addition, these community wellness plans will be a tool communities can use to document local priorities and to access funding from other sources. An added bonus is that these plans will help the department ensure it responds to community priorities as it plans its prevention and promotion work.

Mr. Speaker, planning is not new to our communities. In 2010 every community completed an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, with support from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Many of these comprehensive plans include reference to wellness programs as a community priority. This project builds on this kind of past work. Communities are not being asked to start from scratch. They are being encouraged to use work done in preparation for self-government, the pipeline, mines, or other projects. The key is that they will develop their own processes, where residents will ask themselves the following questions:

- Where are we now?
- What do we have to work with?
- Where do we want to be in the future?
- How do we get there?

Unlike many other planning projects in recent years, we are not asking for a one-size-fits-all in terms of process or reporting. We are encouraging our partners to build something that works for them.

Mr. Speaker, this will not be a GNWT or consultant-led process. The regional Aboriginal governments, community Aboriginal and municipal governments, or interagency committees are going to bring residents together to develop their community wellness plan.

For example, Mr. Speaker, in my hometown, the local community wellness staff will be involved in facilitator and report writing training in the next few weeks. These skills will be then used to lead the way in Fort Resolution. Taking the time to learn some new facilitation and reporting skills means that the capacity to do this work will stay with the community.

In the Monfwi riding, the Tlicho Government's Community Action Research Team will add a couple of extra days onto community engagement work they do every fall to lead this work.

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation wellness staff will be doing the same in their region.

Mr. Speaker, reaction to this project has been very positive. Many of our community leaders have said they are grateful that communities will have the chance to plan their own programs in a manner that works for them.

I look forward to updating Members on the progress of this initiative in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Premier McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 99-17(3):  
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S SUMMIT –  
NAWS III

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, last week in Winnipeg my colleague Mr. Hawkins and I attended the third National Aboriginal Women's Summit, or NAWS III. The summit was established to further coordinate efforts underway nationally and in several jurisdictions, aimed at addressing violence against Aboriginal women and girls in particular, to end the national tragedy of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls. Members of this House will recall that in 2008, the NAWS II was held in the Northwest Territories and built upon the recommendations of the NAWS I in areas such as health, safety, wellness, equality and empowerment.

The two-day summit opened with a community gathering and family-honouring ceremony. I was able to participate directly in the ceremony and I hope the families found some comfort and healing. Our thoughts and prayers will remain with them and all families that are missing loved ones.

The second day of the summit included a roundtable discussion of provincial and territorial representatives and national Aboriginal leaders. I was pleased to be able to have productive discussions with the Northwest Territories Native Women's Association while I was at the summit, and look forward to our continued partnership with the Native Women's Association and the Status of Women Council.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Our statistics indicate that there are 73 missing or unsolved homicide investigations open in the Northwest Territories. Of these, 63 are considered historical missing person investigations. Of these 63, 13 are women, eight of whom are Aboriginal. Ten of the 63 historical cases have been deemed suspicious or foul play has not been ruled out.

Mr. Speaker, since January 1, 2000, 35 deaths occurring in the Northwest Territories were classified as homicides by the coroner's office. Eleven of the victims were women.

Along with my provincial and territorial colleagues, I am committed to working at the national level to address the issues facing Aboriginal women and



communities. A broad cross-section of society working together can create positive change.

I want to especially recognize the family of Angela Meyer. Members of this House will recall that Angela went missing from her home here in Yellowknife. I was honoured to be able to present her mother, Kathy Meyer, with a special blanket during the family-honouring ceremony as a symbol of the support and comfort we all feel for the families who are suffering this terrible loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 100-17(3):  
HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN  
SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN REPORT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, healthy behaviours and healthy choices are fundamental to a good education and superior quality of life. Schools offer a significant opportunity to educate young people about healthy lifestyles and to foster healthy behaviours. In the Northwest Territories, schools play a strong central role in health promotion. While we develop the programs that foster these healthy behaviours, we must first understand what our young people think about their health, their challenges and their choices. The Health and Health-Related Behaviours Among Young People in the Northwest Territories is our students' voice about their health and their experience in NWT communities.

This report has been done every four years since 1989, but until now, all of the reports have combined NWT numbers with the rest of Canada. The new report is the first time we have had data for our territory. Led by researchers at Queen's University and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the report covers students aged 11 to 15.

The report presents data on the health of young people in the categories of mental health, environmental influences, health promoting behaviours and health risk behaviours. The data show that our young people share similar patterns with their counterparts in the rest of Canada, and those issues like bullying and substance abuse are as relevant here as down south. The data also show that mental health, relationships with others, and obesity and overweight issues need particular attention in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services will be using the important baseline information in the report to build strong, targeted programming. This is valuable information and a great insight into how our children perceive themselves. Later today I will be tabling this report.

Many of the programs we have in place work to change risky behaviour patterns in our students, and this report will serve to not only reinforce those programs, but give us the ability to act in areas where our children have told us they need it most. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Colleagues, before we go on today, I would like to welcome back to the House, two former Ministers and one former Speaker, David Krutko, and Ms. Sandy Lee. Good to have them back in the House.

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
PASSING OF PAULOUSIE ITTUNGNA  
OF INUVIK

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Members of the Legislative Assembly are wearing purple ribbons. These ribbons represent the remembrance of a very young, talented, gifted and special individual who was taken too soon from his family and friends, Paulousie Ittungna.

Purple was Paulou's favourite colour. Sometimes our families, communities and territory lose special individuals far too soon and well before their time. This is just the case in the passing of Paulou.

Paulou was an exceptional young man, who excelled in sports such as soccer and volleyball, but he was more than that. He was a brother, a son, a role model to youth and adults and a mentor to his family and friends.

Although a young life has been lost, this is also a time to reminisce and celebrate a great life that was full of energy and positivity that was shared with everyone that had the wonderful experience of knowing Paulou. He will be deeply missed and our thoughts and prayers will be with his family and friends today.

Today I ask all Northerners to take a moment of silence in their own time throughout the day to remember a special person in their lives that they have lost, and continue to pray for others to give them strength in their times of need. I thank all Members today for wearing the significant ribbon that remembers the great life of one of our young residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
MIDWIFERY SERVICES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be tabling a written petition of 27

signatures, calling for the early introduction of midwifery services throughout our communities.

This paper petition is in addition to the e-petition that will remain open for signatures until January on the Legislative Assembly website. My colleagues for Hay River North and Frame Lake have spoken this session on the need for early introduction of midwifery services throughout our community. I will add my voice to theirs.

The Minister of Health has heard the sound arguments: improved social functioning, enhanced autonomy, bringing birth closer to home, increased continuity of care, decreased stress, improved access to culturally appropriate care that promotes the ancestral traditions of midwifery, and the increased opportunities for health promotion and disease prevention.

Let's not forget the money. Keeping mothers in communities rather than flying them around, putting them up, and delivering children with very expensive physician care costs us huge sums. We are building a regional health care delivery system on the basis of the community health centre. Midwifery service is an indispensable element of this model. Deferring these benefits in the cause of savings today is penny wise and pound foolish, and fails to continue the progress improvement of community health centre services.

I want to give a respectful nod to the hardworking group NWT Citizens for Midwifery that has recognized the need for an NWT-wide perspective and is so strongly supporting the development of midwifery services in our regions. I also support the adoption of this approach by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In this session we continue to hear the Minister talking about consulting, planning and preparing. He said last Monday that we'll be doing community consultations and preliminary health human resources planning for midwife recruitment and training options. While I appreciate this work, it is years since the previous Minister deep-sixed the Yellowknife program. We hear that Minister Beaulieu is aiming for 2015 for the new regional program. We've had enough delay. Like my colleague Ms. Bisaro, I'm calling for the inclusion of this programming in the next 2013-2014 round of business planning.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ABORIGINAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the need for Education, Culture and Employment to provide student

financial assistance for Aboriginal students to do master's and PhD degrees.

In 1998 this government reduced the number of years an Aboriginal student can receive SFA to six years. This was done to assist the GNWT when the federal government reduced our budget by 10 percent. MLAs agreed to this, because the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment of the day promised he would put something in place so that Aboriginal students could get the same level of student financial assistance for master's and PhD degrees.

What is the situation almost 15 years later? First, let's look at the jobs. The vast majority of GNWT jobs require one degree, or many require a master's. In fact, there are 17 positions in the division of early childhood and school services at ECE. Sixteen of those positions, or 94 percent of the 17 positions, require a master's degree.

What about the improvements to SFA? Well, I'm proud to say the then-Minister of Education did substantially improve SFA but not for Aboriginal students who want to get their master's or PhD degrees. The government changed the regulations so that the non-Aboriginal students now receive a remissible loan with allowance of six years, the same as Aboriginal students, but we have done nothing for Aboriginal students to get their master's or PhD degrees.

Aboriginal students took a huge hit in 1998. This government reduced their SFA from unlimited years to six years. Aboriginal students helped this GNWT meet our new budget, but we failed our Aboriginal students. We created a problem for them in 1998 and we have failed to fix it as we said we would.

It's time to fix the problem of no master's or PhD degrees for Aboriginal students that we created 15 years ago. Otherwise, Aboriginal students might say that GNWT is deliberately trying to keep Aboriginal people from working at ECE, or if ECE is an illustration of the government as a whole, they can say that we're trying to keep Aboriginal people out of the GNWT. Look at our hiring percentage.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The people in my riding are grateful when they can receive medical services in their small and remote communities. I'm really happy that doctors travel about every six weeks to small and isolated places like Trout Lake. What a precious opportunity to give our elders and children the best of care.

I'm sorry to say that we're not fully making use of this opportunity. The doctor comes to Trout Lake, but residents are turned away if they don't have a

prior appointment. These are the elders and children.

I think, last week or a couple weeks ago in this House, Mr. Yakeleya spoke about chasing patients away from the small and remote communities when the doctors are there. It's not always easy to anticipate when you'll need to see a doctor and make an appointment. Think of it, Mr. Speaker. The doctor's there, the patients are there, but the patients can't see the doctor. How frustrating for the people of Trout Lake and people in all our small and remote communities when they're waiting for that opportunity. Perhaps we can plan to have the doctor to stay overnight so that everyone can be seen. These days we invested lots of money into electronic medical records. Visiting doctors should be able to access walk-in patients' files.

I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on making more effective use of visiting doctors during question period today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is the time of year when we wear a red poppy in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for us during war. The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month marked the signing of armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> in 1918; the signal of the end of World War I. At 11:00 a.m. on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the guns on the western front fell silent after more than four years of continuous war. This year, on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, I will take part in the Remembrance Day service in Hay River.

It will be with great pride that I will be taking part in this service in Hay River to remember those men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. Remembrance Day gives us all time, for us a nation, to stop and reflect upon the sacrifices that our soldiers have made so that we continue to live in peace in this great country.

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem In Flanders Fields. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields in Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red color an appropriate symbol of the blood spilled in war. I urge everyone to wear their poppy with pride, and hopefully everyone will have the opportunity to attend ceremonies in their communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR OIL-FIRED AND WOOD USE APPLIANCES

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the cold weather upon us it is only right that we once again revisit a topic that I brought into this House some months ago. That topic is carbon monoxide detectors.

Sometimes you only need to look over the fence to see the good work that is being done by our colleagues in the Yukon, where they have faced this issue with a certain degree of vigour since a tragic carbon monoxide poisoning in Whitehorse last January.

Although the Yukon is proposing to make carbon monoxide detectors mandatory in all Yukon homes including rental units, I don't believe the NWT needs to take the same legislative steps in order to raise the bar for our residents. Quite frankly, we should only have to look at the findings of the Yukon Oil-fired Appliances Working Group, their action plan and recommendations, as well as just speaking to our own Arctic Energy Alliance partners to truly get a proper roadmap for the safety of our citizens and carbon monoxide detector use.

First and foremost, it is evident that biomass is now on the rise and being supported by this government as a viable means of heating our homes and businesses. However, do you know, with all the support, the GNWT does not have any regulations for the installation of wood and pellet stoves in their communities. Aside from maybe Yellowknife and Hay River, many wood stoves in various communities are noncompliant, many of the existing stoves do not meet safety codes, and most troubling is that there is no established inspection process for many of our communities.

It is paramount that this government lead by example and take the necessary steps to standardize the implementation of proper training methods for installation of oil-fired and wood use appliances, enhance the upgrading skills of our tradespeople, ensure the training programs used are up to date of curriculum and standards, and finally, spend the necessary funds on the proper public awareness and regulation process.

It is without question that awareness needs to be increased, and a standardized regulation for all oil-fired and wood use appliances needs to be a shared mandate with all community fire marshal offices, with the Municipal and Community Affairs office, and with the cooperation of various community governments.

To ensure the safety for all NWT residents, this much needed regulation needs to be introduced and standardized today. We have the power to avoid needless tragedies. Will this government

ignore or will this government act now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Yellowknife Association for Community Living and the NWT Disabilities Council provide many programs for disabled persons and their families. One of the most widely used and most appreciated programs is the Respite Care Program.

Under the Respite Program here in Yellowknife, a caregiver from the Yellowknife Association for Community Living takes care of disabled children for three to five hours a week. The program not only gives the children's families a short break each week, but it also introduces the children to a social life outside their families.

The Yellowknife program has been used by the NWT Disabilities Council as a template for three other respite care pilot programs in Deline, in Fort Smith and in Aklavik. Children have been able to develop relationships with their respite worker and, more importantly, perhaps with other children. Several parents have told me that advances in the social development of their child is absolutely because of the Respite Program. The kids have an opportunity to bond with and to relate to people who are not family members. The dynamic of such a relationship for an autistic child, for instance, cannot be underestimated.

In 2010 the Respite Program run by the Yellowknife Association for Community Living lost its funding. As a result of major pushback from the community, the funding was reinstated. At the same time, Regular MLAs passed a motion calling on the territorial government to provide permanent funding for respite care in the NWT.

In response, the GNWT created a Territorial Respite Care Committee to develop a strategic plan to extend the Respite Program across the NWT. This plan has been formulated and received feedback from committee members and service providers.

What is so desperately needed now is the implementation of that plan. In 29 of our communities, families with disabled children currently have no respite care services. The executive director of the NWT Disabilities Council states that they are receiving crisis calls on a weekly basis from NWT families, parents and front-line workers, including social workers, all of whom are at the end of their resources. As you can imagine, it is heartbreaking for all involved to have to turn families away, heartbreaking when families have to consider giving up their children because

they just can't get respite care in their home community, heartbreaking when suggestions for coping with stress involves sending children away to an institution for short-term care.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** There is an overwhelming need for respite care in our territory. When will the Health and Social Services department roll out the territorial respite implementation plan?

I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BARREN GROUND CARIBOU

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raise today's Member's statement as an opportunity to respond to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Minister's statement, which is an update on the NWT barren ground caribou numbers.

First off, I want to thank the Minister for providing the House a small update. I think it's a snapshot of our particular situation, but it is disappointing to hear the facts, that we still have a number of herds missing, without the details.

He points out, quite clearly, that the Bluenose-East and the Porcupine numbers, due to weather, we were not able to get clear and accurate numbers. So in other words, we couldn't operate with that.

There is some good news. I want to thank the Minister for being at least the messenger of good news that the Cape Bathurst herd and the Bluenose-West are increasing and, predictably, we are very hopeful that the Bluenose-East at 100,000 continues to show strong numbers. That now starts to open up the question of what are we going to do with these particular numbers.

Many of the outfitters as well as resident hunters and I, do hear as well from Aboriginal rights holders, who ask themselves from time to time what numbers are we actually working towards. It seems to be shifting and we need clear transparency on these particular numbers. If we are going to open up the harvest one day and expand the harvest to what it was at one time, we need to understand what we are working towards.

I find it disappointing that we don't have any indication in the Minister's statement as to how we will continue to work with industry that is being mothballed as we speak. Outfitters have certainly paid a pound of flesh as they've waited patiently for the outfitting industry to once again return to its

great excitement. We all know that the outfitters provided great employment; we had an excellent reputation in the Northwest Territories to provide opportunities. Some of the meat, in many cases that was provided, was given to the small communities and those who needed it, and let us not forget about the taxation and the millions of dollars that was brought into the Northwest Territories.

The primary concerns are in where are we going. We've got some of these numbers, not all, I respect that that may not have been possible, but where are we going with these particular numbers? Full transparency is the issue on this one, so when the outfitters look forward to the future, they know where they're going. We cannot continue this attitude of the 12<sup>th</sup> of never as our motto of one day we will open the outfitting opportunities, one day resident hunters will hunt.

If the Minister could provide the House with real numbers, we all know what we're in together fighting for. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sunday is Remembrance Day and I'd like to take this opportunity to speak just a little bit about the veterans, starting with the veterans and the knowledge of war that I grew up with as a child.

My grandfather, Sylvanus John Vivian Cann, volunteered to serve in the First World War when he was 28 years of age. He was already married and had three small daughters. He went off to World War I, and in later years, when you have a grandfather that wore a great big, long, wide band of metal, you're going to hear a few war stories.

I find it interesting that my grandfather's recollections of his time in the trenches on the front lines in the First World War always included his remembrance of serving with Aboriginal soldiers, First Nations soldiers that he served with. Now, he was no dummy, because when you're crawling around in trenches, who do you want to have with you? People who have the expertise and the knowledge of the land and can see and hear the signs, and he often told us the stories of the acute skills and how much he appreciated that time of service.

Later, when World War II broke out, his two sons, my two uncles, Charles Stuart Cann and Thomas Bruce Cann, both went off to the Second World War and went to Europe as very, very young men. My Uncle Stuart is buried in France someplace and my Uncle Bruce did come home, but he came home very troubled, very shell shocked and lived a

life where as kids we didn't really know what was wrong with Uncle Bruce, but he would break into tears or he was shell shocked from the war and we didn't know that as kids. The happy news for Uncle Bruce was he had met a beautiful, sophisticated Dutch widow when he picked up a little girl off the streets of Holland and took her home to her mother. My Aunt Susan ultimately came to Canada and married my Uncle Bruce, and they had a wonderful family and a wonderful life together.

My own father, who served in the British Army from 1940 to 1947 and immigrated to Canada, met my mother there, and I'm very proud of my father's war service as well. Then coming to Hay River and meeting the many, many wonderful northern veterans who we got to know, many of whom by now have passed away, but as Remembrance Day comes upon us this Sunday, may we just say we will remember them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PASSING OF GEORGINA BISCAEY

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker... [English translation not provided.]

Today I would like to pay tribute to the late Georgina Biscaye of Fort Resolution. A funeral service was held in her memory yesterday.

Georgina was born June 13, 1961, in Rocher River. Her family moved and settled in Fort Resolution when she was seven years old. Georgina always had fond memories of Rocher River and never forgot where she was born and was proud to remind others.

Georgina passed away surrounded by her family on Thursday, November 1, 2012, at Stanton Territorial Hospital. Georgina was 51 years old.

Georgina discovered she had cancer on April 12<sup>th</sup>, shortly after her partner and husband, the late Alphonse King, was detected with cancer. They both had lung cancer. Although, finding out they both had cancer, they decided not to let their illness get them down, and instead both chose to embrace and make the best of their medical conditions. Georgina and Alphonse were both hospitalized – she in Edmonton, he in Yellowknife – when he passed away on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Georgina was a strong-willed Dene woman who always spoke her mind and got her point across. She got along well with others and had a great sense of humour. She had no problem accepting constructive criticism and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Georgina was definitely a family caregiver. She always took care of her parents until her father died, and right up until she got sick she took care of her mother.

Georgina's nieces and nephews called her Auntie Mom.

Georgina preferred to speak Chipewyan and only spoke English when she had to. She was committed to her language and culture, and it was a big part of who she was. She worked really hard to maintain this area of her life. Georgina was passionate about being involved in the preservation and revitalization of the Chipewyan language. She was confirmed to the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board and the Official Languages Board as a Chipewyan representative on June 20, 2011. She was nominated as the chair of the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board on February 17, 2011.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Georgina was very active in the promotion of her language through her work. Until recently, Georgina worked as the Akaitcho Chipewyan regional language coordinator with the Akaitcho Territorial Government and prior to that she worked as a Chipewyan language coordinator for the Deninu Ku'e First Nation. Minister Jackson Lafferty acknowledges her work in the languages area.

Georgina is survived by her mother, Therese; her sisters, Anne, Sabet, Julie, Violet and Gloria; her daughter, Lacey; granddaughter, Chase; and numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, and many, many friends. My sincerest condolences go out to Georgina's mother, five sisters, daughter, grandson, nieces, nephews and many friends.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
MUSIC AWARDS  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT  
MR. LOUIE GOOSE

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday in Winnipeg, a well-known NWT musician – and, I have to add, a constituent of Inuvik Twin Lakes – Mr. Louie Goose was honoured by the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

---Applause

People may not hear it, but there are some folks in here singing "40 Days" right now.

---Laughter

Louie was taught at an early age by his mother, and he spoke during an interview about as he was growing up chording at some of the old-time dances

for many of the old-time fiddle players who were always playing all night for the dances. He spoke about his early start with a band called the Deltanaires. He played lead guitar in this band and he spoke about how he had to start singing one day because their lead singer was resting, as he put it. I think that's the politically correct term for passed out.

---Laughter

For well over 40 years Louie has been entertaining the residents of the Beaufort-Delta, and anyone that may have lived or attended school during that time can recall listening and dancing to the music from Louie's band.

He started work with CBC for a while, for a few years, and along with Mr. Saturday Night Request Show, Mr. Les Carpenter and Roger Gruben and the late Willie Gordon who hosted the well-renowned Moms Show, they were, in my opinion, probably the best radio personalities the North has ever had or will ever have.

Louie's musical influence is particularly evident as his daughter Leanne is starting to carve out a musical career of her own, with multiple nominations from the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards. She did a moving introduction at the awards to, as she put it, her hero.

I ask Members today to join me in congratulating Mr. Louie Goose on receiving the National Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards committee. This is a well-deserved award for a well-deserving individual, Mr. 40 Days, Louie Goose.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

**Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the former Member for Mackenzie Delta Mr. David Krutko, and also the former Member for Range Lake Mrs. Sandy Lee.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise and welcome to the House again our esteemed colleague Mr. Krutko and former MLA, former Minister and Range Lake resident Ms. Sandy Lee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize three Pages from Yellowknife South: Megan Vu, Benjamin McGregor, Latetia Hammond. I would like to thank them for their good

work, and also thank all the Pages that are here today.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Ben McDonald, a stalwart of Alternatives North and defender of the public good.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize my former colleague Mr. David Krutko, and as I've told him before, I keep his chair warm for him down here. Also my former colleague Ms. Sandy Lee. As a little trivia point, there's only ever been nine women elected in the history of the territorial Legislature and Ms. Lee is one of them. There's not very many of us.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to recognize Minister Sandy Lee, and Member and Minister David Krutko. They look so happy sitting together up there.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to echo Mr. Yakeleya's comments. I've never seen the two, Mr. Krutko and Ms. Lee, look happier together in my years. That said, I would like the occasion, as well as Premier McLeod, to recognize all our Pages. Specifically I would like to highlight Ally MacInnis. She's a Page from Yellowknife Centre, and I want to thank her as well as all the Pages for their fine duties. They support us in our work and it's a very valuable service that we treasure here.

As well as Mr. Bromley, I too wish to recognize Ben McDonald, who is a constituent of Yellowknife Centre. I do know Ben works very hard at various things and I wish to acknowledge that he is a very learned scholar out there as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would like to welcome all the visitors in the public gallery here today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings here today. Thank you and welcome.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Mr. Blake.

### Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 12-17(3):  
PASSING OF WINNIE MANIGA ELANIK

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge Winnie Elanik, a well-respected elder who passed away in Aklavik October 30, 2012.

Winnie, in her lifetime, has done tremendous work for her community and has helped numerous families overcome hardship. She was always reminding her children and their families of the importance of having God in all our lives, and to always be kind and mindful of others.

In her lifetime she did sewing for her family, always making sure her children were dressed warm, and later on taking care of her grandchildren. Sewing traditional parkas, mukluks and mitts, she enjoyed dressing her family with her sewing.

Winnie had many health problems. She had patience with her family. She always had a home-cooked meal for everyone, even strangers. No one left her home without having a cup of tea. In return, her children looked after her and made sure her last few years were comfortable and always surrounded by family.

Winnie Elanik, the matriarch of the Elanik family, will be forever remembered and deeply missed. My condolences to the family.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 317-17(3):

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR AWARENESS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned earlier today in my Member's statement, the Yukon government is making carbon monoxide detectors mandatory. However, I pointed out that, in reality, the GNWT needs to invest more in public awareness and standardization of regulations for all oil-fired and wood use appliances throughout the NWT.

My questions today will be for the Minister responsible for such a topic, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It's clear biomass is on the rise in almost every community of the NWT. As I mentioned today, there are no regulations to support the installation of wood pellet stoves in 31 of our 33 communities. As well, many wood stoves are not compliant or meet safety codes and there is no established inspection process.

Can the Minister indicate to the House today by what means his department is using to monitor the safety, installation and inspection of wood and pellet stoves in most communities?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as inspecting them, we don't have an inspection regime, and it is one we have been

exploring the possibilities of. People are able to have them inspected by wet-certified inspectors. The numbers are starting to go up as far as those that are certified to inspect the installation of wood stoves. It is a very tricky subject because there is a lot of liability to it. They are unable to see the full installation unless it's new construction, so existing wood stoves are very difficult to see. They wouldn't be able to qualify for home insurance if they're not inspected by a wet-certified inspector.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Public awareness is by far lacking in the NWT as it pertains to carbon monoxide detector use. I would be safe to bet that a large percentage of residents do not have one, yet at a mere \$40, this unit is a cheap investment for one's safety. Can the Minister indicate how much money is spent annually on public awareness campaigns to educate the public on carbon monoxide detector use, and will he commit to increase this amount?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** As far as the actual budget amount to help with the awareness, I'm not sure of the actual budget amount. I could get some numbers for the Member. I do know that through the fire marshal's office they had a very good awareness program. They were actually giving away carbon monoxide detectors to those that needed them.

On the housing side of it, I know that in all the public housing units they've spent a considerable amount of money ensuring that all our public housing units have carbon monoxide detectors that are up to code. Any new construction now, I think since 2005, is required to have carbon monoxide detectors in their units.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** The installation of all wood and pellet stoves within most of our communities is not regulated. Will the Minister commit today in this House to immediately mandate the much needed regulations with his department, with the community fire marshals, and with various community government stakeholders in standardizing all our communities for compliance, safety codes and inspection process for all oil-fired and wood use appliances?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I can commit to the Member that I will do some exploratory work and see how we can advance this. I do know that a lot of those folks that are building \$300,000 to \$400,000 homes, it will be to their benefit to make sure that all installations meet code, otherwise they may not qualify for insurance. But I will commit to the Member that I'll just start some exploratory work and see how we can best advance this issue.

I can say that we are acting now, and we're not ignoring the fact that these are very important components in each home, and I think that was my response to a couple of the questions before. I think we're proving that our commitment to ensuring that

all homes in the Northwest Territories are safe and have a working carbon monoxide detector.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, as a follow-up to a question I asked earlier this spring on carbon monoxide detector use in our local housing authority branches. We were informed back then by the Minister that all LHOs were compliant with carbon monoxide detector use. Could the Minister agree to table to this House a complete inventory of all NWT LHO housing and building inventory by region, with more specific information to carbon monoxide detectors, and more specifically, installation date, inspection date and expected replacement date.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I have said that all our public housing units are compliant. We've spent a considerable amount of money. We've installed carbon monoxide detectors in well over 1,300 units, because we have a lot of multiple family-type dwellings. They're all compliant. But if the Member wants all this in writing we will assign someone to put all this information together and we will share it with the Members. Not only that, if that's not good enough, then we'll table it in the House so everybody across the Northwest Territories knows that what I said here today is the absolute truth.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 318-17(3):  
ADDICTIONS TREATMENT PROGRAMS  
IN CORRECTION FACILITIES

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to yesterday's theme day when we were speaking about treatment programs throughout the Northwest Territories, I wanted to ask the Minister of Justice about some of the programs that they have in the corrections facilities.

Right off the bat, I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice what type of treatment programs specifically designated for addictions does the department provide in our correctional facilities currently.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the Department of Justice, through its corrections, does support a number of on-the-land programming available for inmates within our facilities where security issues are not significant. We also support inmates attending regularly things like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

In the last sitting, through Regular Members, we increased the budget at the South Mackenzie Correctional Facility where we have some



traditional addictions counsellor positions available to provide support. Those types of services are available in our Yellowknife facility as well. There are a number of things that we are currently doing within the facilities to support inmates with addictions issues.

**MR. MOSES:** Speaking with the Minister of Health yesterday, and some of the answers that he gave us in terms of detox programs moving along the same lines, if anyone that gets incarcerated for a serious crime and does have to go to either a north corrections facility, are there any detox programs in place, medical services provided to the inmates that need that detox in our facilities currently?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** When somebody is convicted and sentenced to time in one of our facilities, one of the first things that will happen is they'll go through a documentation and classification where their individual needs are assessed. If an individual does require detox, we do have nursing staff within our facilities who can help develop a plan to help that individual detox. It may involve some time in isolation during the actual detox, but they do have nurses available to support them through that process.

**MR. MOSES:** When an inmate is about to get released, in terms of getting educated on possibly some of the issues and concerns that might have gotten them into the institution, what type of education programs do the corrections facilities offer to get inmates back, or what social skills programs does the department offer to get these inmates back into being a member of society and not going back out and becoming another repeat offender? What type of education programs are there in our facilities to get our inmates back as regular members of society?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Each one of these situations would be done on an individual basis, based on the individual needs of inmates when they're being released. Currently, case managers and other staff within the department or within the corrections facilities will work with the inmate to identify programming in the community that they're going to be released to that would help support them in their continued healing journey, or help them deal with probation issues that may exist. Each case is done individually. They're targeted and linked with different programs and services that may exist in individual communities.

One of the things that we are doing right now as a department, is we have been approached by some communities to do some reintegration work and engage communities to help design reintegration plans that work for the communities, that can engage the communities. We're exploring that right now with Colville Lake and we're probably going to run a pilot there to see how it works. If it works

really well, we will work with other communities to implement a similar type of process.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in terms of alcohol related crimes in the Northwest Territories and people who are suffering with addictions and treatments, I was wondering if the Minister knows what the percentage of crimes throughout the Northwest Territories are actually alcohol related. Does he have a percentage that he can let the House know of?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I don't have that exact statistic but I do have some information on this. The most frequent criminogenic needs identified amongst NWT offenders are those associated with drugs and alcohol. The vast majority of individuals who are going through their documentation and classification have indicated that alcohol is a significant factor in their lives and one of the reasons they may be within the facilities.

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

QUESTION 319-17(3):  
LATE PAYMENT OF INCOME SUPPORT

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my colleague Ms. Bisaro's questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment the other day regarding late payment of income support.

I'll start by noting that I raised this issue with the Minister in 2010 and was told at the time that the problem was due to staff changes. This time it's attributed to the possibility of holidays or staff vacancies. Obviously, these predictable and regular occurrences should never deprive people, destitute people of their only way to pay rent, buy food and clothe their families.

Can the Minister assure me that, no matter what, there will be enough staff at ECE all the time, every time, to ensure these payments are processed on time?

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member that we need to have the staff up to speed on all the processing and issuing of the cheques on time. That is one of our priorities. This has been brought to my attention when Member Bisaro first asked those questions. I then followed up with my department. There have been some challenges, but at the same time, I have instructed my department that we need to make this a priority. If we have a shortage of staff, whether it

be on leave, we need to have a dedicated individual in the system who can follow up on all requests.

I did commit to this House already that this is a matter that we're following through with, and also, again, reiterating that there is client service training that is going to be happening at the end of this month and the beginning of next month to establish more of a positive step forward. That's what we're looking forward to with all the client service officers.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks to the Minister for those comments. We certainly do need redundancy here in order to avoid this sort of situation. I just want to explore further the issue of backup for emergencies. The Minister's 2010 answers to me promised a change in process and more staff training. Ms. Bisaro was told last week that there will be client service officer training, and the Minister has confirmed that. Because this is a financial payment function, and because the need for prompt payments is absolutely critical, will the Minister ensure that not only client service officers but an emergency backup in the finance area will be able to make these payments no matter what?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We do try to avoid, as much as we can, on the delay of payments to those clients. We understand that the power bill, the utility bills and other food sources, that is our priority, to issue those cheques on time. But there are times when we are challenged with providing documentation and so forth.

Again, as I indicated, we are going to have a dedicated individual that deals with those matters. The requests that come in, I specifically instructed, after the question was raised in the House, that this is an urgent matter. We need to deal with it especially now that winter is here. It is a priority for my Department of ECE. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, thanks again to the Minister for that response. My understanding is that the client service officers put in the order for the cheque and then the financial people issue the cheque. That is what I was referring to. I assume that the Minister has that well in hand and will ensure both steps are taken in a timely fashion.

When these payments are late they cause ripple effects. People incur late fees for things such as phone and electricity. These are people for whom a five or 10 dollar additional charge is equivalent to a day's groceries for a family. Unfortunately, current income support policy does not provide for the reimbursement of these penalties resulting from ECE's tardiness.

I am assuming this isn't going to happen again, but if it does, our records show that clearly when ECE payments have been made late, in cases where clients have been paid late, will ECE reimburse the cost of penalties that have resulted from payments received belatedly? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** That is correct; we are going to avoid late payments. Those late payments in the past, again, it all depends on the case-by-case basis. It could be missing documents. It is a shared responsibility between clients and our department, the client service officers. The information I gather and also the training that is going to be happening at the end of the month is specifically to deal with the backlog, the satisfaction survey that has been conducted in the past, how client service officers deal with those clientele in a professional and positive manner. The process itself from issuing of the cheque through the Finance department, we need to expedite the process, especially during the winter months. That is the commitment I made within my department, gave the instruction to my department. We will follow through with that. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 320-17(3):  
TERRITORIAL RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I want to follow up on my statement and talk a bit about the Territorial Respite Care Plan, which apparently is ready to go.

I would like to ask the Minister, first of all, if he would give me, and give the House and the public, an update on the Territorial Respite Care Plan, where it is at. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The full expansion of the Territorial Respite Program outside of Yellowknife and into the communities that don't have any respite services is going to be between \$2 million and \$3 million. Our Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Finance to assess competing financial pressures and so on in order to look at the expansion, but we do have some services operational and running in small communities outside of Yellowknife too. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I know that there are some respite care programs outside of Yellowknife. There are three communities which have respite care for some of their residents there, but as I mentioned in my statement, there is an overwhelming need for respite care in the other 29 communities that aren't yet served by any kind of respite care. I would like to know from the Minister when is the department going to recognize... I think they recognize that there is a need, but when are they going to recognize it as an overwhelming

need? When are they going to start providing services in our other 29 communities? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, the department recognizes that there is a need already. We have respite programs in Yellowknife, Detah, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Fort McPherson, Simpson, Inuvik, Aklavik, Behchoko, Fort Smith and Hay River. Those are the communities, and for other communities which I have not mentioned, respite services can be made available through home care. Each of the communities that have home care, we can arrange for respite services if the need was there and we work with the authorities to provide that need through home care. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I thank the Minister. I don't think I heard of this opportunity for families to access respite care through home care.

Can the Minister provide a bit better explanation to me and to people listening? What would a family get by applying through home care? What kind of service is provided through home care for respite? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, it would be a standard respite service for individuals that need respite from caring for individuals that need constant care, where the request would go back through the authorities, whether it would be local or regional through the Health and Social Services Authority and asking the home care to do respite care for individuals in a similar line of what is being offered in respite care programs in Yellowknife and other communities where respite care is being offered. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That sounds like a fairly bureaucratic process and rather long and involved to simply get a family some assistance to deal with the stress that they are under from day to day.

Is this a dedicated person who is providing respite through home care? If not, when are we going to get dedicated personnel in our communities to assist families with the respite care they need? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** No, it is not a dedicated individual in those communities where we don't offer the program, but rather, we would work with home care workers that are in the communities to provide that service based on requests and based on demand. When we will expand the program would be once we are able to make a business case back through the business planning process to expand the Respite Program. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 321-17(3):

TROUT LAKE DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the situation in Trout Lake where people can't see the visiting doctor unless they have an appointment. As we are learning, this is not the only community that this is happening in.

Is the Minister willing to review the practice of turning away small community residents who do not have prior appointments with this visiting physician? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be willing to have the authorities review that. The reason that we have the system that we do where the health authorities are at the regional level and work closely with the communities, so that they understand the communities, the culture of the communities and so on. If this is happening, it shouldn't be happening. Individuals will not be turned away from seeing the doctor if there are appointments available. Of course, when you have more than one individual showing up at the same time slot, it would be difficult, but we will do our best to allocate the time slots for individuals that come in to drop in to see the doctor when the doctors are in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** That is part of the issue. The doctors are flying in and flying out and sometimes, if there is a weather system moving in, they are leaving early. I believe that they can expand their time in the community. In fact, communities welcome doctors overnighting.

Can the Minister review that and see if there is a possibility of doctors overnighting and doing a good visit through the communities? After all, they are only going there every six weeks. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We will have the department work to see those various health authorities and ensure that if doctors are needed overnight, if they have more than just one day worth of appointments when they go into a place like Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake or any of those small communities that have too many appointments for one day. I'm not expecting that the doctor would leave a community – I'm sure the community can accommodate the doctor overnight – and will ensure that doctors that go into the community are prepared to stay overnight. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. I think part of the issue, too, is that if the flight returns at 4:30, doctors are packing up and leaving at 4:30. They have to have the flexibility and understand the

needs of the community and to stay that extra couple hours or whatever it takes. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I agree with that. As I indicated, we will contact the authorities and if doctors need to stay overnight in the small communities, they should. They've signed up to work in the small authorities, like the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority, they should expect to stay overnight in the small communities as well. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the point is to plan to stay overnight and not just say the workload is so much here, we have to overnight and that. Also, it's about improving access to the patients' files. I can understand it if they're going to see a patient and they don't have the proper files from the regional headquarters, but spending an extra night gives the opportunity to fax, phone, or hopefully our electronic medical records get up on-line so they can actually request that it be e-mailed. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you. We would look at a planned overnight. If a doctor is going into the communities, they can look at the historical appointments in certain communities and if this has become an issue where patients are being turned away from the health centre, but the doctor still leaves on schedule even though they haven't seen all the patients and that's the history of that community, then in the future, when doctors go into small communities, they would plan to stay overnight.

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

QUESTION 322-17(3):  
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. On March 12, 2009, I challenged the department and the Minister of ECE to review the SFA in terms of years of eligibility. I said that I believed that the program of our southern neighbour in Alberta was stronger than ours. I challenged the Minister to see if he would do a general overview and come back with what he found out. I also challenged him to see if he could strengthen the SFA in terms of six years of eligibility. The Minister said, "Certainly we can provide more research with our neighbouring Alberta. We need to find out if it is all grants, because I am sure there is a loans portfolio as well."

I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment when he is going to report on his findings.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When the question was first raised in this House, I did respond to the Member's question, reflecting on our program comparable to other jurisdictions such as Alberta. At that time I did state that we have the best program to subsidize students in the Northwest Territories, comparable to the information that we had at that time. With that, I did commit to this House that we were looking at an overall review of the SFA program and I'm glad to say that we have done that.

The review is before us and I'm going to be tabling that document today, and it does reflect on what we've initiated so far. I believe there are two or three key topics of recommendations that we've followed up already. What the Member is referring to is also part of the recommendations as a long-term strategy to work towards. So I need to work with standing committee on which are the priority areas and how we can move forward together. So that's what I'll be working towards with the standing committee. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I'm not advocating that we take anything away from our students, but this government has been providing non-Aboriginal students with six years of forgivable loans on the backs of the Aboriginal students.

When is the Minister going to fix this problem that the former Minister of Education, Culture and Employment created so that the Aboriginal students can once again obtain a master's and a PhD degree?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. Again, that information will be before this House as a public document, and as we move forward, those are recommendations to me, as the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, on Student Financial Assistance. So in order to start implementing those, we need to find the funds, and I need to work with the standing committee to find those funds and which are the priority areas. So I am committing to working with the Members across the floor to highlight and identify which of the recommendations we should be going after first, second or third and so forth over a short-term and long-term strategy. That's the commitment I've made. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. Is the Minister aware that in Alberta people from the Northwest Territories with Indian status are eligible under the post-secondary funding program and that they are eligible for grants for an undergraduate degree, a

master's degree and a PhD degree for a combined maximum of 80 months, or eight years of financing? I repeat, this is eight years of grants, not loans.

Would the Minister see this as an opportunity for us to improve our education funding for students under grants?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. We did look into Alberta and southern jurisdictions, their student financial assistance. Again, our program is much better than what they provide. I'll give you an example.

As I stated on March 12, 2009, the limitation of \$50,000 for a loan limit in other jurisdictions. Ours was \$47,000. We increased it to \$60,000 so at least we can service a master's student. So we are improving our program every time and, again, with the recommendations that were brought to my attention from the general public, from the students, from the parents and also from Regular Members, we will be following through with those recommendations on a long-term basis. Mahsi.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I challenge the Minister to come back next session with a plan for changes to the Student Financial Assistance program that adds another level of funding so that Aboriginal students can get the funds to obtain a master's and a PhD degree. Will the Minister commit to that?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. What I can commit to in this House is that I will be working with the standing committee to identify, as we move forward on the business planning process, which areas we need to highlight as a priority for this government. Also for the Regular Members, I want to share their perspective, because we have 18 recommendations. Unfortunately, we can't implement them all next year or the following year, but we can at least capture two or three that we can move forward on. So I'm committed to doing that. I'll be working closely with standing committee on a move forward basis. Mahsi.

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

#### QUESTION 323-17(3):

##### BARREN GROUND CARIBOU MANAGEMENT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue today with my questions to focusing on my Member's statement, which was the concerns regarding the caribou surveys and their numbers.

The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources provided a statement and he talked about the numbers; three out of the four groups were increasing, one is decreasing, as well as he showed clearly that two groups we were unable to fully survey to get a sense. He did highlight that

there was a problem. I'd like to say he skipped over predation pretty quickly in one of his statements on trying to focus as a solution, as well as we all know the impacts on the First Nations, residents and outfitter hunting.

So what brings me to my question is with all this discussion and concern built around the numbers, what are the target numbers that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working towards that is clear and transparent so that everyone can fully appreciate and understand what we're working towards and trying to achieve before normalized hunting can return? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That process is now going to be underway. We've stabilized the fall. The numbers went from almost 500,000 in the 1980s down to 32. There has been a modest recovery from that point within our margin for error. The co-management boards, and all the biologists, and all the people on the boards will be looking at that management plan. The Wek'eezhii board plan is good for another year, which we have signed off on and agreed with. Their job, in terms of the Bathurst, is to review that and they will determine based on the science, the numbers, the feedback from the traditional knowledge and the communities as well, recognizing that there's more than just the basic numbers. We talked about cow/calf recruitment, the herd, and the health of the females, and those types of things. It's a complicated issue and they have to look at all those variables.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I can't disagree with the Minister when he says it's more than just about the basic numbers. I would like to know what positive effects, other than just banning caribou hunting, the department has proposed. What I mean by that is, has the Minister, or working with the boards or co-management partners, have they proposed anything such as hunting more wolves, any type of activities that will help increase the population? To be frank, waiting for the caribou to repopulate themselves to their old numbers may take a generation of our lifetime, not the caribou's lifetime.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** If we look at the Bluenose-East, the numbers went from 60 to roughly, our best estimate based on the information we do have in terms of cow/calf recruitment and such, to we think up to 100,000 in a relatively short period of time. The Bathurst, one of the biggest impacts was, of course, the harvest. It's one of the most heavily populated areas of the Northwest Territories. It was a herd that was used by all the folks around Yellowknife, all the folks in the South Slave, some from Deh Cho. In addition to that, there were clearly some issues with warming

temperatures and such that were affecting travel. Some concerns were there about possible impacts of winter roads and such. Overall, the issue of wolves is not one that is seen as a major factor where we would want to go in and start doing a wolf cull, if that is what the Member is suggesting.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Well, first I should be clear that I'm not suggesting anything, because I'm not a wildlife biologist. All I can suggest is, I've heard from other people who make suggestions of that type of manner, that is the right choice. I will leave it up to the biologists to make that determination. I again ask the question of what stopped us from putting numbers on the table to this point of saying when we reach a certain number, whether it's 35,000 for the Bathurst or, for example, maybe 2,500 for the Cape Bathurst, then we can open up to residents and outfitters, as well as return to traditional hunting levels for Aboriginal people.

What has stopped us from getting to that type of number and description, as well as full transparency on this process? As I've said repeatedly, if nobody knows what they're working towards, nobody knows what the government's doing on this particular issue and they assume it's nothing. They will never get to hunt again.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member raises a good point. If I could point to the work done by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board where they, over a number of years, came to an agreement on the very issue and process that the Member has so astutely suggested as a way forward, which is to agree on numbers that are triggers to certain kinds of action. If they get low enough it triggers a ban. Once there's an improvement to a certain number, it triggers certain specific conditions. If it gets healthy enough, then there are no specific harvest restrictions. What has precluded us from doing that is being able to work through with all the various co-management boards in the settled area and in the unsettled claims to come up with a management plan with those same kinds of triggers, and to do that you need, of course, your first solid baseline of information, in terms of your herd numbers, so you know where you're starting from and what you're going to need to go forward. The Member raises a point and we do have a model that, I believe, we should all be looking at and that's the good work done by the folks managing the Porcupine caribou herd.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first thank the Minister for that lavish praise and, of course, if he wishes to further gild the lily with how great I am, I would be willing to accept it.

When can we expect these particular numbers before us so we can have them for good discussion? The outfitters are feeling left out.

Resident hunters are concerned. I support the return of full hunting for First Nation people, their opportunity.

The point is, when can we get the numbers out for discussion so we know what we're working towards, because right now everyone's in the dark and we want to be part of the solution while the government appears to be the problem.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I'm more than willing to lavish praise where it's due, with exception, possibly, of his work in progress of his Movember efforts. I know he will keep at it. He's got a few days yet to fill in all the blanks.

In my statement I laid out a process, and we're going to follow that through with the Wek'eezhii board and the unsettled claims areas and work through to lay out the management plan. We know it's good for the current year. The broader issue of coming up with the same type of management plan that the Porcupine Caribou Management Board has developed, I think that is something that all the boards and settled claim areas and unsettled claim areas will be looking at because it is a good model to emulate.

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

#### QUESTION 324-17(3): CARIBOU HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's take a look at this glowing good work that the Minister refers to. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The summer of 2010, the Minister reports the Bluenose-East was at 100,000, at or near record numbers for this herd. The hunting seasons of 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and now we're talking about 2013-2014 are going by, have gone by, with no resident quotas. The Minister says these numbers give us an opportunity to open discussions. Well, they gave us that opportunity two years ago and now we're talking four years of missed seasons. These numbers give us an opportunity to open discussions about an unrestricted Aboriginal harvest as well as the possibility of considering a limited resident harvest on this herd.

My first question is: When is resident harvest of any barren land caribou herd unrestricted for resident hunters?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have, in the Northwest Territories, an agreed-to process for the management of wildlife in settled claims. That process is going to be involved with the Bluenose-East and involves the Tlicho, Sahtu and Inuvialuit, which are all public

boards. They are going to be working with the department and we're going to be reviewing those numbers. We're going to be looking at pressures and going through that process. They will come back to myself as Minister and to the department with their recommendations.

**MR. BROMLEY:** The Minister refuses to answer. I will answer for you. Never. Resident hunters are never allowed unlimited harvest on barren land caribou. I'm not saying that's good or bad, it's simply the way it is. The season has been closed – that is zero harvest for resident hunters – for years now for all barren land caribou for resident hunters, except possibly the Porcupine. What has been the Aboriginal quota on the Bluenose-East caribou this year?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I apologize to the Member. I didn't clearly understand the question. In terms of the unlimited resident harvest, the most that we've ever had, that I'm aware of, is five tags per resident hunter. The voluntary harvest that was in place for the Bluenose-East was in the neighbourhood of about 2,800 animals a year.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I continue to make my point. Meanwhile, the Minister keeps the season closed for resident hunters while we're at record numbers here with this herd. How, in this time of total caribou deprivation for resident hunter families, can the Minister restrict resident hunter quotas to zero for years and years?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** In the Northwest Territories we have a process in terms of how we prioritize access to wildlife and caribou in this case that has its basis in the Constitution where we talk about the Aboriginal rights to harvest for Metis, Indian and Inuit people. We have a list. When there are restrictions, Aboriginal subsistence harvest gets protected and we work our way down from commercial harvest to resident harvest, and then the last to be protected at all costs is the Aboriginal subsistence harvest. That is the basis that we have made all our decisions on, and that is what guides us in our decision-making process throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gobbledy-gook. Why can the Minister not work management authorities now and get a resident quota in place for this season? Record numbers of caribou, unlimited Aboriginal harvest, how about 10 tags for resident hunters?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Gobbledy-gook implies that it's unintelligible and no one can understand what I'm saying. I think the Member can understand what I'm saying, he just doesn't like it. So let me repeat the issue. We have a process in the Northwest Territories and across the land.

There has been pressures on the herds. There have been decisions made by the management boards that we have agreed with, that have put restrictions on almost every herd. Some of them there are total bans, way up north. On some they've, like the Bathurst, there was a requirement from myself as Minister three years ago to make a decision, which we did, because of the plummeting numbers. We've indicated that there's enough good news here that we're going to go forward through the processes that are there, in place in the Northwest Territories, to review those with an eye towards seeing if there is a sustainable harvest for Aboriginal hunters. As well, can we at the same time manage the herds to sustain a possible resident harvest? We are intent to look at that in specifically two areas, the two herds: the Bluenose-East and the Beverly-Ahiak herd.

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

QUESTION 325-17(3):  
REDUCED HOTEL RATES FOR  
ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENTS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Finance for some... Actually, I had a constituent that works for First Nations in my riding and that constituent actually came to Yellowknife and rented a hotel room, but wasn't able to get a government rate. She had asked why we don't get a First Nations rate.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance how the government gets a government rate at hotels here in the Northwest Territories or throughout Canada.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a process based on volume, large organizations, governments, corporations, traditionally go to airlines, in some cases they go to hotels, and they negotiate these types of rates that are accessible and a benefit to folks when they are travelling and in some cases with government, even when you're just travelling on your own, if you're an employee you can also use the fact that you're a government employee. So that's a negotiated arrangement with the different hotel chains and motel chains in some cases.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I guess the point I was making and failed to say was the First Nations, thereby First Nations government in our Northwest Territories and throughout the Northwest Territories we, of course, respect our First Nations partners and governments. How can we work with the hotel associations or our government to ensure they are included and get a good corporate rate, because they're flying into Yellowknife and travelling

throughout Canada, as well, to conduct their business just as we are.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I understand that in some cases the Aboriginal governments, the Dene Nation or other Aboriginal governments would negotiate their own rate, be it with airlines or with hotels where they are patrons on a steady basis, or in some cases, up north where they actually buy and own the hotels, they have that advantage. If the Member is suggesting that we somehow partner up, I'd be glad to get the information and review the issue with Finance and the Member to see what's possible in terms of that kind of arrangement. I don't know if there's any kind of group rate that the First Nations or Aboriginal governments could be included in, but I'd be willing to commit to talk to Finance and the Member about that.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I certainly look forward to that information. As well, some of our small communities, too, are technically a municipal government as well. Can he also look into that aspect of it as well?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I'll commit that we look at all levels of government: municipal, Aboriginal, as well as territorial.

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

QUESTION 326-17(3):  
TERRITORIAL RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a few more questions of the Minister for Health and Social Services. I would like to follow up on some of my previous questions.

My first question was, we have established a territorial respite care plan, from what I understand, and I asked the Minister for an update, but now I'm asking when that plan is going to be rolled out.

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan will be rolled out once we are able to get our business case to the business planning process.

**MS. BISARO:** We are in the business planning process right now, and I think the Minister is well aware of that. We have a business planning process every year.

I'd like to know from the Minister where respite care and the territorial respite care plan sits in the priorities for the department. Is he negotiating with Finance to have the respite care expansion start in '13-14 or are we talking '20-21?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** For this planning cycle, for this current business planning process, we are not

bringing any new initiatives into the mix, but we are reviewing requests through our presentations to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. After our request on the Standing Committee on Social Programs, we review what they come back with. They write a letter back to the government indicating that these are the areas they want us to look at. We would then examine that and go through the process. But I don't think respite care was a part of anything that came back from Social Programs. But we are moving through the process. I suspect that the next business planning process would have respite in it.

**MS. BISARO:** I'm still struggling to get a year out of the Minister. If the Minister wants us to indicate to him that respite care is an important priority, then I'm certainly sure that the standing committee can do that for him. I asked where it sits in the priorities for the department, and I don't think I really heard an answer.

Again, I would like to know from the Minister... He says that there are no new initiatives. This plan is already in progress. I don't think it's a new initiative to expand a plan, but I'd like to hear from the Minister, if that's the government stance, that an expansion of any plan that's currently in the works is a new initiative. I would like to have that confirmed.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The expansion of a program beyond what the approved program would be, would be considered a new initiative. Even though we have midwifery currently operating in one community, should we expand the Midwifery Program and the plan to expand the Midwifery Program to a territorial midwifery program, and also some midwives in Hay River and so on, Beaufort-Delta, that would also fall under new initiatives. Yes, they would be considered new initiatives if they're expanding upon what is approved.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. My last question, I guess, goes to... Now I've totally lost my question and I'll have to go to the one that I didn't intend to ask.

The Minister talked about home care and that respite is available through home care. I'd like to ask the Minister if families needing respite care are using home care without any further resources added to the home care services in the communities, is that not just going to overwhelm the home care staff in our communities because they're now providing home care for adults as well as home care for disabled persons?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The home care services that are being provided through the authorities and the communities will make a decision on whether or not they're available to do respite services. All



indications are that if respite services are needed in communities where we don't actually have a respite program, that home care would be able to handle the extra workload of doing respite care, but through an approved process, that they would be able to handle respite care that was needed by individuals at the community level.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 327-17(3):  
WATER QUALITY MONITORING  
IN THE SAHTU REGION

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Fort Good Hope, the elder Thomas Manuel asked about the conditions of our fish and our food, and he wanted me to ask the Minister of ENR if there is anything in the plans that would see a laboratory in the Sahtu region because of the recent increase of the exploration and the development and new laws coming through Ottawa. Any types of plans in place for a laboratory that would check on the fish or the animals that we're eating since the scare of the XL Foods that has happened down south? He wanted me to ask the Minister that question.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is in the works is a territory-wide, community-based water monitoring system that we are in the process of setting up with the ENR and the communities and the Aboriginal government so that, in fact, we can start addressing some of those very concerns that his constituent Mr. Manuel raised.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Some of our reports say that about close to 70 to 80 percent of our foods come from the land, and so we have a fundamental right, or we want a fundamental protection of our foods that are on our land. That's why the elder asked if there is any type of plan where they would check on the fish and check on the animals that we eat.

I want to ask the Minister, would he also look within his federal counterparts if there are any types of plans in place that could be placed in Fort Good Hope.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We're working on this initiative with the communities, the territorial government. We have a lot of interest by a number of very committed NGOs, as well, that are very interested in this whole idea of community-based water monitoring to establish the baseline of information to be able to make the determination in the area that the Member, once again, has raised as a concern that have been brought to him by his constituents.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** In northern Alberta it's been announced that there are high levels of mercury in the moose and the waterfowl tests that the people are hunting down there now. Slowly that will come up in the Northwest Territories. Because of the new laws that are coming up North here, we in the Sahtu, and especially elders like Thomas Manuel want to ensure that any type of protection that we have such as establishing a laboratory in Fort Good Hope or in the Sahtu that would give some early indication that we better pay attention to what is coming down into our air, our land and water. I ask the Minister for any types of reports recently that showed if the high levels of these types of toxins are in our animals.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** One of the most obvious areas that we want to monitor, of course, is the water, the Mackenzie, which comes through Great Slave Lake which in turn goes through the Slave into the Peace-Athabasca. There are monitoring efforts being looked at all the way from northern Alberta down right to the Arctic Ocean.

We are committed to this community-based water monitoring initiative that will give us that baseline information that will allow us to check the water, fish and sediments. It will also allow us for some of the airborne pollutants, as well, that we can hopefully measure.

If we are going to track the issues that are in the mercury, for example, the other heavy metals and all polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and acetic acids and all these other exotic substances, then we need to have the ability to have that community-based water monitoring. That's our starting point and our commitment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Bromley.

### Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 17-17(3):  
WSSC LEGAL COSTS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSSC). Please provide:

1. information on the cost of legal advice incurred by the WSSC in the past four fiscal years;
2. information on the costs incurred by the WSSC for legal advice on individual case files in the past four fiscal years; and
3. information on the cost incurred by WSSC in support of its presentations before appeals tribunals in the past four fiscal years.

Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Dolynny.

WRITTEN QUESTION 18-17(3):  
AUDIT OF INUVIK EAST THREE SCHOOL

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Would the Minister of Public Works and Services commit to a complete formal review and audit of the recently constructed East Three Inuvik School, and would the Minister commit to addressing the following:

1. tabling of the original negotiated contract for the "substantial" completion date, the revised negotiated contract for the "substantial" completion date and all articles of agreement;
2. a complete status report of the project, chronology, appropriations, remediations and whole costs analysis;
3. a complete analysis of all market escalators used within the framework of the project; and
4. a complete evaluation of the Class C estimate structure used for the project, reported in both square metres and square feet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Mercer.

### Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 10-17(3):  
ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT  
FUNDING ALLOCATION

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Moses to the honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on October 19, 2012, regarding Aboriginal student achievement funding.

1. How is the funding being distributed to the regions?

ASA contributions are distributed to regions based on specific initiatives implemented in response to the ASA Education Plan. At this time there are three specific NWT initiatives that are receiving dedicated ASA funding: teacher cultural orientations, school community libraries, and regional literacy coordinators.

Teacher cultural orientations are funded for \$450 per teacher and money is allocated to individual education authorities to use regionally or distribute to communities if appropriate.

School community libraries are funded through the NWT library services and funding is allocated through either the regional district education councils (DECs) or the community, dependent on how the community library is set up. Funding

budgeted in the department is also used to provide support to, and purchase resources for, community libraries.

Regional literacy coordinators are cost shared with district education councils (DECs) and Yellowknife district education authorities (DEAs).

2. A breakdown of funding being distributed to each of the 33 communities.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the 2012-13 ASA Funding Distribution. ASA funding is distributed to regional DECs/Yellowknife DEAs in support of specific initiatives.

3. Funding actually allocated to the Aboriginal Student Achievement committee initiatives.

ASA community working groups are intended to be voluntary and unique to each community, structured in such a way so as to meet the needs of that community, with approaches best suited to the local context. While standing outside the formal funding and associated reporting processes, ASA community working groups provide a place for the community to engage in conversations about student achievement and education.

4. Funding being spent by the department on their own campaign on the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative.

The department is funding two department positions, as ASA coordinator and a literacy coordinator, at a cost of \$262,000 and is continuing with an ASA public awareness campaign in the amount of \$160,000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 11-17(3):  
TROUT LAKE SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Menicoche on October 23, 2012, to the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, regarding Trout Lake school replacement.

1. Where is the replacement for the Trout Lake School identified in the capital plan?

The existing small school was built as part of a community complex in 1993. Recent upgrades were completed in 2011. The replacement of the Trout Lake School is not currently included in the 2013-14 Capital Plan.

2. Given the number of children attending the school, what are the department's long-term attendance estimates for Trout Lake?

Projected enrolments, based on September 2011 data, indicate that the school will not exceed its maximum capacity of 33 students before 2018-19. Projections will be updated later this year to reflect actual 2012 enrolments.

3. What are the parameters and guidelines required to ensure a planning study for a new school in Trout Lake is undertaken?

A planning study is completed for large GNWT capital projects estimated at over \$2 million. The primary criteria used to rank projects, in order of priority, are protection of people, protection of assets, protection of the environment, cost reduction or revenue generation, and program need.

Planning for school projects is completed in two stages. First, an education plan is developed, identifying program requirements. Second, a planning study is undertaken, identifying design and budget requirements. The department will identify the funds to work with the community of Trout Lake to complete an education plan in 2013.

4. Is there a portable school in our education or government system that can be used in Trout Lake?

There are no suitable units available at this time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Bromley.

### Petitions

#### PETITION 3-17(3): MIDWIFERY CARE

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of midwifery care. The petition contains 27 signatures of Yellowknife residents.

The petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories commit to expanding the Midwifery Program to other communities in the NWT beyond Fort Smith for fiscal year 2013-14, by identifying the selected communities and committing to the continuity of this expansion with annual core funding. Further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure that women feel confident and secure to stay in their communities during the normal and healthy process of pregnancy and birth, by developing an education plan on the roles and benefits of midwifery that will be delivered to all women and families in the NWT beginning in the fiscal year 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Bromley.

### Reports of Standing and Special Committees

#### COMMITTEE REPORT 7-17(3): REPORT ON THE USE OF TABLET COMPUTERS IN FORMAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures would like to present a Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly.

#### Background

In its February 8, 2012, Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in the Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommended that:

Tablet computers such as iPads be considered as a type of laptop computer/hand-held device, subject to the existing conventions in the House regarding electronic communications devices.

This recommendation was adopted by a motion of the Committee of the Whole. As a result, it is currently the convention that iPads, like laptops, BlackBerries and other hand-held electronic communications devices may be used during Committee of the Whole proceedings, subject to the restrictions that they must be turned off when a Member has the floor and must be on silent mode at all times.

The committee also indicated in its February 2012 report that it would continue to review the expansion of iPad use outside of Committee of the Whole.

#### Current Findings

iPads were introduced as a standard tool for briefing materials and Cabinet and committee meeting agenda packages at the outset of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, in place of paper versions of the same documents. As noted earlier in this report, in February 2012 the House agreed to permit iPad use in the Chamber during Committee of the Whole proceedings.

The use of iPads for these purposes has allowed for a substantial reduction in the amount of paper used by Members and staff. It also increased convenience and ease of retrieving information as documents equivalent to several binders of paper can be stored on one device.

In considering whether the use of iPads should be permitted in formal session as well as Committee of the Whole proceedings, the committee held in mind a number of factors in addition to the advantages of increased convenience and reduced paper consumption.

- iPads could present a distraction during debate.

- The use of iPads, if not discreet, could create a negative impression among members of the public viewing the proceedings.
- The increased ease of sending messages in and out of the Chamber might allow others to influence debate.
- Attempts to restrict certain uses of iPads might be difficult to enforce and would rely largely on Members' voluntary compliance.
- iPads, when used as visual readers, are not functionally different than paper documents, which Members are permitted to use and refer to during formal session.

The committee also reviewed practices in other jurisdictions. These practices are rapidly evolving as use of iPads and other tablet devices become more widespread.

Both Houses of the Parliament of Canada, the United Kingdom House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan allow use of iPads in formal session subject only to general restrictions that they be in silent mode and not be disruptive or interfere with decorum. Most other Canadian Legislatures also allow for some use of iPads during formal session, albeit subject to additional restrictions. Examples of restrictions in place in other jurisdictions include prohibiting their use by a Member who has the floor, prohibiting their use during certain proceedings such as votes, question period and/or Speaker's rulings, and allowing the use of iPads during question period as a virtual reading device only.

In the opinion of the committee, the advantages of allowing use of iPads in formal session outweigh the potential disadvantages. Further, the concerns about the detrimental effects iPads might have on formal proceedings can be mitigated by putting in place certain restrictions. The committee, therefore, makes the following recommendation:

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Members be permitted to use tablet computers during all proceedings in the Chamber with the exception of the following times: during the prayer, at any time when the Commissioner is present in the Chamber, during the Speaker's opening and closing remarks and rulings, during votes, and at any other time designated pursuant to instruction of the Speaker;

And further, that the use of tablet computers be subject to the existing convention that any electronic device used in the Chamber must be in silent mode at all times.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the use of tablet computers during formal session be at all times subject to the overriding discretion of the Speaker to intervene to ensure order and decorum in the Chamber, and that if the use of any tablet computer is deemed to impinge on the decorum or dignity of the House, the Speaker may order the offending Member to discontinue use of the device.

#### **Recommendation 3**

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that any necessary amendments to the rules of the Legislative Assembly to permit the use of tablet computers in formal session be brought forward for consideration of the Legislative Assembly in the February-March 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

And further, that guidelines governing the use of tablet computers be incorporated into an appendix to the rules of the Legislative Assembly to be entitled, "Direction Regarding the Use of Electronic Communication Devices in the Chamber;"

And furthermore, that pending changes to the rules of the Legislative Assembly, the recommendations in this report be treated as conventions and Members be permitted to use tablet computers in accordance with them.

Finally, the committee urges all Members to continue to exercise courtesy and good judgment in using electronic devices in the Chamber so as not to distract fellow Members or in any way detract from the proceedings underway.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concludes the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly.

#### **MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 7-17(3) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED**

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Committee Report 7-17(3) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

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

---Carried

Committee Report 7-17(3) is received and moved to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 7-17(3) into Committee of the Whole today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Committee Report 7-17(3) is moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Bromley.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 101-17(3):  
NWT POWER CORPORATION  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 102-17(3):  
NWT HYDRO CORPORATION  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 103-17(3):  
INTERACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING  
\$250,000 FOR PERIOD APRIL 1, 2012, TO  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents, entitled NWT Power Corporation 2012 Annual Report, NWT Hydro Corporation 2012 Annual Report, and List of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period of April 1, 2012, to September 30, 2012. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 104-17(3):  
STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL OF THE NWT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories Annual Report, 2011-2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

TABLED DOCUMENT 105-17(3):  
HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOURS  
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES, NOVEMBER 2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 106-17(3):  
NWT STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FINAL PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT,  
MARCH 2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 107-17(3):  
MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE  
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FINAL REVIEW REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 108-17(3):  
2012-2013 ASA FUNDING GUIDELINES

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents, entitled Health and Health-Related Behaviours Among Young People in the Northwest Territories, the NWT Student Financial Assistance Program Review and Final Review Report as of March 2012, Management Response to the Student Financial Assistance Review, Final Report. Finally, further to my Return to Written Question 10-17(3), I wish to table the following document, entitled 2012-2013, ASA Funding Distribution. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

TABLED DOCUMENT 109-17(3):  
2011-2012 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
RESULTS REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 110-17(3):  
GNWT CONTRACTS OVER \$5,000 REPORT,  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
MARCH 31, 2012

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled 2012-2012 Grants and Contributions Results Report and Government of the Northwest Territories Contracts over \$5,000 Report Year to Date of the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2012. Thank you.

TABLED DOCUMENT 111-17(3):  
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES  
FOR THE PERIOD MAY 23, 2012,  
TO OCTOBER 16, 2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 112-17(3):  
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT,  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Colleagues, pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative

Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the Period of May 23, 2012, to October 16, 2012.

Colleagues, I hereby table 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Dolynny.

TABLED DOCUMENT 113-17(3):

OIL-FIRED APPLIANCES WORKING GROUP,  
ACTION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2012

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to table a report called The Oil-Fired Appliances Working Group, Action Plan and Recommendations 2012 Yukon Government.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Yakeleya.

TABLED DOCUMENT 114-17(3):

LETTER FROM SAHTU RENEWABLE  
RESOURCES BOARD REGARDING PROPOSED  
CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL FISHERIES ACT

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to table a letter that was addressed to Minister Duncan, Minister Ashfield and Minister Peter Kent from the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board in regard to the proposed change to the federal Fisheries Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Bromley.

### Motions

MOTION 21-17(3):

FEDERAL CHANGES TO  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW,  
DEBATE ADJOURNED

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS the Government of Canada has enacted major revisions to a number of environmental protection laws, including the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Fisheries Act, the Navigable Waters Act and the Species at Risk Act, through its first omnibus budget implementation bill, Bill C-38, and is proposing further revisions under Bill C-45, which is currently before Parliament.

AND WHEREAS a vigorous environmental management regime is essential for the protection of our vulnerable northern ecosystems, for citizens' participation in the management of our natural heritage, and for protection of Aboriginal rights and fulfilment of the constitutional duties to consult with Aboriginal peoples;

AND WHEREAS the impact of federal dismantling of environmental protections will be more acute in the Northwest Territories than in the provinces,

owing to the continuing federal responsibility for management of natural resources;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-38's substantial weakening of the federal Fisheries Act protections for fish and fish habitat is a retrogressive measure that will eliminate the ability to adequately protect vital food fisheries and ensure protection of waters, and will undermine the exercise of Aboriginal harvesting rights;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of arbitrary deadlines for the completion of environmental assessments, of restrictions on the types of projects that may be referred to environmental assessment, and of new restrictions on citizen involvement in environmental assessments will limit the quality of or eliminate necessary public review of environmental impacts;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-38 removed the requirements of the Navigable Waters Act for reviews of pipeline and power line projects, and proposed changes to the Navigable Waters Act in Bill C-45 would remove the requirement for reviews of projects including dams, road crossings, mines and bridges affecting all but two lakes and one river in the Northwest Territories, thus removing protection even from heritage rivers;

AND WHEREAS pipeline and oil and gas projects will no longer be referred to independent panels, but will be assessed in house by the National Energy Board, and offshore projects will no longer be assessed unless designated for assessment by the federal Cabinet, thus limiting comprehensive, publicly accountable scrutiny of the potentially major environmental and socio-economic impacts;

AND WHEREAS changes to the federal Species at Risk Act have ended the application of the act to pipeline projects, and will allow for the issuance of open-ended permits for projects that affect species at risk and/or their habitat;

AND WHEREAS the terms of the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle require that the GNWT take over this weakened and inadequate federal environmental and resource management regime;

AND WHEREAS the only means for the GNWT to improve this weakened and inadequate regime would be to allocate GNWT revenues over and above the federal funding provided for in the Devolution Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the GNWT was not consulted or even informed in advance of these changes to laws that are critically important to the citizens of the NWT and are a central issue in the ongoing devolution negotiations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Government of the Northwest Territories inform the federal government of our dissatisfaction both with the

dismantling of the federal environmental protection regime and with the federal government's failure to consult and inform this government on changes directly affecting our interests, the ensured integrity of our environment and the content of devolution negotiations that are currently underway.

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately begin to determine the cost of repairing and maintaining the environmental management regime post-devolution in order to restore it to the responsible standards expected by our public.

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories begin to identify the means through which such costs could be funded.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Mahsi.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleague Mr. Yakeleya for helping to bring this motion forward.

This motion is in response to the very deeply held concerns territory-wide about the loss of environmental review, oversight, and public participation that recent federal legislation passed and proposed is causing. Known as the federal omnibus Bill C-38 passed in June and C-45 currently under consideration, the impacts of these legislatives are more strongly felt and immediate in the North because the environmental management regime is largely federal here. This motion asks our government to speak out on these impacts, consider how to fill the voids created, and to tell us how the funds will be found to enable responsible environmental management across the NWT while supporting sustainable economic development.

Some might say this motion is partisan, to which I would say, balderdash. This motion is, purely and simply, about the need to have and protect clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy food to eat. Everyone understands these basics.

There are also some amongst us, in every culture, whose understanding of the environment goes beyond these basics. These are people who understand at a cellular level that humans are a part of the environment and depend on its well-being. Such understanding is often realized through recognition of the aesthetic and often spiritual importance of the land in its naturally healthy and fully thriving state. First and most importantly, these are the very people excluded from full participation in the environmental review process that new federal legislation enabled through Bill C-38 last June. Why on Earth would any government exclude people wanting to speak up on behalf of clean air, food, and water, and who have nothing to gain in

doing so, other than clean air, water, and food for the benefit of everyone, your family and mine.

Every culture that has survived over the aeons has learned the critical role of our environment in supporting us as a society. Every culture has learned that we ignore this fact at our peril. In the past, stakes were high, but nowhere near what they are today when we have already stressed the integrated system of ecosystems across the globe to near breaking point. Canada helped lead this understanding in today's modern sense and many of our Aboriginal governments are playing key roles and reminding us of this understanding, yet how are we showing that understanding today.

The federal legislative changes have weakened the Fisheries Act to the point where we no longer have the ability to sufficiently protect food fisheries and water quality, and protect Aboriginal harvesting rights. Prior to Bill C-38, the Fisheries Act prohibited any work or undertaking the results in the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat. The amended act only applies where there is "serious harm" and where the fish harmed contribute to a commercial, recreational, or Aboriginal fishery. Apparently, the ecological services they provide have no role. Former federal Fisheries Ministers Siddon, Anderson, Fraser and Dhaliwal have expressed strong concerns with this reduction in scope of protection for fish and fish habitats.

Before the C-38 amendments, the Fisheries Act allowed the Minister to grant authorizations to destroy fish and/or harm habitat. The C-38 amendments allow for regulations which can exempt broad categories of activities or projects like pipelines. It also allows for regulations to exempt some waters from prohibitions against serious harm to fisheries.

Finally, they provide the opportunity to suspend the federal act in favour of provincial legislation, highlighting the concern about regulatory gaps in the territories where we do not have such legislation in place.

Without any consultation, information, or input from the NWT or other jurisdictions, the Government of Canada has rewritten the Environmental Assessment Act, and in the process made significant changes, offloading provincial governments as further advanced through the new authority of the federal Minister to defer a project to provincial DA processes. Under these changes, fewer projects will be referred to aid because the project must be of a type to be listed in regulations. Previously the default was that projects would be reviewed unless there was a specific exemption. Many people are concerned that the process is now politicized because an opening has been provided for industry to now lobby the Minister to keep a project off the list of those to be reviewed. Further,

there will no longer be environmental screening of environmental impacts for offshore projects and pipelines for areas previously studied. Others previously regulated by other legislation will now be assessed in-house by the National Energy Board.

Still, with the new Environmental Assessment Act, the definition of environmental effects has been restricted from its broader form that included any change that the project could cause on the environment, as well as any socio-economic effects of any such change. Those who know the challenges and clean-up limitations for Arctic offshore drilling must be shuddering at our vulnerability here, let alone the failed opportunities for public accountability and mitigation of environmental and socio-economic impacts.

Again, public participation will now be restricted to "interested parties" defined as persons "directly affected" by the project or having "relevant information or expertise" in the opinion of the responsible authority. Obviously, this could block the participation of Aboriginal people or organizations from contributing their important perspectives and knowledge.

Finally, the federal Cabinet may now be involved in decision-making, declaring effects "justified in the circumstances," deciding whether to approve or reject pipeline recommendations, and requiring the NEB to reconsider its recommendation on a pipeline. This seems to be the epitome of politicizing a previously objective process.

Changes to the Species at Risk Act have ended the application of the act to pipeline projects and lifted provisions for periodic permit reviews with reasonable timelines of three to five years to open-ended permits. The Minister, of course, can extend any time limit or decide that it simply doesn't apply. Also, requirements for minimizing pipeline impacts on critical habitat of species at risk are henceforth exempted, and the important work of the National Roundtable on the Economy and the Environment will be no more, this institution having been eliminated, as has the requirement for a report on the greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Bill C-45 currently under consideration in our federal Parliament proposes to rename the Navigable Waters Act to the Navigation Protection Act, reduces federally protected water to a list that currently includes only three water bodies in the NWT: Great Bear and Great Slave lakes and the Mackenzie River. Current provisions being considered would enable local authorities to add to the schedule. Protection of water quality in Canada has resulted from important clauses in our Environmental Assessment Act, our Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Act working in an integrated fashion. This last amendment, given all those legislative changes to other acts described

above, throws to the wind the protection of most waters in Canada.

I believe everyone is interested in improved efficiencies in environmental review and enhancing opportunity for environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development. However, the legislative changes I have described here briefly go far beyond such a tune-up and, unfortunately, leave us in the NWT with the consequences. Here, now, I am speaking about the administrative and financial consequences, not the obvious environmental ones.

The NWT is regulated by the federal environmental management regime, so we do not have backup fisheries and other legislation that provinces typically do. What are the regulatory gaps being left behind? We do not have the financial resources to fill in the growing void. Many will say that devolution is the answer, yet I can't help but wonder how many times we have turned to this handy response and, in consequence, how many times over we have vicariously spent the financial benefits to be realized. We need to begin seeking resources to take on the environmental oversight being set adrift, a review we know is required and expected by our people.

To this end, we are asking that this government inform the Government of Canada of our concerns and to register our protest at not having information provided nor the opportunity to be consulted. We are asking our government to become familiar with the impacts of the changes to federal law, something they clearly and unbelievably have not yet done, and to begin to estimate the cost to restore a responsible environmental management regime. Finally, we are asking them to determine how and where we will find the dollars necessary to implement this work.

Some might say, but what about the consequences to our discussions with the Government of Canada about devolution or other major partnership discussions underway? We are a small player on the national scene but I have to ask, what does this question say about the relationship we have with the federal government, our supposedly closest partner? What is the mettle of this relationship?

I appreciate this opportunity to bring this motion forward today. I also appreciate the discussions I have had with my colleagues on the merits of this proposal and I seek their thoughtful response as we vote today.

Land is life. It sustains and nourishes us spiritually, culturally, physically, economically and socially. Working together, Northerners will responsibly and sustainably manage the lands, waters and resources of the Northwest Territories for the benefit of current and future generations.



This is a quotation from the draft vision of this government's Land is Life: Towards a GNWT Land Use and Sustainability Framework issued this June. I think it's a great vision. I also think that today is the day to start implementing it.

Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I will be calling for a recorded vote. Thank you for the future comments here of my colleagues.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Thank you, colleagues, for allowing us to have this debate in the House on this motion here. When I was reading the motion and the comments from the other interested groups it was quite an eye opener because of the Bill C-38 having an impact in the Northwest Territories. We in the Northwest Territories are going to be dealing with the impacts. We are right now in a very critical stage with our relationship with the federal government. We have devolution. We have the fibre optic line. We have the P3. We have other relationship building that would enhance the territory. We even have, in the Sahtu region, an increase of the oil and gas exploration. Even in the Beaufort Sea and the Nahendeh area and around Yellowknife. These new laws that are coming into place play a critical point for the people of the Northwest Territories. It's like having a new set of clothes that we're going to wear. Like it or not, we're going to wear it. We're going to have to get used to it. We just don't know what size it will be. That's the situation I see us in in the small communities. Not too many people in the small communities will really understand the consequences of Bill C-38. Not even Bill C-45.

I'm talking about Bill C-38 because this motion talks about the new rules coming into effect and how the Northwest Territories is going to deal with it. It talks about our system in the Northwest Territories; the ecological system is in jeopardy. We have a very sensitive, rich ecological system in the North here. You go down the Mackenzie Valley and people talk about the climate change and the effects it's having on our land.

I have some concerns from the Sahtu Renewable Resources Council that wrote me a letter. I just tabled that document. They wanted me to say that earlier this year the federal government passed Bill C-38, the first of its budget incrementation acts. The bill is over 40 pages long and amends dozens of federal laws. Buried in all those pages are some major changes to the federal Fisheries Act. These changes have people in the Sahtu and Canada very worried. They have brought in the new, weaker standard of protection for fish and fish habitat, protection which now limits the cases where there is serious harm and only applied to fish and habitat

supports of commercial, recreational Aboriginal fishery. This act also allows the new regulations that could exempt both categories of projects from the law that says you can't seriously harm fish and their habitat. Worst of all, there were no public consultations on these changes before they were made. Even some of the former Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans, both Liberals and Conservatives, have raised concerns about these changes and especially the lack of consultation. There are many questions left unanswered and many uncertainties.

Who will step in to fill the gaps of fish monitoring and regulation? Is it the federal government trying to offload its responsibilities to the provincial and territorial governments? If so, where are the resources for us to take this on? Will the changes have an impact on Aboriginal rights? Why weren't Aboriginal governments and land claims organizations consulted? What kinds of projects will be exempted from the law protecting fish and habitats from serious harm? What criteria will the federal government use to decide? Will it consult with anyone?

We cannot afford to stand by and let this go without saying anything. We have to speak out and add our voices to all the other Canadians who want to make sure our fish are protected for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

These are the concerns that have been raised by the Sahtu Renewable Resource Council through the Sahtu Renewable Resource Board. These are the people who are asking, on this one specific legislation, that they have some serious concerns on the protection of our life. Our fish, our animals and our land are our life. We are the land. As one elder said, our blood is in the land and that these types of changes are going to have an effect on our land.

Even the Sahtu Renewable Resource Board said, when they had federal people coming to their meetings, they weren't very consulting. They were told this is what's going to happen and how you're going to deal with it. Their concerns weren't taken very seriously.

We have a lot of responsibly now that the Bill C-38 is going to come into the Northwest Territories. These Ministers here are going to have to figure out how to deal with it. We hope that this debate here doesn't give any type of indication to our federal counterparts that what we say will harm us. We are concerned about what the people are saying and what these acts will have as impacts in our small communities. I thank the Member for speaking on this issue here and raising it.

I guess, in essence, what I want to say is that when this bill came in I was very surprised at the lack of consultation with the people in the North and how these bills will be impacted on our lives, and having

our Aboriginal governments not feel that they were properly consulted through this process. It raised a lot of concern for me. I hope that the federal government style of government changes but I'm not too sure. For me, I guess, I call into question how we'll do our business in Canada with this bill here being piled up like everything has been put in a wheelbarrow and saying this is what we're going to deliver to the people of Canada, and not really knowing the consequences of these new laws here.

I guess the bottom of the whole thing is that we have to deal with it. We're asking this government to look at, very seriously, what kind of consequences there will be in the Northwest Territories and hoping that we would have good answers for our people, because we're held accountable.

I want to thank Mr. Bromley for bringing this motion to the floor and asking other Members to speak on it also.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the mover and seconder making this motion come forward. I think it is a discussion that's happening throughout Canada and throughout the Northwest Territories. There is always that debate between these two bills that have come forward, and C-38 has already gone forward and gone through. It's a very difficult situation and many people in the communities, when I'm in the communities, are discussing issues that are economic development driven versus environmental driver.

I understand my colleagues' discussion on the environmental side, but on the other side, Bill 38 deals with some of the issues that some of the people are concerned with, that some of the environmental processes have been holding back projects, have been slowing the process down. Not that we want to do development with no cost, but that we want to do development that moves forward, that there are timelines.

I know in my riding there are three mining companies that have been involved in environmental assessments. Some of these companies go years and spend millions of dollars before they get any kind of commitment because of the environmental processes. Indications are that Bill C-38 will improve that system. Not that these people will not have to do environmental assessments for the Northwest Territories and make sure that things are being taken care of, but that there's a timeline for these companies. They know the money that they have to invest. They know what the process involves. These are some of the things that have been demanded or asked by industry, by people, the people in the Northwest

Territories that want jobs, that need jobs to help the Northwest Territories.

I guess, in essence, I'm having difficulties with this bill and supporting it. The motion, sorry, the new bill, Bill 45, speaks of waterways, and it's fairly new. How it impacts everything in the North is still up for debate. My colleagues have discussed some of the political issues. We're talking about a federal bill in this House, and that's questionable whether we should be directing or talking about the federal government's bills in this House. I think that's a question mark for us.

My biggest concerns are that I see things being held up. We've talked about the economic development. We've talked about the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and the years, the decades that this project has taken. Whether we blame the environmental assessment process, we blame industry and the economy of it, there are two sides to every story, and there's always a blame game. But I think somewhere down the line, there's another half of the public that are saying we need jobs, we need the economy.

We've talked in this House about needing money to do other programs, to help with addictions, and those are going to come from resource sharing, and revenue and royalties. We need more revenue like that, so we need these projects to move forward. As difficult as it is to say, some of those projects have been held up because of that.

I will not be supporting this motion because of these difficulties that I'm having. I understand my colleagues that made the motion and seconded the motion; however, there is another side to this debate and I believe that we need to hear that side as well. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting the motion. I am sick and tired of the Northwest Territories having the dubious distinction of being the most difficult place in which to develop resources.

Ten years ago I went to the Prospectors and Developers Conference in Toronto. I was a speaker there on behalf of our government, and we were talking about the same things then: the red tape, the environmental assessment process. That's our distinction. That's what we're known for in the Northwest Territories. You want to go to a place where you can never get business done? Go to the Northwest Territories. While at the same time, our neighbours to the south, our neighbours to the east, our neighbours to the west are doing fantastic, and they are realizing their aspirations for their economic development.

In no way am I saying that we should develop our resources at the expense of our environment.

Absolutely not. But what we have in place here, right now in the Northwest Territories, does not work, so good on the federal government for finally figuring out a way to streamline this and let's get on with business. Let's protect our environment at the same time. We're not saying throw the doors wide open and throw out all environmental protection, but it's about time that we had a streamlined process, and if this gets us to it, I support it and I do not support the motion. Thank you.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard from some of our colleagues who have a concern over the two federal bills, as mentioned, and what impacts it may have on our land, water and wildlife.

Federal Bill C-38 received Royal Assent on June 29, 2012. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, all the Members here received some form of information from a number of groups. Some of them are special interest groups, some of them are environmental stakeholders, and I applaud their work. We did hear their messages loud and clear. But, Mr. Speaker, we didn't hear from all stakeholders. There were many other stakeholders. We talked about some of the economic stakeholders with some of my colleagues here as well. They were missing from the overall positioning which would give us the ability to address the potential impacts of this bill. Because we haven't received this full spectrum, I will not, nor should I, comment any further on that bill today.

We've also heard about Bill C-45, which has been recently introduced. It replaces a very old bill back from 1882, old legislation, which deals primarily with continued protection of our Canadian waterways. It talks about good infrastructure building and it balances us against unsafe navigation. More important, as we heard today, it reduces red tape. These are all positive things and things that I do agree with.

We have also heard only three bodies of water were mentioned, but I could also spend a great deal of time on why those three bodies of water were provided. This information is readily available to anybody. You can Google information. There was a comprehensive, quantitative analysis. There were things like Canadian Hydrographic Service's scores and freight scores and navigation scores, but those things are moot, Mr. Speaker, because there was a criteria of why those bodies of water were selected to protect for navigation. There is an ability within that framework to add more bodies of water, as we heard from one of the Members here.

I can sit here and quote that there are at least nine federal acts of Parliament that govern marine safety and other types of safety, but again what will that prove today other than lots of words on paper.

Through my reviews of Bill C-45 today, there really is no reduction in environmental protection of NWT waters as a result. I feel quite confident that we are very well protected moving forward. I believe we are moving in the right direction.

Let's remember that these are federal bills and the people of the NWT have elected a federal representative to represent our concerns. Yes, we serve the same people, but by using this House as a means of partisan tone, I am gravely concerned that the potential posturing could, in essence, jeopardize the many critical projects that we have agreed to as a Caucus on such as things as devolution, regulatory improvement, our Inuvik-Tuk Highway and the Mackenzie Valley fibre optic, just to name a few. Can we afford to jeopardize these projects as a result of this tone?

As much as I don't want to diminish the ability to spearhead good debate in this House for Northerners, I feel we need to do so in a more productive, positive and respectful tone and to always govern ourselves, as I said, in a non-partisan manner, especially with our federal partners.

Again, I don't want to undermine the good work of the Member bringing this motion forward and the spirit behind their intent and their thoughts and dues on the floor of this House, but by passing judgment on complex legislation that is still before Parliament is not, in my humble opinion, representing the views of my Range Lake constituents nor all Northerners. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I cannot and will not be supporting this motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to thank the mover and the seconder of the motion for bringing it forward, Mr. Bromley and Mr. Yakeleya. You've heard already, and we're going to hear again, that this is a controversial motion. We've already had great debate at committee about it and I think it was a very healthy debate. I appreciate the comments I've heard from committee and I appreciate the comments I've heard today.

In listening to my colleagues, I get the impression that they think we are debating a federal bill. That's not what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. We are debating the effects of Bill C-38, a federal bill which was passed in June of this year. So we are now the recipients of the effects of Bill C-38.

I am in support of this motion and I support the motion because I am greatly concerned about the changes in federal environmental legislation that have taken place as a result of Bill C-38. I speak for myself today but I also speak on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of other concerned NWT

residents and organizations. There are many of our residents, Mr. Speaker, who are concerned like me, concerned because of the ramifications of Bill C-38.

As a Member of this Assembly, it's my duty to give voice to those constituent concerns, to hear what the public is saying and to give it some exposure. We know that Bill C-38 was a very large and all-encompassing bill. One of the concerns I have been hearing from constituents is the lack of consultation on that bill, a bill which will have a big impact on NWT residents and on our environment.

There are many parts of the bill that have been seen as positive by many people across the country and by people across the NWT. I admit there are parts of the bill which are going to be good and those parts of the bill met particularly with approval in the business and the mining and exploration sectors, and some of my colleagues have pointed to the fact that it will be a benefit and I agree.

Mr. Bouchard's and Mrs. Groenewegen's constituents will see a better process and hopefully will get their projects moving faster.

So some of the changes will have a positive impact and they will have a positive impact on a regulatory system which is onerous and time consuming, I totally admit that. It's a system that should be made more simple and more streamlined. The changes in Bill C-38 may do that.

Many of the changes in Bill C-38 will have a large and negative impact on the NWT environment and that's my concern. They will have an impact on our people, on our land, on our wildlife, on our waters. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act governs the referral of projects for environmental assessments. Through amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Bill C-38 puts restrictions on public participation in environmental assessments, narrows the definition of environmental effects, reduces the funding of participants in environmental assessments and increases the involvement of federal Cabinet in decision-making around environmental assessments. Those are not good things, in my mind.

There will be financial implications, as well, as a result of that bill's passage. That's been mentioned by Mr. Bromley as well.

We have heard from Mr. Yakeleya about the concerns of the Sahtu because of changes to the Fisheries Act, changes which are a part of Bill C-38.

Streamlining and becoming more efficient are important, Mr. Speaker, but not at any cost and not at the cost of our fisheries.

Some change was needed. The protection of habitat was too broad. Bill C-38 changed the scope of fisheries to too narrow a focus. There will be NWT waters and fish habitats which will now not be

protected and they should be. As an example, the draining of an NWT lake by use by a mining project will no longer be prohibited. Any fish in that lake will not be protected as they have been. Most of our NWT lakes have been deemed to be non-important fisheries and we know that that's not true.

I believe it's the responsibility of the NWT government to consider the effects of legislation on our territory and to protect the NWT and its residents from those effects, to communicate territorial concerns to the federal government. That's what this motion asks for, Mr. Speaker, that the GNWT look after NWT interests with the federal government on behalf of NWT residents.

I know Members are not fully behind this motion. Some think we should stick to territorial issues and business. This is territorial business. The effect of Bill C-38 will be felt in the NWT and on the NWT.

I want to again thank Mr. Bromley and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion to the floor, for providing this opportunity for dialogue on change which will affect us all. I hope my colleagues who are not in support will see the light before the vote comes and that they will support this motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Bromley and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing forward the motion. I regret to inform them that I, too, cannot support the motion as it currently reads. I don't believe that the motion is timely and it may be too soon to address some of the concerns, because I, myself, as MLA have never had time to fully digest the impacts of all the past Bill C-38 and the current Bill C-45 coming up, which is moot because it may change.

As well, the concerns must be measured. The bill is so big that I need more time to take in all the information. Also, the motion mentions a few key words and I'm not convinced that there's a dismantling of our federal regulatory regime that this motion speaks of, Mr. Speaker. I'm not convinced, either, that we in the Northwest Territories are suffering the effects of Bill C-38. I haven't really digested what those are yet. I really believe that there is other legislation in place federally and territorially that covers environmental assessments and other environmental concerns, fisheries concerns, but yet I haven't had time to review it or research it.

I do want to assure my constituents that as your MLA I will ensure that the concerns on Bills C-38 and 45 will be addressed, but there are other avenues to do this and I believe that we have time. You only have to look to the Prairie Creek experience to see the effects of the current regulatory regime. They've been using our regulatory regime in the Northwest Territories as

well as federally, and they've been in the regulatory black hole, as it were, for the last 15 or 20 years. I pride them for being consistent and persevering and to get through as many of those loopholes, not loopholes, but through as many of those regulatory regimes as they could.

We can speak about the pipeline experience as well. If we had a speedy regulatory review of it, perhaps the project would still be on, but now that's been set back.

I also want to say, too, that the concerns about our land and water are real, they're very real, but I don't believe that it's all gone to the wind. I need more time to look at it and that's why I'm not going to be supporting this motion now. Mahsi cho.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to commend the work by my colleagues who brought this motion forward. There is some good wording in there, but the wording also needs to be looked at in terms of supporting it. I commend the work done by the staff here that got the information for us as well.

In terms of consultation, we did receive some letters from various groups in the Northwest Territories, but we didn't receive letters, or letters of concern from everybody. We don't know what's on everybody's mind, and to bring a motion forward today without getting everybody's input and support, it's hard for me to speak and make a decision for people of my region and other regions in the Northwest Territories.

I myself have not spoken to the Aboriginal leaders, the municipal leaders and the community of Inuvik, where we do have a few big projects on the books coming up in the future. Whether or not we pass a motion like this could possibly harm those projects going forward, I'm not too sure. So before I can put my stance and support behind a motion and bring my concerns forward, I have to bring the concerns of my constituents, the community of Inuvik and the two Aboriginal groups that reside in Inuvik and the Beaufort-Delta region and discuss with them.

As I said, we did elect leaders across the way here that do work in the best interests of not only this House but of the residents of the Northwest Territories, and we should put our faith and our confidence in them that they are doing good work for the people of the Northwest Territories.

As I said and stated earlier and, actually, Mr. Bromley did make reference to a sustainable land use framework that's in the works now, and I believe that will address and help us protect some of our environment, as well, when that's possibly completed. Like I said, until I get full support, full concerns, questions from my constituents, the Aboriginal leaders in my community and the

Beaufort-Delta region, at this time I won't be able to support this motion as we move forward. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In listening to this motion today, it's become clear that there's still a lot of work that needs to be examined and considered before we can accept some type of judgment on this particular motion. So looking at the particular numbers before us at this moment, it looks as if it won't pass.

I want to stress that many Members who are speaking in favour and against it are raising very important concerns. Some people are speaking against the motion saying that they will vote against it. They're highlighting their caution, but they're still echoing support for environmental protection. It is not in contradiction to have these types of views. I think it's good stewardship in the challenge that we balance here every day.

If this motion fails today, it ends here, it ends this issue, it shows no further light of day upon it. It is a legitimate concern. I have not heard one person speak against the motion's principles, which are we want good stewardship, but many people also spoke about the bogging down of opportunities before us. The challenge is, of course, like anything, to find the right balance. Information was still flowing to my office this morning to fully understand the impacts of this.

In some cases that I've seen thus far, we will see little effects that will streamline a process that seems almost ridiculous, and in other cases there can be real issues at risk. It's about understanding the full issue before we pass judgment. I should say for the record, I've supported many environmental initiatives and my record clearly says this, but I do have concern with the way this motion is presented and written at this particular time. Therefore, I cannot support it.

Before I conclude, I do believe strongly that we need to fully understand the impacts that we are agreeing to. I've often said that we have to understand what questions we're answering before we agree to answer it. We need to understand the issues before us before we challenge it. Sometimes, as we've heard from many Members, there are ways to do things and some of the changes are going to be very positive. So we can't just jump in and say no, we don't like this. We need, again, a good dialogue, good understanding.

In the spirit of dialogue, I wanted to wait to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak, speak their views and raise their issues on behalf of constituents. It's a principle and a tenet I feel very strongly about.

I strongly support the rights of those people to raise issues, even at times when I don't agree with them. They will often say that I will stand by them to ensure that their voices are heard and I will defend the rights of all, even those I disagree with, to the end of my last breath.

Now that we've heard from everyone on this side of the House that wanted to speak at this particular motion, I'm now going to move a motion to end debate on this particular issue. What this does is it ends the debate before a verdict, a verdict that stops it in its tracks, because I feel that if this motion fails, the issues raised that were of concern puts it to bed period.

Work still needs to be done. If there was one clear message today, it said we need to still review this issue.

**MOTION ON ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE ON  
MOTION 21-17(3), FEDERAL CHANGES TO  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW,  
CARRIED**

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that debate on Motion 21-17(3), Federal Changes to Environment Law, be now adjourned. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins, your motion is in order. The motion is not subject to amendment and is not debatable.

To be clear, if this motion is adopted by the House, it would bring to close any further debate on the initial motion and no vote will be taken. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 6-17(3), Report on August 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour: Toward a Policy Framework for Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northwest Territories; and Committee Report 7-17(3), Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole  
on Bills and Other Matters**

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Okay, I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee today? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to discuss Committee Report 6-17(3), Standing Committee Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on Hydraulic Fracturing, and Committee Report 7-17(3), Report on the Use

of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** We'll commence with that after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. The first standing committee report we're going to deal with is 6-17(3), the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, their report on the 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour: Toward a Policy Framework for Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. It gives me great pleasure to have the motions before us. I just want to remind committee and, of course, the general public, these are a bunch of motions we had read into the official record when we had read the report yesterday. With that, I wanted to thank the Members publicly for their assistance in doing that.

At this point, I'd like to get straight to the committee motions that are on the official report.

**COMMITTEE MOTION 42-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): DEVELOPING A  
POLICY FRAMEWORK ON  
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING,  
CARRIED**

I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a policy framework on hydraulic fracturing that will guide interim input into regulatory process and form the basis of a future regulatory system post-devolution.

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories consider the examples of other jurisdictions and adopt best practices where appropriate.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Blake.

**COMMITTEE MOTION 43-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): STRATEGY TO GATHER  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOLOGICAL  
BASELINE INFORMATION,  
CARRIED**

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government

of the Northwest Territories include in its policy framework on hydraulic fracturing a strategy to gather environmental and geological baseline information, with federal support.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

COMMITTEE MOTION 44-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): FRACTURING STUDY TOUR  
ADOPTING DRILLING STANDARDS,  
CARRIED

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories adopt standards for all phases of the drilling process and includes these in its policy framework, and strongly recommends that the standards be incorporated into regulation at the appropriate time.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question has been called.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 45-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): IMPLEMENTATION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND AREA  
MANAGEMENT PLANS,  
CARRIED

**MR. BROMLEY:** I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories include in its policy on hydraulic fracturing the implementation of environmental monitoring and area management plans. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question has been called.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 46-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): GREENHOUSE GAS MONITORING  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES,  
CARRIED

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest

Territories include greenhouse gas monitoring and mitigation measures in its policy on hydraulic fracturing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question has been called.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 47-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): FRACTURING STUDY TOUR  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION,  
CARRIED

**MR. HAWKINS:** I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake meaningful public consultation in the development of policy on hydraulic fracturing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 48-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): COMMUNICATION AND  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT,  
CARRIED

**MR. HAWKINS:** I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories include in its policy on hydraulic fracturing requirements for fair and transparent communication and opportunities for public engagement throughout all phases of the development of shale oil and gas projects. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just before I read the final motion, I once again want to thank the committee members for their efforts on this study, as well as I want to thank the Minister, Minister David Ramsay, and all the department who have helped facilitate this, including committee staff who helped facilitate a very good policy tour which I think will be helpful for years to come.

Madam Chair, that said, I move...

---Interjection

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Of course, we had some delegations that brought information, such as the Pembina Institute, which I would say most Members, if not all Members, thought it was very valuable.

That said... And Mr. Yakeleya, of course.

COMMITTEE MOTION 49-17(3):  
CR 6-17(3): COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE  
WITHIN 120 DAYS,  
CARRIED

Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days that includes a plan to develop a policy on hydraulic fracturing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Does committee agree that that concludes committee's consideration of Committee Report 6-17(3)?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Thank you. Our next committee report is from the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Bromley. Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 50-17(3):  
CR 7-17(3): USE OF TABLET COMPUTERS  
DURING FORMAL SESSION,  
CARRIED

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Members be permitted to use tablet computers during all proceedings in the Chamber with the exception of the following times: during prayer, at any time when the Commissioner is present in the Chamber,

during the Speaker's opening and closing remarks and rulings, during votes, and at any other time designated pursuant to instructions of the Speaker;

Further, that the use of tablet computers be subject to the existing convention that any electronic device used in the Chamber must be on silent mode at all times. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 51-17(3):  
CR 7-17(3): ORDER AND DECORUM  
IN THE CHAMBER,  
CARRIED

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the use of tablet computers during formal session be at all times subject to the overriding discretion of the Speaker to intervene to ensure order and decorum in the Chamber, and that if the use of any tablet computer is deemed to impinge on the decorum or dignity of the House, the Speaker may order the offending Member to discontinue use of the device. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 52-17(3):  
CR 7-17(3): AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
CARRIED

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that any necessary amendments to the rules of the Legislative Assembly to permit the use of tablet computers in formal session be brought forward for consideration of the Legislative Assembly in the February-March 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

And further, that guidelines governing the use of tablet computers be incorporated into an appendices to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly to be entitled "Direction Regarding the



Use of Electronic Communication Devices in the Chamber;”

And furthermore, that pending change to the rules of the Legislative Assembly be recommendations in this report be treated as conventions and Members be permitted to use tablet computers in accordance with them. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session of the Legislative Assembly?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 6-17(3), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on the August 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour, and Committee Report 7-17(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Use of Tablet Computers in Formal Session, and I would like to report progress with 11 motions being adopted and that Committee Reports 6-17(3) and 7-17(3) are concluded. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Do we have a seconder? Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 12:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, NO. 2

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Bill 12 has had third reading.

---Carried

Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 13:

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE  
CREDIT UNION ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Bill 13 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

BILL 15:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, NO. 3

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Bill 15 has had third reading.

---Carried

Colleagues, today concludes our Third Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Before we conclude, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Pages we have had here over the last few weeks, our Pages that work so hard for us to help us do our business here in the House. They were from Lutselk'e, Fort Smith, Inuvik Boot Lake, Hay River Reserve, Fort McPherson, Hay River and Yellowknife.

---Applause

Thank you must go to the teachers and supervisors, chaperones and the Assembly staff that assist the Page Program. Without our Sergeant-at-Arms, this program would not be possible. Thank you for your hard work.

---Applause

I'd like to remind the Members that November 11<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching. I know there will be services

and memorials throughout the NWT. So wherever you are on Remembrance Day, please take the opportunity to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who have served and are continuing to serve in our Canadian Armed Forces.

I know that the Members are staying here in the capital for the next few days to finish up work here before returning home. I know that it's going to be a good time to get home. I also know that Members are returning for scheduled committee meetings in both December and January. Our constituency work does not end here today.

However, since we will not meet in the Chamber again until next year, I'd like to be the first to wish all Members of the Northwest Territories happy holidays.

---Applause

Have a happy holiday season and safe travels whenever you return to your constituents and, most importantly, to your families. I look forward to seeing you back in the Chamber in the New Year.

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills and prorogue the Third Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro):** Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, good afternoon.

I would like to invite the Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Robert R. McLeod, to join me in presenting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to two Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger and Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, please come forward to the front of the Chamber. I now invite the Speaker to read the citation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, MLA for Thebacha, and Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, MLA for Hay River South, have both served the people of the North as elected officials with great dedication and they continue to demonstrate leadership and extraordinary commitment to advance the programs and services for the people of their communities, their regions and the Northwest Territories.

They are currently the longest-serving Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, as both were elected in October of 1995. Their re-election to the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly marks their fifth consecutive term, and once completed, they will join former Members Tom Butters and Ludy Pudluk as the only Members to have served a fifth consecutive term in the history of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger is currently the Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, and Government House Leader. During the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly he served as Deputy Premier, Government House Leader, Minister of Finance, chair of the Financial Management Board, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, Minister responsible for Homelessness, and the Minister responsible for Seniors. During his time in the Legislature, he has served in a number of other portfolios as well. Mr. Miltenberger also stood as chair of the Financial Management Board and has led various committees over the years.

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen is currently the Deputy Speaker of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. In addition to her work as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, she has served previously as Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister responsible for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, as well as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. During the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly she also served as the Deputy Speaker.

Honourable Minister Miltenberger and Mrs. Groenewegen, your 17 years of service for the people of the Northwest Territories is well deserving of this honour.

### Prorogation

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro):** Congratulations again to Mrs. Groenewegen and to the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger for your very impressive contributions to the people of the NWT.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the recipients across the NWT who have been honoured by receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Canada.

As we approach Remembrance Day, I would like to encourage all Northerners to join me in acknowledging and thanking the men and women who have taken part in past and present world conflicts. Especially those who have paid the ultimate price and have sacrificed their lives: We Will Remember.

I also take this opportunity to thank this Assembly for their good work this past year.

Last but not least, I wish everyone a happy and safe festive season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year in 2013.

## ASSENT TO BILLS

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012;
- Bill 5, Legal Aid Act;
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act;
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act;
- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2;
- Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act;
- Bill 14, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2013-2014;
- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3;
- Bill 16, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013; and
- Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013.

Prior to proroguing this Third Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, I wish to announce that the Fourth Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will convene on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 1:30 p.m.

Now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Third Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, quanani, koana.

---PROROGATION

The House prorogued at 5:16 p.m.

