



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013**

Pages 2545 – 2580

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

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*Minister of Human Resources*

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, March 12, 2013****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 49-17(4):  
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR BARREN  
GROUND CARIBOU HERDS

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to update the people of the Northwest Territories on management actions for barren ground caribou herds.

The new population estimates for the Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds, led by the Government of Nunavut, highlight the need for regular surveys and monitoring so we have a clear picture of herd status and can identify changes and deal with them in a timely manner.

The last calving ground survey of the Beverly herd was done in June 1994 and the herd was estimated at 276,000 animals. The survey done in June 2011 estimated 124,000 in the Beverly herd and 83,000 in the Ahiak herd. Results of other analysis done on these two herds suggest the Beverly herd has shifted its calving area about 200 to 300 kilometres north of its previous known area.

Mr. Speaker, we may never know the reason for this shift in the calving area or changes in numbers because of the limited monitoring of the herd in the past 20 years. This illustrates the critical need for ongoing monitoring so co-management partners can effectively manage caribou herds to meet the needs of current and future generations.

These new population estimates are good news. We plan on developing a proposal for a limited resident harvest of the Beverly and Ahiak herds for consideration by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

Another proposal for a limited resident harvest of the Bluenose-East herd is also being developed for consideration by the Sahtu, Gwich'in and Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Boards and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council.

We will implement the co-management boards' recommendations on management actions for these herds during the fall of 2013.

Planning is already underway to conduct a population survey of the Bluenose-East herd this June. The last survey was completed in June 2010.

We continue to work with the Tlicho Government on joint proposal on management actions for the Bathurst herd during the next three years. This proposal will be submitted to the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board this spring. The department will also be discussing the proposal with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the NWT Metis Nation. We will implement recommendations from the board this fall.

A recruitment survey of the Bathurst herd is also planned for April. This survey will provide information on calf recruitment and cow:calf ratios. This information is important in determining the trend in the herd's population between population surveys.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of caribou to the people of the Northwest Territories, our government is committed to working with our co-management partners to ensure regular monitoring of the herds is done for the effective management of this valuable resource. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As my respected colleagues on this side of the Assembly know, the job of MLA is not an easy one. We are not like Official Opposition down south. We don't oppose the government just for the sake of opposing. We, in fact, elected this government. Our job is to represent the interests of

our constituents and to build consensus in this Assembly, and this is what I try to do.

Today I would like to give credit where credit is due. On Monday we celebrated a progress that has been made on finalizing the Devolution Agreement. Congratulations to our Premier, the Aboriginal government leaders and their officials for bringing us to this historic threshold.

This is big news, as devolution is a stated priority of this Legislative Assembly. Last Friday we celebrated the Tlicho Government coming on board with this process that will bring resource revenues and increase authorities to the North.

In the Deh Cho region, it is no secret that concerns around devolution have been expressed. Our Aboriginal leadership do not want anything to negatively impact the Dehcho Process for resolving Aboriginal title and self-government issues. As the MLA for Nahendeh and as a Dene person and of the Dehcho, I, of course, share these priorities too. I have brought these issues to my constituents in meetings and in conversations with the Premier, Cabinet members and experts. In response, I have heard the Devolution Agreement cannot stop or take away from our rights as Aboriginal people.

I understand that our Aboriginal treaty rights will continue to be constitutionally protected. I also understand that land claim and self-government negotiations will not be negatively affected by devolution and that the Government of Canada can take back any land necessary from the Government of the Northwest Territories for the settlement of the claims.

My job, and our jobs as MLAs, is to ensure that our constituents' interests are heard and that their rights are protected. We have done that and I believe we need to seize the opportunities that devolution provides.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I encourage my respective colleagues in this Assembly and all residents of the NWT to consider the opportunities devolution provides. Within my own constituency of Nahendeh, I encourage the Dehcho First Nations to carefully consider the merits of devolution. Devolution offers an important opportunity for the public government and Aboriginal governments to work more closely in land and resource management. Devolution also means that important decisions around land and resources will be made closer to home with the priorities of the people of the NWT in mind.

Devolution will also provide resource revenue to the people of the NWT. It is time to stop the flow of 100 percent of the resource revenues out of the North. It

is time to bring the powers closer to home. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CHANGE ORDERS PAID TO SOUTHERN CONTRACTORS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're in our final week here in the Assembly, and over the course of the previous five weeks I've asked a lot of questions in the House. More importantly, trying to get down to the details and find some information out, I've asked some written questions to get some details to allow the departments to come back and give me the information that I really needed. One of these written questions was given back to me yesterday, and it was in regard to the GNWT contracts that are awarded to southern contractors. It just confirmed some of the questions in Member's statements that I've had in this House where we reward so many contracts to southern contractors, yet they come back with millions of dollars in change orders. What grabbed my attention was that I had only asked questions and written questions in the House here about change orders over the last two fiscal years. The number that was brought to my attention was very high and raised a red flag with me. That was near the amount of \$40 million that this government paid in change orders to southern contractors over the last two fiscal years. That needs to be addressed and that's why it was one of my very first questions, my very first Member's statements in this House when we sat in this session. It's a very important issue and it needs to be addressed.

We get southern contractors that come up to the North, that try to take business away from northern contractors, get those contracts awarded because they don't know how to do the business up in the North, they don't know what the costs are associated with doing certain types of contracts that we have in the NWT.

I've only been in the government for 16 months and I've only asked questions in terms of the time related to how long I've been here. Because I have a privilege in this job and that's to get information, that's to ask questions, that's to bring things up in this House and let the public know what our government's doing. I've got two and a half more years at this and we're going to try to get as much information as we can, but this one here, these written questions that we found out 16 months in, close to about \$40 million in change orders, that needs to be addressed, that needs to be fixed. We have to get northern jobs, northern businesses awarded those contracts so that we can develop the economic sustainability up here.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
911 EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all the recent attention lately on 911 in the territory, this definitely opens up the debate on why the GNWT still does not have a system in place, nor has the appetite to initiate the framework of a 911 emergency call centre.

Admittedly, this 911 topic has been covered many times in the past by some of my colleagues here today. We have heard from the very same Municipal and Community Affairs Minister, even back on October 15, 2009, saying that 911 would not be considered in the NWT until cell phone service was available across the territory. Now, many, even back then, had a hard time understanding why mobile accessibility was a prerequisite for 911 services. Now that the majority of our communities have the capabilities of mobile use, it begs the question again, why is this government not in the mandate of public safety for its residents?

The residents of the NWT have many more questions. Why has this government dragged its heels on making sure that all 33 of our communities have updated and real-time access to emergency action plans which could incorporate a standardized 911 system? Why has this government not initiated a framework of an integrated 911 emergency community framework call centre? Why has this government not allowed the programming of 911 calls via dedicated circuits to a centralized public safety answering point somewhere in the NWT, thus allowing for potentially more jobs in our communities? If costs were such a factor, why has this government not worked with southern established 911 call centres, like in places like Edmonton, Alberta, to piggyback on what is currently an established and tested call centre?

Public safety is a mandate of public government. Just because this government provides money for community emergency services through capital funding and gas tax funding, it does not mean our responsibility to citizens gets passed on to community governments for such 911 emergency services. Sorry, but the power for such decisions is not for community governments to prioritize. It is for the responsibility of the territorial government to standardize such service for its people.

Now that devolution is well on its way, the Premier will be looking for a new issue to champion; therefore, I will have questions later today for the Premier for his commitment on the investigative framework of a 911 call centre for the residents of all our 33 communities across the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
STATUS OF ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About 7,200 Northwest Territories residents speak one of nine Aboriginal languages. Five of the NWT's official languages have fewer than 500 speakers; six languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers, eight languages have fewer than 1,500 including South Slavey, and only one has more than 2,500 people that speak it, from the 2009 statistics.

[Translation] The government has spent \$3.5 million on Aboriginal languages and a lot of the money goes to the Dene Secretariat. The district of education also gets a certain amount of money and also towards the schools. It seems like the Dene language is starting to decline. It seems like we're also losing our language in my home community of Fort Providence. A lot of young people are finding it hard to speak their Dene language, and also in regard to the media, such as TV. Suppose if we did use the TV media to revive the language. In 1988, the Official Languages Act came into force. In 1988, this is what happened. [Translation ends]

...Aboriginal language are over 40. This age group accounts for about two-thirds of South Slavey speakers. Only 38 percent of Aboriginal people in the NWT speak their language. In the Deh Cho region, 58 percent of Aboriginal people speak their language, the second highest in the Northwest Territories after Tlicho, which is 90 percent. Only about 220 people in the Northwest Territories were able to converse in Gwich'in in 2009.

I will have follow-up questions to the Minister of ECE later on today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What a historic day yesterday. Devolution has arrived after a long and a hard-fought battle. That we've reached this point is wonderful. I am in full support of devolution and very happy. It's not something I thought I would see during my tenure here at the Legislative Assembly. I offer congratulations to the Premier, the Aboriginal governments and all the hardworking GNWT negotiations staff, past and present, who brought us to this point.

Today I'd like to follow up on an exchange that I had last week during budget deliberations with the Premier, and recent comments by the Premier. Just this week the Premier has been heard to say there will be an unprecedented level of public

engagement and consultation. We now embark on a period of public engagement and consultation for 40 or 50 days. We will then, apparently, decide whether or not to accept the terms of the Devolution Final Agreement and sign off on it. It's unclear who will be making that decision. According to the Premier, it will be the GNWT and its partners. Who are the partners, I asked. Aboriginal governments, I'm told.

As I tried to say last week, I'm seriously concerned about several aspects of the consultation plan. Just where do the opinions of the general public get considered in the proposed consultation and engagement scenario? I see no opportunity for a large segment of the public, specifically those not represented by an Aboriginal government, to influence the decision to sign off on the final agreement or not. Oh, but those residents are represented by the GNWT, is the answer. I've heard that said by one or another Cabinet Minister more than once. Unfortunately, those NWT residents do not agree with the Premier, and currently there is little trust among the general public that the upcoming public engagement will allow for those residents' opinions to be considered and appreciated.

Just what will the Premier do if there is a groundswell of public opinion against signing off on the Devolution Final Agreement? Not very much, I'm afraid. Just this morning Premier McLeod informed an interviewer that devolution is a done deal; no changes are expected. Why, then, are we wasting money on a public engagement process when it will result in absolutely no change?

I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF INCOME SECURITY PROGRAMS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General of Canada's report on the delivery of income security programs contains shocking confirmations of failure in service. For we Members who frequently intervene on behalf of constituents receiving completely unsatisfactory treatment, the findings are no surprise. The report stresses the vital importance of ensuring vulnerable citizens are supported in their times of need and help towards greater self-reliance. In many of our communities, where there simply aren't enough jobs, it's income assistance or starve. For the injured, disabled and ill, there is often no other choice.

Unfortunately, unacceptably poor service is too often the case. Of 65 client files examined, 38 did not meet one or more key program requirements.

For the Income Assistance Program, it was an incredible failure rate of 90 percent, or 18 of 20 files. Failures included inaccurate payments to clients and late payments causing financial hardship, an issue I have raised with the Minister repeatedly.

ECE is inconsistent in processes and doesn't ensure front-line workers have enough guidance or training to ensure adequate skills, competencies and understanding of program requirements. Other faults were documented. I personally know that one local non-government organization delivering services to families in crisis in the hope of minimizing rudeness and brow-beating assign staff to accompany applicants when it learns one particular client services officer has been assigned. Later today I will be sharing a poetic testimony of one vulnerable applicant's horror story that exemplifies such treatment.

Ensuring all clients are treated with respect and dignity is one of the bedrock principles of public service, not matter what the service. For income security services, it is especially critical. This principle has been reinforced formally in reports dating to the 2007 Breaking Down the Barriers Report and before.

Client service work is demanding and not everyone is suited. Burn-out rates are probably high. This is all the more reason for skills training, evaluation and keen vigilance by management. The unemployed, seniors, single parent families, the disabled, and those suffering from physical and mental ill health are already suffering. The damage to dignity must not, and I repeat must not be worsened by poor service delivery and disrespectful treatment. It's time to put this House in order.

I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT RATIFICATIONS

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to just make a few comments today on the subject of devolution and the agreement, the signing ceremony that took place here on the floor of this Chamber yesterday.

Devolution, we all know, has taken many, many years to get to the point to where it is today. As we have gone through different Ministers of Indian Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs over the years, the game has changed. We have come close to having agreements in the past, but these agreements were able to be vetoed by a minority of participants and they were taken off the table.

When the Agreement-in-Principle, the AIP, was signed here, when Premier Floyd Roland signed that with only two Aboriginal governments in the



Great Hall here, I privately said to Premier Roland at the time, it's your time, you have the football, you have to run it towards that goalpost. Now, as we see in this government, our current Premier McLeod has picked up that ball and he has run the distance with it as well.

It's not a perfect deal. It was never going to be a perfect deal. It was never going to have absolutely everything we asked for. That's not the nature of negotiation and that's not the nature of things like this. But it is a good deal. I believe that it has opportunity for becoming a better deal as time progresses and as we evolve as a territory.

I don't want people to be confused, as Ms. Bisaro said the Premier is saying it is a done deal. We've heard Members of this House say we should go to a plebiscite. Why raise the expectations of people in the public by saying, well, let's have a plebiscite, let's have an opinion poll and see what everybody thinks? In fact, this government would not be bound by any such plebiscite anyway.

We are the elected leaders. We have the majority of our elected Aboriginal leaders who have come alongside and said, this is the direction we want to go. I think that to try to undertake a plebiscite would be giving perhaps some people out there that are not happy with this deal, the false hope that this is something that could be changed to a great extent, and I don't believe that's the case. So when we talk about the consultation process, I think we need to rename it. I think we need to talk about an awareness process as to where this government and the leadership of this territory are taking this territory in their relationship with Ottawa. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON THE SPRING BUDGET SESSION

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're in our sixth week of session, our longest session on an annual basis here, and as I've indicated in these sessions here before, this is a long period of time with our extended family, and like with any family, sometimes we're short with each other and get tired of each other towards the end. I appreciate everybody here and I appreciate everybody's tolerance to my comments during the last six weeks.

During the last six weeks, we have passed a \$1.6 billion budget, which extends out to 33 communities for 43,000 people. We look at 13 departments and as we go through each department, there are staff that come here, there are staff that sit in the halls and their offices and listen to the Ledge and look at all the questions that we have for them. We've kept

a lot of them from their friends and family, and we've kept them working for the last six weeks as well. I'd like to thank them all for all their hard work.

During this session we've also seen devolution. My colleagues have talked about devolution today. I think it is a step forward. It was a big ceremony yesterday. It was a big day for the government and for the territory. I think we've moved forward. Is it the best deal? Can this deal be, like my colleague said, tweaked and made better? Definitely, and we can see a future, but at least the deal is being moved forward.

I know when we talk to our colleagues in the west, the Yukon, they see our Devolution Agreement and they're kind of looking and saying, okay, maybe we need to upgrade ours. This is a process that's taken 20 years, they tell me. Some of my more experienced colleagues tell me that it's been here since they've been here. So it's been on the table for a long time.

Yesterday we also had big discussions on the Tuk-Inuvik highway, which has taken a decade to get to here and get approval, and I think we're moving forward. The Prime Minister announced yesterday their commitment for \$200 million for this project, another big step in the Northwest Territories.

Like I said, I'd like to thank all the staff here in the Ledge, staff in the Government of the Northwest Territories that worked hard during this session, and I'd like to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work as well. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT NEXT STEPS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We in the Sahtu want to live up to our fullest potential. It's in our nature. We are hard workers and we believe in our families and we support each other. We love the land and we respect it. We live by Yamoria's laws and traditions that our elders have taught us. This does not mean that we do not want to change. Our elders tell us that we must adapt to changes if we are to survive as a nation of people. They say that we will be strong if we work together.

Our goals in the Sahtu are the same goals set out in the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly. In the Sahtu our goals are in our hearts and our minds, but, of course, the Assembly writes them down and posts them on websites for all to see.

In the Northwest Territories, yesterday the draft Devolution Agreement was signed off. Now what? We have to set out on a course to bring education and awareness to people in the Northwest Territories. I believe our Premier has a plan and he has given 40 to 60 days to come back for us to have a discussion. The Premier has said we as

MLAs are going to vote on it to see if we take it or we put it back on the table for the federal government or the next government to deal with.

At the same time, we're embarking on a process through the Northwest Territories on electoral boundaries. The next step for us in the Assembly is the constitution of the North, how we're going to work with the Aboriginal governments, territorial government and the federal government. How are we as Members in this House going to represent our people?

We come from the land in the Sahtu. We know our boundaries. The elders have told us long before the establishment of a territorial government. We've known since growing up how far we go to the east, how far we go to the west, how far we go to the south, and how far we go to the north. The elders have told us, when you go to this point in the land, that's when you know you're in another country. I ask the Members here to think about the Boundaries Commission, think about the culture, think about the First Nations.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT PARTICIPATION

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to use today's occasion to talk about the Electoral Boundaries Commission. Like other colleagues of this House, I think it's very important to make sure we echo our concern and draw out the process for people. We can't use this as an opportunity missed. We have to use this as an opportunity to grab a hold of. Democracy is so important, the worst thing we could do is ignore it because we'd hate to put it at risk.

The commission is asking for the public's input. As we often say, silence is assent. That's why it's so critical for the commission to get a good, robust point of view from our territory on what's important to people, the pillars of democracy. They want our public, and certainly our public government, to stand by and represent. It's a prescription for failure if we don't participate in some manner, and that means input. That's why it's so critical.

This evening the commission actually makes an appearance in Yellowknife at the Range Lake North School between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. If knowledge serves me correct, I believe this is the second last public appearance that they will be presenting themselves in some type of open format.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> I was there as well as a couple other of my colleagues, and we were there with... I acknowledge that they were there under the sense that there was low participation, I'm going to say it

that way. I wish there was more public. There were about half a dozen people. The last time the commission rolled through about eight years ago on advice of how to form ridings in the Northwest Territories, it had bad, if not very low, participation as well.

I want to use this time here today to talk to people about saying that this is your government. This is how we form it. This is the type of relationship we need. We need your input. It's absolutely important that democracy gets its fair representation. There are many pillars and guidelines that help form the style of government that we have, and the size of the ridings and what makes up the communities, things like language, areas where they represent, historical background, culture, but also size and population are very critical as well.

As I close, I want to leave it with this on the record: We have until March 28<sup>th</sup> for public submissions. So if you're unable to get down there and do a public presentation or speak your views, you can always e-mail and send a presentation. The last thing I'll say is that you can also submit via e-mail through [nwtbatteries.ca](mailto:nwtbatteries.ca) or, of course, you can e-mail them directly at [electionsnwt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:electionsnwt@gov.nt.ca). It's the public's report so I look forward to any feedback.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL OLYMPIAN CYNTHIA SIMMONS

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Special Olympics Canada is a national organization that's dedicated to making lives better through sport. The program consists of more than 17,000 volunteers, including approximately 13,000 coaches. They've been working with children, youth and adults for over 40 years and have over 35,000 athletes registered in their Special Olympics year-round sport programs across this country.

Today I am pleased to recognize the outstanding achievements of a member of the Yellowknife Speed Skating Club and a constituent of mine, Ms. Cynthia Simmons. As a result of her strong performance in speed skating at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Games in St. Albert, 14-year-old Cynthia Simmons was selected to participate at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, in early 2013. There were 141 athletes on the Special Olympics team selected from 87 communities across Canada.

I understand that Cynthia is a very determined athlete and she gave her heart and soul to preparing for the challenge of the games. All of her efforts and dedication paid off when she won her place on the podium twice during the Special Olympics. Cynthia received two silver medals for

her performance at the games. She finished second in the 777-metre event on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by winning another silver medal in the 333-metre event on February 4<sup>th</sup>. To add to her success, Cynthia placed fourth in the 500-metre event as well.

Cynthia co-hosted the welcoming event for Team Canada in Vancouver on the way to the Games and she was a gracious ambassador in South Korea for the Northwest Territories and for Canada.

The Special Olympics have an athlete's oath. It is: Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Cynthia, you have certainly lived up to your oath and have gone beyond your own expectations. You have made your family, your friends, your community and the Northwest Territories all very proud to have you represent us at these very honourable games. Thank you very much, Cynthia.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ramsay.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour, privilege and a pleasure to recognize Cynthia Simmons. With Cynthia today is her father Mark Simmons. Welcome.

Also with Special Olympics NWT we have Cappy Elkin and Larry Elkin. Welcome.

I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant, Ms. Wendy Morgan.

I have some other folks in the gallery today. It's a busy day. I'd like to recognize the folks from Avalon: Mr. Don Bubar, president and CEO of Avalon Rare Metals; Mr. Mark Wiseman, vice-president, sustainable development, Avalon Rare Metals, and lead interface with regulatory agencies; Mr. Richard Pratt, general counsel and corporate secretary with Avalon Rare Metals; and Mr. David Connelly, special advisor to CEO Bubar. Welcome, everyone, to the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my constituency assistant, constituent and good friend, and a very good coach from Inuvik, Ms. Maia Lepage.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize several constituents today. I'm very pleased to see Miranda Currie in the House. I will be chatting about Miranda later and recognizing her

again. Also Jacob Kass is here, and on the other side of Miranda there is my CA, Craig Yeo.

Also in the House today we have David Connelly, a resident of Weledeh. I'd also like to welcome the Avalon team. Avalon is very involved in the Weledeh riding.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to welcome the Avalon team here today. They are very involved in Mr. Bromley's riding. They're also very involved and going to be very involved in my riding.

I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant, Ms. Wendy Morgan.

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

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce or recognize Wendy Morgan, also, not my constituency assistant but she definitely helps me out when I'm in Hay River for my Hay River riding. She definitely helps me out, and thanks for all the hard work. Like I said, we've been here for six weeks so she has been very helpful.

I'd also like to say thanks to Mr. Bubar and his team from Avalon for coming here. We look forward to having them in the South Slave and working with them in Hay River.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to use the occasion to recognize a couple of constituents and thank them for being here today. That would be Cappy and Larry Elkin. They are certainly well-known stalwarts in our community here in Yellowknife, and volunteering with the Special Olympics is just one of many things of a long list of things that they do in our community.

Like my other colleagues, I too wish to acknowledge Mr. Don Bubar and his team from Avalon. I appreciate their investment in the North, I appreciate their interest in the North, and certainly their efforts to make strong partnerships with our northern communities and Aboriginal people. I thank them for all the work that they do.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise again today to pay homage to what we heard today about a very talented and world-renowned speed skater. Before she was world renowned in speed skating she was an incredible swimmer for the Yellowknife Polar Bear Swim Club and she did her coach very proud. Congratulations, Cynthia.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I'd like to thank and welcome all visitors here in the public

gallery today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings today.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Mr. Yakeleya.

### Acknowledgements

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 3-17(4): SISTER CELESTE – QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 5, 2013, Sister Celeste of Tulita was honoured with the 2013 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. She is truly an inspirational woman whose impact on families in the community of Tulita cannot be understated. She established the Fort Norman Child Development Centre in 1981 and in the 31 years since it has been open, she has given several generations of Dene and Metis community members a head start towards successful personal and working lives. A growing number of her former students are finishing up their high school and pursuing further education, and showing leadership roles in the community.

In 1995 the Child Development Centre was renamed after Sister Celeste, demonstrating the community's appreciation for her many contributions. She is especially loved for her deep respect and appreciation of the Dene and Metis cultures, skills and language, ensuring they are taught in the classrooms.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 224-17(4): EFFORTS TO ATTAIN PROVINCEHOOD

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about what's next after devolution. This morning on the radio station I was listening to the chairperson from the Sahtu Secretariat, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, talking about the next steps in the progression of becoming a province that will have its own rights and meanings of being a part of the Confederation of Canada. She talked about a constitution in five to 10 years. I wanted to ask the Premier if that is the progressional steps we take in the evolution of becoming a province. We're just about there, but we're not quite there. We just don't have that name. We have the powers now that we have negotiated them. Is that something that within this Assembly we would talk about and then move it to the next Assembly in regard to the Northwest Territories looking at provincehood?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I'm a very practical and pragmatic person, so before we start talking about a constitution, we need to get devolution done first.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** That's all fine. That's what we do here through our budgets and that. I'm asking about the leader here, looking forward to the Northwest Territories. I think as leaders around here, we are to inspire people to look at what's ahead. I have a son who is 11 years old and it's something he would look forward to and look at. Is that something they can look at and say, yes, one day, in five or 10 years? Is that something that the Northwest Territories can look at to be part of the Confederation of Canada through the means of constitution?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We already, as the Northwest Territories, are part of Confederation. I think, if I can put words in the Member's mouth, he's talking about becoming a province. We have looked at it. Right now the last time we examined it, our revenues would decline significantly. We would get approximately two-thirds less than what we're getting now if we became a province, plus we'd have to face a hurdle whereby we would have to obtain at least 50 percent of the five most populated provinces to agree that the Northwest Territories should become a province. Those are the realities that we have to deal with.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** In the North and in Canada, we are always changing and so we've got to look forward. I think we need to look at a new level of provincehood or the way the Constitution is, but the way it looks now, it doesn't look in our favour. However, I'm not too sure if Canada and the Canadian people will say, let's not give the right to the Northwest Territories people then. We can do things differently. We certainly passed the hurdle of the devolution. It's still in its draft stages. I have hope and I have hope for my people. I believe in our people. We can do this. I want to ask the Premier, is that something that maybe by the end of the life of this government that will be some of the things that we need to talk about becoming a province.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Right now I'm focused on getting the final devolution deal done to have implementation. But I have spoken to a significant number of media and every one of them asks about becoming a province. Obviously, the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada that has a declining population. If we went to become a province, we're going to have to turn that around. I look at Alberta. When Alberta became a province in the 1930s, they had a population of about 100,000. I expect that with all the potential for development and the tremendous resource potential, the road that we're going to build to Tuk, I foresee that within the next decade we could very easily exceed 100,000 people. I think at that point we'd be in a

very good situation to make the case to become a province.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can use the scenario that the Northwest Territories is the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada. We've given birth to other provinces in the Northwest Territories. We have to remember that the Northwest Territories could become the next economic boom in Canada with the Norman Wells, and the road to Tuk and the mining. It could be a possibility that the people in Canada can say, yes. We've got our work cut out for us, but I think that's something that we need to give to our people in the North. Devolution, fine. We'll do the work, but we need to take the next step and call ourselves for what it is and call ourselves a province that belongs in the Confederation, not an administrative extension arm of the federal government as we have it now.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I think, in the longer term, we can aspire to that, but right now we're going to get the devolution deal done and we're going to implement devolution. We have a good midwife; we can start moving on to provincehood.

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

QUESTION 225-17(4):  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED  
HEALTH CENTRE VISITS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I appreciate the response to my written questions. It is actually related to alcohol and drug-related emergency hospital and health centre visits. There are a lot of things in there that were brought to my attention; however, he only responded in terms of giving me stats for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. In the written question, I asked for information from the health centres in the communities.

I guess my first question is: How is the department working on getting information and reporting with the health centres in the small communities so that here, as a territorial government, we can make territorial decisions with all the information from the small communities and the health centres? How is he getting the reporting from these small communities to help us make the decisions in this House?

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the system relies on a Community Health Management Information System. This is where all

of the visits, whether they be mental health or other health visits, are recorded and then provided to the department and, actually, it's manually entered at this time. This is one of the things that we are trying to address through the introduction of the electronic medical record. But at this time they are entered and, admittedly, we are quite a ways behind on entering all the data, but we are getting caught up in some of the regions.

**MR. MOSES:** In the written responses that I had received there was a section here that patients had left against medical advice. I was wondering what the protocol was for the department when a patient leaves against medical advice and ended up at the emergency ward. What protocol does the department take or gives direction to for these patients that leave the emergency rooms?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Patients that leave the health centre that are there voluntarily, regardless of what the problem may be, are not necessarily contravening the Health Act. However, there are patients that are there involuntarily and in that case the physician can fill out a form that will detain the patient for up to two weeks. During that two-week period, if the patient chooses to leave the hospital or the health centre on their own, then the physician can ask for a peace officer to return the patient. There's also a provision within that system, in that form or that certificate, involuntary admission, to extend the two-week period.

**MR. MOSES:** The Minister was referring to the Mental Health Act. It's involuntary patients that leave against medical advice. Under Section 9, subsections 6, 7 and 8, which is an order for psychiatric assessment, direction of order to peace officers, and the authority of order, have these sections under the Mental Health Act ever been practiced in the Northwest Territories where somebody who left the hospital was actually picked up by a peace officer and taken back to the emergency ward, and given the proper psychiatric assessment that they needed? That's what I'm trying to get to, because I'm seeing the stats here and they are not very good stats to be seeing.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I don't have the specific stats on how many patients may have been returned by a peace officer to the hospital, but there is a provision in there that if a person is there under the certificate of involuntary admission and they choose to leave the hospital, then the physician can have them returned by a peace officer, RCMP, whatever. But I don't know how many times that has occurred over the past year or over the past history.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Minister said that. It gives us an opportunity to start

recording that type of data so we can know whether our government is doing a good job or not.

The main thing that I'm trying to do here is to do some education, some awareness within the department and in the health service sector in the emergency rooms. I want to ask the Minister, what is he going to be doing with this information that I've received and what he's mentioned. How is this information going to get disseminated within the department, working with other groups like the Department of Justice, so that we can start making the changes and creating policies so that we can start making change for the people that need it?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The current system allows for the health authorities to request training, and the department works with the trainers and so on to train people on the Mental Health Act. But at the same time, the same statistics that we provided to the Member, there are many incidences across the territory that would require some special attention. I will take it back to the department to ensure that the staff is fully up to speed on the Mental Health Act right across our system. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 226-17(4):  
DECENTRALIZATION OF FEDERAL  
POSITIONS UNDER DEVOLUTION

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that we've been all nice and happy about devolution, now comes the hard questions.

Hay River. It's a great place. It's open for business. We have room in our schools, we have developed land of every kind of every classification. We have industrial, commercial, residential. We have businesses in Hay River that could take on a lot more business by increasing their overhead by \$1. They have the staff, they have the infrastructure, they just need more business.

During this last budget session, we saw jobs come to Hay River, a few that were actually decentralized and a few that were actually new positions, and we're very, very thankful for that. But going forward with 175 potential new federal jobs coming into the Northwest Territories, I need to understand what the process is for a community like Hay River to, I suppose, put in our bid to be considered for bigger things: departments, divisions, secretariats, agencies. We know we can accommodate headquarters for various activities in the Northwest Territories because we're already doing it. The Power Corp, library services, Liquor Commission, to name a few.

I'd like to ask the Premier, whose responsibility does this fall under. Is this the program review office? Is it a committee of deputies? Is this the Cabinet themselves? How do we plug into how

we're going to stabilize and increase the viability of our communities outside the capital? Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this day has come, because now we can answer all the hard questions.

This is something that we've planned for. Obviously, I've said it many times in this Assembly, that decentralization is a priority for this government. There are already approximately 175 federal government positions that are located in the Northwest Territories, and there will be approximately the same amount of positions that will be transferred to the Northwest Territories. We've been working on our organizational design. We expect to have at least four new departments, and we have been waiting for the jobs and the job descriptions to be provided to us. When we finalize our organizational design, we will also identify where those positions will go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, would the Premier concur that when we are setting up jobs or activities that are now conducted by the federal government and we are setting up for the Northwest Territories, that it may be simpler to hire people to where they are going, as opposed to trying to move people from where they're already established and have their children schooled? Is this a window of opportunity now that when we are recruiting people, to have them actually go to where those jobs will be? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are a very effective and efficient government, and that is obviously our intention. It doesn't make much sense to hire people to put them in one community and then make them move to another community. For that reason, we have been undertaking inventories of available housing, office space. Where it makes sense, we will do exactly that, we will hire people to move into certain communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** As Hay River's motto goes, we are open for business. If you came to Hay River today, when the economy has been a little slow in the last few years, you probably wouldn't see as much vacancy and things that have been built on speculation for that very reason. But as a part of that inventory, I'd like to ask the Premier, could the government also find a way to ascertain people in the community. We know that 75 percent of all growth within the business sector comes from existing businesses expanding. Could part of that inventory also include canvassing who would be willing to develop infrastructure to accommodate decentralization? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We have already faced those types of situations where we've identified positions and we've wanted to put them in communities, and due to a lack of infrastructure, lack of housing, lack of office space, we couldn't find any place to put them. So a lot of times we have to park people in other centres. I think that we expect that, on a number of occasions when we do devolution and transfer positions, we may have to park people in larger centres that have the capacity before we develop additional infrastructure in other centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier knows, Hay River has a very long-established business community, the private sector. We have many multi-generational businesses in Hay River. I'm sure that if the government put out a call for expressions of interest well enough in advance of some of these moves being made, I can assure the Premier that he would get a very favourable response. The government would get a very favourable response to that, with some lead time. I'd like to ask the Premier if that's an opportunity that could be employed by this government, to give people lead time to create the infrastructure that would accommodate growth in our community. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** That would be part of our planning process, and that's something that we are actively looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 227-17(4):  
911 EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to follow up on my Member's statement on the subject of the 911 emergency call centres. It is clearly agreed by all Members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly that we support sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. Recently in this House, we've heard from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that he was considering to plan some monies for the 2014-2015 budget for the opportunities to explore 911 implementation. Yet, in the same breath, he indicated MACA did not have much money. This does not give many Members in this House the assurance that this subject is truly going to see the light of day.

My questions today will be for the Premier, who is now wandering the halls of this Assembly, looking for a new project to tempt him now that devolution is well on its way. Would the Premier agree of the need for a 911 NWT-wide emergency central call centre? Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought my next task was to go out and find all the missing caribou, but I'll take a detour and talk about 911. I agree that a 911 system would serve residents well in protecting and preserving public safety. As a government, we've been focusing on trying to build capacity in smaller communities, and to provide for some emergency and safety services.

I guess the question in my mind is if we do have a framework, if we do hire a call centre in Edmonton and we get a call from a small community calling Edmonton, how do we get a responder in a small centre if we don't have the capacity there? I guess that's the conundrum our government has been focusing on. But we do know that 911 will improve public safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Speaker, that's good news. I'll inform the caribou they're safe for another week or so. I appreciate what I'm hearing from the Premier. I appreciate the fact that this government and our Assembly are focusing on capacity in our communities, and that is a good sign. The solution to what the Premier is indicating is the formalization of all our emergency action plans across the communities. That's where the cipher is and I'm hoping it's something we'll work on collectively.

I know the Premier is well versed in the subject of the lack of 911 services in the NWT, but can the Premier reassure this House that his government, our government, will consider earmarking the appropriate money and resources for the initiation of a framework of 911 services in the 2014-2015 budget cycle? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you. I'll work very closely with my colleague, the Minister of MACA, and we'll see how well or how many action plans we've developed. If our action plans are developed to the extent whereby we can move to the next level and if committee concurs that this would be a priority, then we would seriously look at this framework that the Member is talking about. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 228-17(4):  
DELIVERY OF INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement earlier today with questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The 58 percent failure rate on case files in income security with a \$15 million annual budget is horrifying. In over half the files, we don't know if public money was properly accounted for. So we're failing in our basic duty to get the best use of funds and put them where they are most

needed, but we are also failing in our intent to reduce the potential for human suffering.

Part of the department response to the report says ECE had not finalized its audit tool at the time of the audit but that it would be completed by January 2013. What's the status of the new audit tool? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First of all I'd just like to thank the office of the Auditor General for doing the overall review of the income security. As you know, income security, the framework itself is quite large. It's a very complex file. At the same time, the nine recommendations that came to our attention as some of the areas where we knew would need some improvement. So we are working towards that.

As I stated before, we are developing an action plan to deal with all of the recommendations brought forward, and one of them is the tool that the Member is referring to. We're going to be compiling all of the information and have an action plan with target dates. Some will take some time, but all in all we will be presenting to standing committee in April. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. I'm going to skip the second question, because the Minister jumped me on that one and he's answered that, and go back to the first one. There is an audit tool that was to be completed, according to the Minister's response, by January 2013. What is the status of the new audit tool? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. There is development of an audit manual for the program auditor. That's part of the process that we're going to be developing over time and, again, this will be part of the process. There will be short-term, mid-term and long-term goals and objectives to follow through with the recommendations, and we are taking those recommendations quite seriously and we will be implementing them. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. I can only conclude that the department's response to the Auditor General that the audit tool would be in place by January 2013 has not been done. So I welcome the Minister to correct me on that, if that's the case. That would be obviously disappointing.

In my statement I outlined the case of a local social service agency that sends one of a few staff members to accompany clients to appointments if they find out one particular income support worker has been assigned to the application. Based on their experience, they know the applicant is in for a rude and demeaning experience. So complaints have been made about this to the Minister. How is it

possible that such a notorious situation could persist and what steps will the Minister take to investigate this complaint and finally correct the situation? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. As I stated, this is part of the whole complex issue that we're dealing with. The recommendations that are brought to our attention, we will cover those areas and we will be developing an action plan to deal with each and every recommendation that is brought forward. Again, we're taking those recommendations quite seriously. Those are the complex issues that came to our attention.

Again, the files that we deal with are very generic and they're very complex across the Northwest Territories. I appreciate that the Auditor General came down, provided guidance and provided direction for us to improve our programming. That's what we're doing. Mahsi.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've dealt with a constituent on an issue with the Minister's office, where paperwork was repeatedly lost, bills, proof of income and the like. Meanwhile, a woman seriously disabled by a tragic accident was left without food, piling up debt and shivering in the cold, literally. So, again, how is this possible, and what does it take, and where is the dignity in this? Can the Minister answer that question? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. We do take those case by case and quite seriously. If there are, whether it be missing documentation and so forth, we need to follow through with that. My client service officers through our department work closely with the clientele. There are some challenges that we're faced with.

As you know, income support is a very challenging file. Every day our client service officers are challenged. I'd just like to encourage them to continue working with the clientele even though they may be frustrated. At the same time, we have to provide those supports to the clientele and we provide those positive engagements continually. So I did instruct my senior staff to provide those words of encouragement to my client service officers so they can provide those valuable services continuously. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 229-17(4):  
STATUS OF ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a statement in my language in terms of the Aboriginal Languages Month. So my question is to the Minister. We all are concerned that our languages are in decline and we know parents



have a role, families, communities and, of course, government. So we have regional districts and then, of course, headquarters and departments and the Minister. I want to know where is the effort to preserve and enhance the language. Where is the concentration and effort? At which level is the most priority? Mahsi.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the Aboriginal languages, official languages, there are various roles whether it be the parents, the grandparents, the teachers, the community members, the leaders. So there are various roles and within my department, as you know, there are various initiatives, whether it be the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, the Language Strategy, and there is another symposium that's coming up next week. We want to identify the second phase of an Aboriginal Languages Secretariat.

As you know, through the budget we discussed the Aboriginal Languages Secretariat as moving forward to consolidate all of the language funding that's distributed to the language groups and having the language experts from the regions to tell us what's more pressing and what's needed, what's important to the regional groups, to the communities. So those are some of the roles that my department, the community agencies, the community school boards and also MLAs are actively involved and we'll continue to push that forward. Mahsi.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you. I'd like to thank the Minister for his response. It's been 25 years since the Official Languages Act has passed. How is that act helping in preserving the Aboriginal languages in the NWT? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I'm glad the Member asked that question. That is a very important milestone that we have encountered. Working closely with the federal government we've identified funds to offset the costs of preserving and revitalizing our Aboriginal languages, even all official languages. We'll continue to work towards that. Within our own department we have just over \$14 million when you compile all the funding that we distribute throughout the Northwest Territories. It does enhance our stand with respect to Aboriginal language, and revitalizing and preserving it.

This is an area we continue to work on with the school boards, agencies, language experts, language boards and the federal government. This past December and January we met with the Official Languages Minister at the federal level and there is continued effort to get an increase in funding. We'll continue to push that forward.

**MR. NADLI:** When will the Minister declare that Aboriginal languages are on a serious verge of decline and also at the serious stage of extinction, and call for more resources at the community level?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We do recognize that some of the languages are on the verge of being lost. We are reaching out to the regional groups such as the Gwich'in. The Gwich'in Language Centre, the Gwich'in Language Board, there are various boards involved, promoting even more. We've identified funding, as I've indicated earlier. We want those individuals to be involved. Where should the funding be invested, which areas? Which areas are now working that we funded over the years? Where can we reinvest into those language revitalization or preservation? There are groups at the regional level that we work closely with and will continue to do that.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a final question to the Minister. I think he mentioned that there is an upcoming language symposium here in Yellowknife. What are the goals of the symposium and at the same time how did the department effectively...(inaudible)...

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The language symposium is scheduled for next week. My colleague Mr. Nadli will be co-chairing with me on this. The expectation is, we want to hear from the general public, the experts in the field to give us direction, to give us guidance. We are going on the next phase of Aboriginal Language Secretariat on the long-range plan. We want to hear their input. Right now we're at the first phase of the Aboriginal Language Secretariat. It's just a basic approach and then we want to take on the second phase. That's why we need their expert advice and recommendations on what we should be focusing on. Those are the expectations that we want to hear from the general public and also the professionals in that field.

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

QUESTION 230-17(4):  
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, my questions today are addressed to the Premier, and I want to follow up on my statement and try to give voice to some of the concerns that I'm hearing from my constituents and some of the concerns that I have myself. When we were deliberating the budget, and also this week, between last week and this week, I'm hearing conflicting statements and getting conflicting information about where we're going in terms of

post-devolution final agreement and this consultation. I'd like to ask the Premier if he could elaborate for me and my constituents just what exactly the process is in this 40- to 50-day period that we're coming up on. What is the definition of the process for consultation and, as he puts it, public engagement? If I could get some definition, some specifics, that would be great.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear from the Member that she supports devolution. I'm not sure where the conflicting information is coming from because I've been very clear in what I've been saying.

We have a communications and engagement plan. The plan focuses on engagement with three key audiences, following conclusion of negotiations of the Northwest Territories Land and Resources Devolution Agreement. We will be meeting with stakeholders and communities, Aboriginal governments who are not parties to the agreement, and Aboriginal governments who are parties to the agreement. What we will be scheduling will be community information sessions. Before the agreement is approved and signed by the participating governments, it will be shared with Aboriginal governments, stakeholders, and the public to explain its contents and benefits.

This period of public engagement and Aboriginal consultation is expected to take up to 60 days. Once the engagement phase is complete, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada and participating Aboriginal governments will decide whether to approve the agreement. Signing, the approving governments will finalize the agreement by signing it in a public ceremony. If devolution is agreed to, implementation will occur.

I want to make it clear that negotiations have been completed. This is take it or leave it. We will be explaining it to the public. There is no opportunity to go back and renegotiate a bunch of changes, if that's what is put forward. If there is a groundswell of opposition, as the Member put it, then we won't sign the deal and there will be no devolution. I expect there will be little incentive for the federal government to come back and start a whole new process of negotiation.

**MS. BISARO:** I want to thank the Premier for that very thorough response. I would hope that might maybe be posted somewhere so that people will be able to go and read it, if they haven't heard it here.

The Premier has been very clear. Several times he has said it's a done deal. I think that's where I am finding it a bit conflicting. If it is a done deal, why are we bothering to go out and consult?

I'd like to know from the Minister, then, just for clarification, for those people who are not represented by an Aboriginal government, there's public engagement. If I have a conflicting opinion, if I wish to see any changes, I think I heard the Premier say that's not possible. Is that correct?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** No, I didn't say that we expect no conflicting opinions. We've heard a lot of conflicting opinions, even here in this House. I've also said that we were going to put it to a vote here in this Legislative Assembly. If you have a conflicting opinion, you can tell us when we have our team going around to all the communities or you can tell your MLA.

**MS. BISARO:** So I guess the next question I have is: What is the Premier's, what is the government's expected outcome from this public engagement and consultation that is going to happen over the next two months?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Well, in an ideal world we would educate everybody in the Northwest Territories about the draft Devolution Final Agreement and we would have the comfort of knowing that everybody supports it and everybody would vote here and pass it.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier. That's a good expectation. I expect that we won't have a groundswell of support against devolution. I think there is general acceptance and people are very happy about devolution. I guess if there's no opportunity for people to suggest changes to the agreement and if the Premier is willing to put it to a vote for Members, can I ask the Premier why he was not willing to put it to a vote through a plebiscite to the general public?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Well, I've said it before that we are the elected leaders of the Northwest Territories. We are here to represent the people of the Northwest Territories. I think we should stand up and be counted. I don't think we should be running a government by plebiscite or by referendum.

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

QUESTION 231-17(4):  
PROTECTION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS  
UNDER THE DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Much has been said about devolution today, including my Member's statement on the protection of Aboriginal rights. I'd like to ask the Premier and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, as well, about devolution and their definition of Aboriginal rights as it applies to the Devolution Agreement. My

constituents include the Dehcho First Nations, which has an unsettled claim. Maybe from that perspective to see how their rights will be protected in this devolution deal just for the public's digestion, as it were.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** In a normal situation, when it comes to treaty and Aboriginal rights, we have a duty to consult just like the Government of Canada does. With regard to devolution, we don't feel that there is a requirement for us to have duty to consult because it's our position that devolution does not infringe on treaty or Aboriginal rights. We have a significant amount of non-abrogation clauses that ensure we don't infringe on Aboriginal treaty rights. To make sure that we are very cautious, to make sure we don't miss anything, we will be doing our consulting with Aboriginal governments and making sure we adhere to our duty to consult requirement.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I'm sure part of that consultation process will be approaching the Dehcho and Akaitcho First Nations. What does the Premier see in laying out the assurances that devolution won't abrogate or derogate any Aboriginal rights that they might be negotiating currently at this point?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are still finalizing our draft communications and engagement plan, and our expectation is we will share it with committee. The principle is that when we go to the regions where the Aboriginal governments have not yet signed on to devolution, I expect that we will go to their communities with some representatives of the Dehcho First Nation Government and the Akaitcho First Nation Government. We have done it before so we would do it again. They're the best governments to tell us and make sure we don't infringe on any rights.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** How long would our government consult or work with the unsettled claimant areas like the Dehcho and Akaitcho to have them be part of the devolution of the lands and resources to the Northwest Territories?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I think it will become very clear as soon as we finish our legal and technical review and we make that draft agreement public. It won't be for an unlimited period of time. It will probably be a very short period of time, probably a year at the most, I would suspect. We're still finalizing that part. Sometime before the end of this week you should know the answer.

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

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Aboriginal groups that have signed on will get some money to help them to do that same kind of consultation work. What will

be available to the Dehcho and/or Akaitcho to help them understand devolution as well?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We haven't worked that out yet. We'd have to talk to the two governments, at least.

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

QUESTION 232-17(4):  
HIGHWAY EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2003 there was a fatal accident in the Chan Lake area. The experience was much the same as what happened here recently. As I understand, back in 2003 there was a response that the government led, so MACA initiated a new policy protocol called Highway Emergency Alerting Protocols. Could the Minister inform this House exactly what they are?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. I'll take the Member's question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Moses.

### Written Questions

QUESTION 24-17(4):  
INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM  
APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENTS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding income assistance applications and payments for all Northwest Territories communities during the fiscal years 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

1. Please provide the number of applications that were approved for each community during the fiscal years identified.
2. Please provide the number of applications that were declined for each community during the fiscal years identified.
3. Please provide the total amount of income assistance payments per community for the fiscal years identified.
4. Please provide the total amount of appeals per community for the fiscal years identified.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

## Returns to Written Questions

### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 11-17(4): FLARING AT PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION SITES

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley on February 19, 2013, to the honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding flaring at petroleum exploration and production sites.

In his first question, Mr. Bromley asked what standards will be in place in the Northwest Territories to govern gas flaring at petroleum exploration and production sites of horizontal hydraulic fracturing operations.

While not the primary regulator in this area, the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to work with other authorities to ensure a robust system is in place in the NWT to address potential impacts on air quality. As outlined in the GNWT response to Committee Report 6-17(3), GNWT departments are developing a policy framework around the use of hydraulic fracturing technologies in the NWT. This policy framework will cover, amongst other items, air emissions from exploration sites. It is our expectation that this policy framework, once finalized, will guide the GNWT and other regulators in this area.

We anticipate this work will be completed in advance of the 2013 winter drilling season.

In his second question, Mr. Bromley asked about toxic emissions at flaring sites.

An outlined earlier, the GNWT is currently working on the development of a policy framework around the use of hydraulic fracturing technologies in the NWT. This work is expected to be completed by the fall of 2013 and will address, amongst other things, air emissions.

Mr. Bromley also asked about the proximity of developments in relation to human activity.

Mr. Speaker, the primary regulator in this area is the National Energy Board (NEB). That body determines the conditions under which flaring is permitted at upstream oil and gas operations in the NWT. Detailed and acceptable design requirements for flaring and acceptable proximity to human habitation or activity are subject to standards established or adopted by the NEB.

In his final question, Mr. Bromley asked about greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from flaring sites.

Mr. Speaker, GHG emissions from exploratory flaring will be greatly influenced by the geology in the area as well as systems used by proponents.

It should be noted that NWT GHG emissions from government operations are down some 30 percent from 2007 levels. This success, along with the recent expansion of the GHG Strategy to cover government, industry and community activities, will help ensure the GNWT takes an informed approach to the monitoring and management of territorial GHG emissions.

Complementing these efforts and activities is work currently underway by Environment Canada on the establishment of GHG regulations for the upstream oil and gas industry. Environment and Natural Resources is engaged in these consultations and is expecting to see draft regulations some time in 2013.

### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 13-17(4): IMPACTS OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON WATER USE AND WATER QUALITY

I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Bromley on February 20, 2013, to the honourable Michael Miltenberger, regarding the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water use and water quality.

In his first question, Mr. Bromley asked about the comparative cost benefits of employing different methods of hydraulic fracturing.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of hydraulic fracturing treatment depends mainly on the choice of a fracturing fluid. Fracturing fluids are generally classified into three types: water-based, oil-based, and foam-based. Geological formation characteristics often play a key role in the selection of appropriate fracturing fluid.

In his second question, Mr. Bromley asked about the failure rate of hydraulic fracturing operations.

To date, there have been no horizontal fracturing operations undertaken in the Northwest Territories or records of failure. The Government of the Northwest Territories has highlighted drill casing integrity as an area for review as we move towards the establishment of a policy framework in this area. This framework is intended to help guide other regulators and is expected to be ready in advance of the 2013 drilling season.

Mr. Bromley also asked about the potential for contamination of drinking water from hydraulic fracturing.

As outlined in the response to Committee Report 6-17(3), the GNWT is working with other regulators on the development of a policy framework around hydraulic fracturing in the NWT, expected to be ready in advance of the 2013 drilling season. One of the main focuses of this work will be on the protection of surface and groundwater. In addition, the GNWT has strongly encouraged oil and gas operators to develop surface and groundwater monitoring programs prior to extensive fracturing operations. This data allows not only for the

establishment of comprehensive environmental baseline information, but allows for measurements of change over time. As demonstrated by recent drilling operations, operators such as Husky and MGM are moving forward with development of these programs as the GNWT has encouraged.

In his final question, Mr. Bromley asked about using large volumes of water for hydraulic fracturing operations.

As outlined earlier in this response, there are many different methods that can be employed when accessing unconventional reserves. Given the variety of options available as well as other variables such as local geology, it would be premature to assume that any single method will be favoured over others.

The GNWT will work to ensure that any policy framework developed in this area will address issues associated with removing large volumes of water from the surface water life-cycle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, replies to opening address. Mr. Bromley.

### Replies to Opening Address

#### MR. BROMLEY'S REPLY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to begin by just getting a bookkeeping item out of the way. In the opening address by the Commissioner and again yesterday, the Premier referred to the NWT as a hydroelectric superpower rivaling Quebec or James Bay, as the case may be. That's just not so. Quebec's current installed production is 35 megawatts. Quebec's potential production exceeds 120 megawatts. The NWT Hydro Strategy estimates the potential NWT hydro at 11.5 megawatts. So Quebec is more than 10 times the NWT's and its current production is more than three times of our total potential.

Why is this? Well, in a tour of the Manitoba Hydro that I did during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly with the Premier, we learned the difference between Manitoba and Quebec and the Northwest Territories. The first factor there was gradient. We simply do not have the flow rate needed to generate the power that Quebec and James Bay enjoy. We simply don't have the volume. Our precipitation in the Mackenzie Basin is not equal to the precipitation that they have, so we simply do not have the volume to generate that power. The loss of our glaciers as a result of climate change, obviously acting as a feedstock no longer, has not helped the situation.

But why am I making this point? What's the significance? Well, when we repeatedly give false information and impressions, we are encouraging unrealistic expectations. We have lots of hydro

power for our needs in the Northwest Territories, but we are not an energy superpower when it comes to hydro. I'm just saying, when our leaders are talking, let's get it right.

I'd like to turn to the main focus of my comments today, and I'd like to begin by acknowledging again Ms. Miranda Currie, who's in the gallery today. Thanks for coming out, Miranda. I'd like to read a poem that Ms. Currie has written to describe her experiences in seeking disability income support, and it's obviously germane because of the Auditor General's focus, and I know the Minister is focusing on this situation right now as well. Once again, thanks to Miranda for graciously sharing her personal story through the art of this poetry.

But first, a little bit of background. Ms. Currie suffered a very serious head injury in an accident in November 2011. She later suffered multiple injuries again, head injuries, as a result of the ill effects of her original injury. To this day she is continuing to strive to regain her health. She's a very spunky person and I know she will achieve that. However, she has been unable to carry on her daily life in a normal way. She has been in and out of hospitals and has received extensive neurological treatment since then, and she does suffer impairment of her speech and many motor skills. Miranda was self-employed before the accident, and she must now rely on public income support to meet her basic subsistence needs. She lives very modestly. Her ordeal with income security has hardly been a positive contribution in her effort to regain her health, and that's the topic today.

Just a few of the difficulties that she has experienced in trying to access income assistance include:

- A case worker refusal to provide accommodation assistance based on the subjective judgment that she lives in substandard housing.
- Receipts to document her rental, electrical and fuel costs were obtained with great physical difficulties and expense and visiting offices to obtain stamped and certified copies.
- Income assistance staff say they have lost the receipts she has supplied to their offices. This has happened four times. Imagine if you were saddled with this situation.
- Despite severe mobility problems and risk of re-injury, she has repeatedly been told she must come to the income assistance office for interviews, which could easily be conducted over the phone.
- She has been refused reimbursement of costs for loans received from friends in the interim to pay her fuel, power and living costs, and given the explanation that those are considered gifts.

Nice of them to make that decision on behalf of her friends.

- Treatment that lacks compassion and sensitivity to the realities of her situation, again, not a single instance, such as a caseworker hanging up on her after saying I'll see you tomorrow when Ms. Currie has said she is physically unable to attend appointments due to the effects of her injuries.
- And, finally, a late payment of support have at times left her huddled in her bed to stay warm, unable to pay oil bills and living in a home well below zero. We know what this winter has been like.

That's enough background. Her words really do speak for themselves, and once again I want to express my appreciation to Miranda Currie for her willingness to share this very personal story.

The date on it is the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2013. The poem is entitled...

#### Income Outcome

##### January 2012

I came to the office to apply for... Income. Support.

I tried to make sense of the 22 pages of forms.

Name, date, age? Fill it out, next page...

Bank accounts, investments, medical assessments.

I wondered how I could be in this situation, and tried to be thankful?

Embarrassed, I brought my papers to the "help" desk.

I felt like I was handing in a poorly written test.

You spoke to me through a hole in the plexi-glass, a pane that assumed you needed protection from citizens of a lower class.

I felt like an animal, wounded, and asking for help, "I used to be so independent, when I had my health."

Please hear my wavering voice, it is so hard for me to ask

for help to accomplish even the simplest task.

I just need a little more patience, because everything moves just a little more slow  
And sometimes I'd like to tell you how you could help, but I don't even know.

I am trying my best... *really*...

I am vulnerable and you have the power to help me.

##### March 2012

Still no supportive income, and I wonder why...

I am sitting at your desk, with a tear in my eye  
You look up from that folder of papers, you notice and say, "Don't you start to cry.  
Crying won't get you anywhere with me."

This voice reminds me of Grade 3  
and scratchy chalkboards and teachers angry with me

But I am 32, probably about the same age as you,  
give or take a year. or a few...

I am overwhelmed by the situation,  
I am tearing up in utter frustration  
I came asking you to help with this crappy hand I've  
been dealt...  
And you berate me...

And I say... I... I... I'm sorry.  
The way I have been taught to do when speaking  
with someone in authority  
Because if *they* say it, it must be valid...right?

NO...NOT VALID! NOT RIGHT!

I don't deserve to be treated like this, but this  
doesn't occur to me  
until two o'clock that night  
because I am so angry  
I can't sleep!

You had the power to help me.

##### October 2012

I get a phone call.

A case worker says, "You are missing paperwork.  
You didn't submit it all."

This blows my mind,  
because this is the FOURTH time,  
that my monthly paperwork has been "lost"

In that time, I have learned, to photocopy...  
*everything*.

Bank statements, power and fuel bills, receipts for  
rent,

I've kept track of every dollar I've spent.

So I go to my folder, and take the September pages  
out,

I pay for a taxi, so I can get this sorted out  
I don't want the payment to arrive in my bank  
account late

They make it seem like *my* fault, that's the part I  
*really* hate.

"Hi, is ... available?" I calmly say

"No, sorry she is not available today."

"Well... I am feeling a little frustrated that my  
paperwork has been lost,  
my social worker and I brought it in last week."  
"Oh yes, I remember stamping it, and putting it in  
her box."

From the office space behind, ... Walks in...

Through that plexi-glass hole I say,  
"I am sorry we have to meet this way,

I'm feeling really frustrated at having to resubmit my papers for this month and was hoping to speak to you about heating fuel for my house."

She looks at me, like she couldn't give a ... and says, "I don't have time for you, you'll need to book an appointment later this week." She turns around, walks away, I have been dismissed.

I am overwhelmed by the situation, I am tearing up in utter frustration I came asking you to help with this crappy hand I've been dealt... And you dismiss me...

The receptionist looks down, and I look around, in disbelief.

Did that seriously just happen?  
"I am doing my part," I cry.  
Then I slam my hand on the "help" desk and yell, "There is NO DIGNITY IN THIS!"

Barely able to open the door, I amble out of there with my cane beside me with the words *failure, failure, failure*, echoing inside me.

I am exercising my personal responsibility. I'm trying my best... really... But I am vulnerable and you have the power to help me.

### February 2013

I am lying in my bed, migraine in my head, under the weight of multiple blankets trying to stay warm.

It is minus 17 degrees Celsius in the house. It has been 16 days since I first called income support to remind them I need fuel. It has been 15 days since I used my rent money to pay for fuel.

It has been 3 days since that fuel run out. It has been 2 days of sub-zero temperatures in the house.

No heat, no fuel, no rent, it's cruel.

I have left numerous messages explaining the situation, My social worker has experienced the same frustrations

No one answers or returns my calls  
It is like I don't exist at all.

My eyes are tear-frosted  
I am totally exhausted  
From fighting for basic needs.

You have the power to help me.

But maybe you are tired too, exhausted from dealing with people who never say thank you who shove their entitlement under that glass when you really want to tell them to shove it... Maybe you are tired of people who take too much, and give too little even though you entered this profession to help people.

I know it must be difficult not to get jaded, your passion, dimmed by the system, and faded But YOU CAN effect the change that the world needs to see YOU DO have the power to be the one person who treats a vulnerable person kindly.

I am vulnerable and you have the power to help me.

Thank you very much, Miranda, again, for sharing this.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to leave it at that, but I don't want to say any more because I think that the power of Ms. Currie's words clearly resonate with a lot of us. I know the Minister is going to get to work and straighten this situation out with our support. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 51-17(4):  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2013-2014

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 52-17(4):  
TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY PROJECT (ITH) RISK  
MATRIX REVIEWED AS AT 11 MARCH 2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-17(4):  
GNWT RESPONSE TO INUVIK TO  
TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY (ITH) PROJECT  
REVIEW PANEL REPORT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Transportation, I wish to table the following two documents, entitled Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project Risk Matrix as of March 11, 2013, and GNWT Response to Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project Review Panel Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Abernethy.

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-17(4):  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled 2012 Annual Report on the Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 55-17(4):  
REPORT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST  
COMMISSIONER DATED MARCH 5, 2013,  
RESPECTING A COMPLAINT BY ROBERT  
HAWKINS ALLEGING A BREACH OF THE ACT  
BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID RAMSAY

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I wish to table the Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner dated March 5, 2013, pursuant to Section 102(4) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, respecting a complaint by Robert Hawkins alleging a breach of the act by the Honourable David Ramsay.

Mr. Hawkins.

TABLED DOCUMENT 56-17(4):  
CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MINISTER OF  
FINANCE REGARDING POTENTIAL BREACH OF  
FAM – AIRCRAFT CHARTERING

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the Minister of Finance addressed to me. The date is February 6, 2013. It's regarding a potential breach of the FAM 3307, Aircraft Chartering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

## Notices of Motion

MOTION 9-17(4):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
TO MAY 29, 2013

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House adjourns on March 14, 2013, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 29, 2013;

And further, that any time prior to May 29, 2013, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 10-17(4):  
GROUND AMBULANCE AND  
HIGHWAY RESCUE SERVICES

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Government of the Northwest Territories enhance its work in the area of ground ambulance and highway rescue by emphasizing training and preparation for emergencies outside of municipal boundaries;

And further, that the government bring forward legislation within the next 12 months to update the Fire Prevention Act and to make any amendments required to make provisions for ground ambulance and highway rescue services;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you.

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

MOTION 11-17(4):  
PLEBISCITE ON RATIFICATION OF  
DEVOLUTION FINAL AGREEMENT

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the



Commissioner that a plebiscite be held in the Northwest Territories on Monday, May 13, 2013, with the following question: "Should the Government of the Northwest Territories sign the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Final Agreement?"

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 17, motions. Mr. Dolynny.

### Motions

#### MOTION 8-17(4): SECONDARY DIAMOND INDUSTRY, CARRIED

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion here I'd like to read into the House, subtitled Secondary Diamond Industry.

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories produces a significant percentage of the world diamonds and is home to the largest number of producing and potential diamond mines in Canada.

AND WHEREAS diamond mining in the Northwest Territories should serve to prosper the Northwest Territories.

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories can assure the supply of rough diamonds to manufacturers, but currently exports almost all rough diamonds overseas for cutting and polishing.

AND WHEREAS previous governments made significant investment in the highly valued Polar Bear trademark which was a proven source of revenue for the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS there is an immediate opportunity to redevelop and revitalize a secondary diamond industry that would include jobs and training for Northerners and diversify our economy;

AND WHEREAS keeping diamonds in the North through a viable secondary industry offers an immediate opportunity to fully maximize the benefits of resource development in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS a successful secondary industry depends on a clear policy framework that both supports and regulates northern-approved diamond manufacturers, emphasizes local employment and training, and recognizes the priority of job security and job creation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment revise its Diamond Policy Framework to reflect the needs of a successful secondary industry by:

- securing the diamond certification process and enhance marketing of the Polar Bear trademark
- strengthening conditions for the northern-approved manufacturers with the goal of keeping diamonds in the North;
- establishing a diamond bourse to facilitate localized sorting, evaluating and rough box purchasing; and
- emphasizing socio-economic agreements where local job security and creation and a balance of skills, gender and ethnicity are paramount;

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

Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called but, Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After a long period of inactivity in the diamond polishing and cutting industry, we see the opportunity for new players who are interested in starting up. Admittedly, this is a critical time in our territory's future and we need to revitalize our thinking in the industry to put the NWT back on the international diamond stage.

Understandably, there are so many naysayers out there who, no doubt, have a concern with the past failings of the industry. I agree, we don't want to repeat the scabs of our past, but we must recognize we are at a critical impasse in our efforts to reinvigorate our secondary polishing industry. We need to create ladders of opportunity and this motion speaks to these ladders of opportunity.

We need a proper mandate and a roadmap to establish a successful future for diamond manufacturers in the NWT. We need the proper policy and framework to deal with a secured certification process. We need to enhance the marketing of the Polar Bear brand. We need to establish innovative trading solutions with stakeholders and we need to define all real commercial advantages in being the future central diamond trading hub in Canada.

This new direction, this new vision cannot be achieved with the current November 2010 Diamond Policy Framework. This is why, with the support of my colleagues today, we hope to encourage the Department of ITI to carve out a new set of footprints in this industry.

The motion itself speaks about the Department of ITI to revise its Diamond Policy Framework and to reflect the needs to fully create a successful secondary industry for the North.

The first opportunity is with the securing of the diamond certification process itself. Faith in the certification and authenticity of this program is paramount in security of the brand, and it will be pertinent that the GNWT put all the proper safeguards to reduce the risk that was experienced in the past. As well, if done efficiently, the GNWT received over \$552,000 a year in revenues through its certification process and the taxpayer would welcome back this revenue.

Next is the Polar Bear trademark itself, which has been dormant for many years. At its peak, the GNWT received over \$318,000 a year in royalties, and combined with the certification process this was almost \$900,000 a year in revenue source, which has been sorely missed by the taxpayer.

What this all translates to is opportunity; opportunity for our Department of ITI to forge a proper plan of action to promote and enhance our branding process as we re-emerge on the international market because you cannot make money unless you spend money.

The next items to this motion speak to the strengthening of conditions for our current and future northern approved diamond manufacturers. This can be achieved in many ways, but would be truly successful if our diamonds could actually stay in the North. The current diamond pipeline system is antiquated and counterproductive to achieving this success. Currently, once diamonds are produced, there is a quick valuation of these diamonds in Yellowknife and then these rough stones are shipped, depending on the mines, to either Antwerp, Belgium or London, England. There they are made available in what is termed rough boxes. These rough boxes are then purchased by our crew of northern diamond manufacturers and then shipped back to the NWT for cutting and polishing. You can see that this greatly adds to the costs of the process for our northern diamond manufacturers. It lessens our control on the evaluation process and adds significant cost to the consumer.

By this government working with the Diamond Bourse of Canada, we can mitigate this process by establishing a local diamond bourse, thus creating localized sorting, evaluating and rough box purchasing here in our own backyard. This will greatly lessen the operational costs for our northern approved diamond manufacturers, create more jobs, entice larger international banking firms to set up shop here in the North, increase the profit margins for the secondary industry and will, no doubt, translate to a better value of goods at the point of sale to the general consumer.

In essence, this is a win for the taxpayer, a win for the manufacturer and a win for the consumer.

I can appreciate that the whole process of the diamond secondary industry is complex. I further

recognize that many may be skeptical of its re-emergence on the international scene, but we have been given a second chance at this industry, and these second chances do not come along too often during one's lifetime, and we owe it to this industry to do what we can for its success and to mitigate its potential failure.

I'd like to thank the seconder of this motion, Mr. Bouchard, for supporting this motion and for my colleagues here today who I hope will be supporting the principle of this motion later today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the seconder of the motion, Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mr. Dolynny for putting this motion forward. I know, obviously, his hard work and his commitment to this process. He's framed out the concept quite well and I'd just like to speak to the fact that I support this strongly.

The Northwest Territories and the diamond industry is very important to us and that we have opportunity from private industry, from our experience in the past, that we need to look at the potential of keeping this industry in the Northwest Territories, keeping it and making the Northwest Territories more of an influence in the diamond industry throughout the world.

As Mr. Dolynny has indicated, this motion indicates that we want a policy framework implemented by the government, something that would allow us more potential. We know that this is a great resource that we have in the Northwest Territories and we need to maximize what we get out of it for the Northwest Territories. Like we have been talking about, this whole Assembly is trying to maximize the potential of the Northwest Territories, those resources that are here, maximizing the opportunity that we can get out of them.

Mr. Dolynny also spoke about the Polar Bear, putting them back on the diamonds and doing that evaluation. I think that's very important. Also the revenue, the tax revenue that comes with the assessments. I think the Department of ITI should look into this and getting those rough boxes to stay in the Northwest Territories so that people from the industry, diamond industries throughout the world, will come to the Northwest Territories and look at these rock boxes. Right now they're shipped out of the territory, out of the country. I think we need to take advantage of this opportunity that we have. We don't know how long this opportunity... I know the diamond mines are looking for expansions and there's new ones coming on, but we only have a certain window that these resources will be in the Northwest Territories. We need to make sure that we're maximizing them right now. This is definitely an opportunity. We need to follow through with it.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in favour, and certainly voting in favour, of this particular motion. First off, I want to thank Mr. Dolynny for his significant amount of work that he's put behind this initiative. It's easy to be able to read off the motion here, but what the public doesn't see is how much work he put behind the scenes and how many questions he's taken to Members, and how he has brought it forward in a stronger version from the very first moment he said he wanted to bring forward this type of initiative. He did that in a very collaborative approach, so I think he deserves certain credit for working with Members and getting the support of Members on this particular initiative. A lot of work has brought it here today.

The reason I am speaking in favour of this motion is because it simply makes sense. A diamond bourse in the Northwest Territories, by all means, is probably the next logical step. It seems relevant that we would want to repatriate some of the goods that we take out of the ground and be involved in the development of them before they are sent out in the world, cast to the world and off doing what they do. It helps develop a local product. Creating a bourse here in the Northwest Territories demonstrates our next evolution of where we want to be in the diamond industry. I think, as I've said for many years, that we have undersold ourselves in this particular area and business, and I think there's way more that we can do. Israel or Antwerp doesn't dig up diamonds but the world has gone to them. There's proof in the pudding of the quality of the diamonds here in the Northwest Territories and the world has seen the Northwest Territories for that. Why aren't they coming here to buy the diamonds? Why aren't they coming North to buy the boxes and taking their particular goods and investment, and getting them out of here rather than flying all over the world, whether it be Botswana, Antwerp or London? They go to all of these places that don't have diamonds. Let's get them to come to the North where they have diamonds.

This could create a new industry, help continue to revitalize the diamond brand, and it also can help stimulate other development in our economy. We could have a flux of international travellers coming into the North and getting to know the North, identifying the North from north, south, east, west. There is so much more to the North and this could be part of the reason why they get here and then they start examining what else we have. This is a real initiative that could have real returns.

In closing, I just want to emphasize how important such a small, little action of this particular nature is, yet at the same time it could have such a significant, long-term response. Let's continue to

capture the eye of the world by supporting this motion. I think it makes a lot of sense, so I hope my colleagues will support it as well.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I cannot vote in favour of this motion. I will be abstaining. The Department of ITI is doing a lot of the work that's asked of this motion. I don't think that it realistically would be possible to set up this sort of branch in the Northwest Territories. Antwerp is the major hub in Europe that deals with diamonds and Botswana is the next one. That's because we only provide roughly 15 percent of the world's diamonds. I think this would be a very bad move if we give direction to ITI to follow through with this. Long term I think it would hurt the Northwest Territories. Right now I think we do very well and the diamonds that are provided in the Northwest Territories are not taken advantage of. I think that needs to be followed through with. For that reason I cannot support this.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is stating in many cases and to a large extent what the government is already doing. The government of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly directed significant resources to update and improve the Diamond Policy Framework in 2010-2011. Updating the framework was a significant achievement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, and involved extensive consultation with industry and other stakeholders to assure a comprehensive approach. At that time the government worked closely with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, Government of the Northwest Territories departments, the operators in the Northwest Territories diamond manufacturing industry, the Northwest Territories diamond mines and the City of Yellowknife for their input and involvement in establishing a revised framework.

We have been working within the updated Diamond Policy Framework to support and encourage the growth of the diamond manufacturing industry in the Northwest Territories. The revised framework provides a more streamlined and flexible approach, including reducing the red tape associated with the approval process for gaining approved northern manufacturer status. We are confident that the recently updated Diamond Policy Framework contains all the necessary considerations to establish and maintain a secure and vibrant secondary diamond industry in the Northwest Territories.

The revised framework is more effective in many ways. It outlines the GNWT's role in facilitating investment in the secondary diamond industry, and

eliminated loan guarantees to existing and potential approved NWT diamond manufacturers. It guides potential diamond manufacturers in submitting their business proposal for consideration and become an approved NWT diamond manufacturer, or ANDM. When a manufacturer is granted approved NWT diamond manufacturing status by the GNWT, they are able to purchase from a special allocation of NWT-mined rough diamonds and NWT diamond producers. ANDMs must secure rough diamonds purchased from this special allocation in the NWT. The GNWT monitors ANDM purchases and their operations to ensure the diamonds are mined, cut and polished in the NWT. Crossworks Manufacturing continues to manufacture high quality cut and polished diamonds from the Northwest Territories. Deepak International Ltd. has been approved as an approved NWT diamond manufacturer. We are pleased that the company is moving forward with plans to re-establish and grow the secondary diamond industry.

We have confirmed that the manufacturing of NWT diamonds in the NWT will recommence shortly. As we speak, state-of-the-art equipment is on its way to the territory to be placed in the new factory. We have also reached an exclusive agreement for the use of the Polar Bear trademark with Deepak International. Our diamond certification process is in place and remains ready to reinstate certification as soon as manufacturing recommences.

With regard to the establishment of a diamond bourse, we continue to work diligently to establish the presence of a diamond bourse in the NWT. A meeting is planned with the bourse here in Yellowknife in April and we hope to reach a successful conclusion to those discussions shortly. Negotiations are underway with Harry Winston Diamond Corporation – soon to be renamed Dominion Diamond Corporation, DDC. These discussions are the first step in securing a formal diamond allocation agreement with DDC for a portion of the production from their diamond mining interests in the NWT.

As Members of the government know, we continue to work to establish socio-economic agreements for proposed new mines and are encouraging existing mine operators to meet their commitments in socio-economic agreements. The GNWT will continue to work closely with the operating diamond mines, potential and current NWT diamond manufacturers, and the SCEDI to ensure the greatest benefits as possible come to the residents of the NWT.

We do not want to get ahead of ourselves and undertake revising a policy framework that has proved to be successful since its last revision only a few years ago. We appreciate the interest by the Members in the diamond industry. Since this is a direction to government, we will be abstaining.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. I will allow the mover to have closing remarks. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm both pleased and disappointed in the same breath. I'm pleased that I'm hearing from Cabinet that there are some functionalities that are occurring in due process with respect to some of the key elements of this motion. However, there are other areas of this motion to which are not moving at the same speed of light as I think are hopeful by many Members here today.

I want to thank Mr. Bouchard, who seconded the motion, and I appreciate his focus on the advantages of this opportunity as he mentioned here today. I thank Mr. Hawkins, as well, who spoke to the motion and mentioned the collaboration that came forward to push this motion on the floor of the House. I appreciate his angle on how to repatriate the industry with a tourism potential. I think that's a novel idea.

In the end we're looking for success. We're looking to help mitigate the potential failures of the past and to create the ladders of opportunity that are expected for the business sector and expected for our economy to flourish. With that said, I will be asking for a recorded vote.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Member is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

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

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

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those in favour, nine; all those opposed, none; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Before, I rushed into motions. I'm going back to item 16 of the orders of the day, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Notices of Motion for  
First Reading of Bills  
(Reversion)**

BILL 5:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 3, 2012-2013

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013, be read for the first time.

BILL 6:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2013-2014

I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 43-17(4)... Thank you. It's so busy up here it's hard to keep all my papers sometimes.

---Applause

You know it. Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 2, Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act; Committee Report 1-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report; Tabled Document 43-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012; Tabled Document 44-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012; Tabled Document 45-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013; Tabled Document 51-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. The bills and other matters have been read into the House already today so we won't need to repeat them. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The committee wishes to review Tabled Document 43-17(4), Tabled Document 44-17(4), Tabled Document 45-17(4) and Tabled Document 51-17(4).

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Great. We'll commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Welcome back, committee. We're dealing with Tabled Document 43-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. We'll be moving to Minister Miltenberger for opening comments.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. This document outlines an increase of \$6.810 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2011-2012 fiscal year for the Department of Transportation to provide appropriation authority to record the year-end valuation adjustment on the long-term debt associated with the Deh Cho Bridge Project.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Do you have witnesses you'd like to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort our witnesses in, please. Thank you.

Minister Miltenberger, if you can introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I with me the deputy minister, Mike Aumond, and the deputy secretary to the FMB, Sandy Kalgutkar.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Kalgutkar, Mr. Aumond, welcome back to the House. General comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** We'll go into detail. Committee, we are dealing on page 5 of the supplementary appropriation, infrastructure expenditures. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if I can get a little bit more detail from the Minister on what this expenditure is for again.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. For that we'll to Mr. Kalgutkar.

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Every year the GNWT has to record the value of the outstanding debt at its real value versus its nominal value, so what this adjustment does is gives us an expenditure appropriate authority to do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Kalgutkar. Committee, again, page 5, Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$6.810 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Sorry, Mr. Chair. I'm just not quite there yet. We are re-evaluating things and so is this a transfer. No. This is a net cost. No, it's not a net cost either. Maybe if I could ask for a little more explanation. I know there's a straightforward explanation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to Mr. Kalgutkar.

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Every year, as the Member knows, the bonds are real return bonds, so every year at year-end we have to record the bonds at their real value, and what this appropriation is for is it gives the government the appropriation authority to record that adjustment.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That's ringing bells now. Have the values of the bonds gone up or down?

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** As of March 31<sup>st</sup> the outstanding principal of the bond is around \$182 million.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I understand we're approving \$6.8 million. Is that recognizing the value of the bonds have dropped that much?

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** I stand corrected. The value of the bonds as of March 31, 2013, are about \$180 million, and that appropriation authority recognizes that adjustment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Kalgutkar. Committee, again, we're on page 5, the supplementary appropriation. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$6.810 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.810 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Okay. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 43-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** We'll go to Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 21-17(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE  
EXPENDITURES), NO. 4, 2011-2012,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 43-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 43-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, if you like to, we can continue with Tabled Document 44-17(4). Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. We will now go to Minister Miltenberger for opening comments.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. This document provides an increase of \$591,000 for operations expenditures for departmental over-expenditures in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

During the 2011-12 year-end process to finalize the GNWT financial statements, adjustments were made to departmental expenditures to ensure the statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The 2011-12 year-end process identified a number of adjustments that resulted in departments exceeding their appropriation authority.

Section 36(4) of the Financial Administration Act provides the Minister of Finance authority to submit a supplementary appropriation bill to the Legislative Assembly to finance any departmental over-expenditures resulting from the year-end process.

Appropriation authority is therefore being sought for the following two adjustments:

1. \$247,000 for Education, Culture and Employment for over-expenditures as a result of an accounting change in amortization expense; and
2. \$344,000 for Transportation to record expenses originally recorded as work performed on behalf of others as operational expenses.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. If I can get you to maybe join your witnesses at the witness table who are already in the House.

General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** I am hearing detail. Committee, if I can get you to turn to page 3 of the document. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, advanced education, not previously authorized, \$247,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$247,000. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to ask a question here. The description indicates that this is a department over-expenditure, but then it also says it doesn't represent an additional outlay of cash. Could I just get a bit of an explanation as to why we have an over-expenditure that doesn't actually affect our bottom line, from the sounds of things? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through the year-end process, there was identified that there were some assets that had an amortization life of over 40 years and they're vertical assets or building assets. Our accounting policy states that the maximum life is 40 years, so we adjusted the life of those assets back from over 40 years to 40 years and that resulted in increased amortization expense to the department for those assets in the amount of \$247,000. So it's a non-cash item, but we still need to record the appropriation. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Aumond, for the explanation. That's all, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Committee, we are on page 3, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, advanced education, not previously authorized, \$247,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$247,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Page 4, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012. Transportation, operations expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$344,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$344,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree that we've concluded consideration of Tabled Document 44-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operation Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. We'll go to Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 22-17(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 4, 2011-2012,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 44-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 44-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee wish to continue with Tabled Document 45-17(4)?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Opening comments, Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. This document outlines an increase of \$16.417 million in operations expenditures for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The major items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. A total of \$5.3 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for increased costs associated with adults and children in residential care outside the Northwest Territories.
2. \$4.7 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for increased costs for the provision of health care services to non-NWT residents, which will be fully offset by recoveries from other jurisdictions for services for their residents.
3. \$2.3 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for increased costs for medical travel.
4. \$1.2 million to report a special warrant approved on December 14, 2012, for the Department of Transportation to fund incremental work for the Mackenzie Valley winter roads. The total costs associated with this work will be fully recovered from industry.

I would like to note that in total, \$8 million of the \$16 million supplementary appropriations request is offset by federal or other revenues.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Miltenberger, if you'd like to join your colleagues at the witness table. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Okay, committee, if I can get you to turn to page 3 of your document, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Human Resources, operations expenditures, employee services, not previously authorized, \$921,000. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a general question with regard to all of these expenditures. These were unforeseen in this budget year, that's why they're here. So to the Minister, I understand that we have a contingency fund or we have a reserve for both infrastructure and for operations budgets. So a couple of questions. What is our reserve for the 2012-13 budget year for operations and how do all the items in this particular supplementary appropriation affect our reserve fund? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a \$10 million reserve and we're over that. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** If the Minister could advise how much over that we are. Thank you. What is the total right now of our reserve? We are minus how much? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. In concluding this supp currently before us, it will be \$18.961 million.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for the information from the Minister. We're almost at \$19 million in the hole, so to speak. I appreciate that we have unforeseen costs periodically, but I would have thought with a reserve of \$10 million and we're now \$19 million in the hole, that means we overshot our budget by \$29 million. Are there specific large items that we can reference that caused us to be so much in the hole or is this an accumulation of a number of smaller things that have added up to this deficit of \$19 million?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We're going to do some base adjustments to increase the amount of the reserve. As you go through the list, as Mr. Aumond has said a number of times, we were dealing last year with flood, fire and pestilence. As well, we've had some significant increases on the cost for services for individuals in care for Health and Social Services.

**MS. BISARO:** So just one last question. I know that my experience has been that we regularly encounter extra costs for people in care, particularly

people in care down south but also physician services that we access from down south. The Minister mentioned changing the base budgets in a number of places. Is services for people in care and physician services and so on, hospitals out of the territory, are those the areas where we're increasing base funding, or maybe can the Minister tell me what departments we are increasing base funding for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are considering base adjustments for both children and adult out-of-territory care, medical travel, and for blood products.

**MS. BISARO:** That pretty much answers my questions. I'm done. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Page 3, Human Resources, operations expenditures, employee services, not previously authorized, \$921,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$921,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 4, Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.212 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.212 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question on the contribution to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Is that a similar type of support they are also receiving in Norman Wells because of the conversion of the natural gas, and what things they have to do to prepare for the conversion to other sources of energy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger. We'll go to Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct; part of the utility costs are for Norman Wells for conversion of their units and increase in utilities for fuel and also for electricity.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The town of Norman Wells, through the public housing, I guess the Public Housing Program, there shouldn't have any glitches in terms of the conversion and the way it's working out.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is to make this as seamless a transition as possible.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I would again ask if the whole town of Norman Wells, through this contribution to the Housing Corporation, will see all the units in the town of Norman Wells receive this type of support



as we're giving to Inuvik because of the conversion of natural gas to synthetic natural gas.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As we move forward with the resolution to the energy challenges in Norman Wells, they will be getting, of course, the full support that we have to offer both on the Housing Corporation side and other government agencies as required. But that work is still underway and not quite clear in terms of the final fix that we're looking at in Norman Wells. There has been a significant amount of move to biomass, for example, for heat. There was initially about a \$39 million ask by the community for a major district heating, which I believe they've moved away from, so we're working with them, plus we're continuing to convert our own facilities, as we've indicated through this budget, to biomass. We will be having that ongoing discussion with Norman Wells as things become clearer in terms of next steps.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to the discussion and having discussion in the House here. My colleague Ms. Bisaro has indicated we're pretty well in the hole here, so I hope we have some reserves left over for that type of discussion to support the town of Norman Wells on their conversion to what source of energy that we're going to direct our funds to. I look forward to the discussion. I think the Minister has pretty well answered my questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. More of a comment. We're going to go to Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also wanted to ask a couple of questions on this. I know we're putting in some millions of dollars to basically buy down the electricity rate throughout the NWT until a couple years down the road when we're done with the increases, but I see here that we're also covering them as they got bought down. They actually get parcelled out to the various customers and, obviously, GNWT is the biggest customer here, including the Housing Corporation. This is all on top of the 11 point something million for the Territorial Power Subsidy, so I don't think it's got anything to do with that. When all is said and done, what if the cost of buying down is just going to be out of sight now but still being paid by GNWT, because we, as their biggest customer, roll it out of a subsidy into simply paying our bills?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government doesn't get any subsidies. We pay the fully burdened rates. I'm not sure if that answers the Member's question.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I guess maybe we can take this up another time because it does get complicated, but let me ask, what is our access for Canada's

disaster relief here. I see that referred to in the material in helping recover costs, these costs.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** That is in reference to the flood at Nahanni Butte.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Okay. So is this \$1.212 million strictly with respect to the Inuvik situation?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There is \$461,000 to pay for increased utility costs for public housing in Inuvik, mainly resulting from the conversion from natural to synthetic natural gas; \$669,000 to provide for housing repairs in response to the Nahanni Butte flood, which will partially be recovered from Canada; and then \$82,000 to fund increased electricity costs resulting from the approval of the interim rates set by the PUB.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for that explanation there. Returning to my original question, the first point and the last point show that due to increasing costs, which are accruing as electricity bills, these new costs are accruing because we are no longer subsidizing. As each year goes by we spend less money subsidizing, and what happens is it disappears from the obvious expenditure and becomes part of our utility costs. My question is: What proportion of the millions that we're now spending to subsidize beyond the annual Territorial Power Subsidy Program to help with electricity costs are we absorbing into government utilities that we just pay as the normal course of events?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We, as a government, have put in subsidies to cushion the rate shock. As well, on an operational basis, governments don't get any type of subsidies, so we pay out the cost to cushion, or the subsidy, and then we pay the fully burdened rate for the service.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I think I've got it. This is just simply the higher cost of electricity. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Committee, we're on page 4 of the Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.212 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.212 million. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you. Page 5, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, public safety, not previously authorized, \$349,000. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do we know yet what proportion of that will be recovered? I'm assuming that the total in Nahanni Butte now is the \$1.964 million, if I'm reading that right, which usually I'm not. If I can get confirmation on what the

total is, recognizing that we're dealing here with the \$349,000, and maybe get some sense about if we any idea on what we will be recovering...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. If I can just get you to finish that last part of your sentence, please.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Sorry. I dragged off there. To see what will be recovered through the Disaster Relief Fund. I know it won't cover all, but I think we were hoping it will cover a lot of it. If I can just get that completed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that, we'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's estimated at approximately \$865,000 of the \$1.018 million. Expenses incurred will be recovered under the DFAA, additional costs being incurred by DOT mentioned, in the amount of \$1.028 million will be added to the final claim, which is anticipated to be filed with the Public Safety Canada prior to March 31, 2013. Maximum recovery is up to 85 percent.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Committee, we're on page 5, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, public safety, not previously authorized, \$349,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$349,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. We'll go to page 6, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$732,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$732,000. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand that this amount is for the increased electricity rate. What year are we in that series of four years in increases?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in year two. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Am I correct, then, in assuming that we approved a similar amount last year, probably a little bit less for the increase last year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to Mr. Kalgutkar.

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the 2012-13 fiscal year. I apologize to the Minister. I misled him. This is actually the first year of the 7 percent increase. So this is the first year that the department is seeing the rate increase. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chair, that's why I wanted to confirm that we have three more years of increases that is above this rate to go. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Page 6, committee, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$732,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$732,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Page 7, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$1.402 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** On page 7 it says to provide funding to reflect the impact of projected shortfall for costs of blood and plasma protein products. Do you know how many people in that that reflects on the cost here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, could I just get the Member to repeat that? I was just putting my earpiece on.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya, if you could repeat that, please.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Okay, the Minister has his earpiece on now? To provide funding to reflect the impact of projected shortfall for costs of blood and plasma protein products. I'm trying to figure out how many people or how much is that initially in the North here. It's quite a high number.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Yes, the Minister is listening and hearing. Go ahead, Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will change. Some of these costs could be attributed in the last year it was two individuals that drove the costs, that some of the blood products are very expensive depending on what may be ailing the individual clients. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, anybody that needs medical attention or services, certainly my prayers go out to them. I just want to look at the numbers here. Is this not recoverable to any type of federal government program? This is our cost to our own for having the best health care services in Canada?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** It is, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Has it been projected by the Department of Health and Social Services? Is this a cost that we will incur every year in our budget? Hopefully these people can get well. That's the ultimate goal here and something that is not a fault of anybody. Is it something that we project to see other people in the Northwest Territories that will have this type of disease and we need to take care of them?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** This is a demand-driven service. Given all the factors that affect the health of Northerners, the age, the lifestyle issues, genetic issues, environmental issues, we anticipate that, yes, there will be an ongoing demand. The blood services part of Health and Social Services is one that has seen constant growth. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Like I said, I certainly send my prayers to the people who have to deal with this issue. So far the Minister said there are two individuals. That's half a million dollars for each individual to seek this type of specialized treatment. Certainly, no individual in the Northwest Territories can cover the cost for this type of treatment program. Certainly, we do the best we can in light of the other pressing issues that we have in the North in regard to how we prioritize our costs with treatment and medical needed by people in our communities or in the North. I just want to make note of that.

It's a point where, even for us sometimes, we have to talk about the uncomfortable issue of treatment and who do we cover, because we went through that discussion already in past governments as to medical services in the Northwest Territories. Again, I'm hoping the people who need this for themselves would get better. I'm not too sure. That's more of a comment, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We will treat it as a comment, then. Committee, we are on page 7, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$1.402 million. Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$5.561 million. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I wanted to ask a question here under the health services programs. The funding for projected increased costs for the provision of health care services to non-NWT residents, I just want to totally understand this. This is a lot of money; it's \$4.7 million. This cost is for the provision of health care services to people who don't live in the NWT. I gather that it is recoverable from the jurisdiction where these people live. I'm struggling to understand how we could underestimate such a large number. Maybe I can get an explanation from the department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is another service that is demand driven and fluctuates. The target adjustment of \$4 million has already been approved in principle for 2014-15. We are looking at trying to... This is one of the areas where we want to make a base adjustment. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. It's good to hear that we're making a base adjustment. I'm just wondering, when we give approval for appropriation of funds, basically after the fact the way we are doing here from what it sounds like, is there a financial impact on us? Are we spending this money and getting reimbursed at a later date? Are we paying interest costs or whatever? Basically, is it costing us money to be out this \$4.7 million? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MS. BISARO:** Okay, so if we're out money, is it money that is recoverable? If we are paying interest on it, who are we doing the favour to and can we get the money back from them? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, of course other jurisdictions ask the same of us. For example, with all of our students down south, if someone gets sick, then they bill us. They have to be put into the process and get reimbursed. I'm not aware of the particulars, so I see the Minister of Health is right here and he could probably give us maybe enough detail for the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We'll go to the Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the inpatient outpatient reciprocal billing rates that are approved with an Interprovincial Health Insurance Agreements Coordinating Committee so that the department's representative on committee presents a territorial inpatient rate for approval and this rate is calculated by the department based on actual prior year's adjustments for inflation. So that's how we do the recoveries of the actuals and to make sure that we get all of the recoveries, there are some adjustments made.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** That's good. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Committee, we're on page 7. We're going to commence at the second bullet point of health services, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$5.561 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$2.302 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is for increased costs for medical travel. I just want to know what our total budget for medical travel is. That's obviously a substantial increase, but perhaps not if the total medical travel budget is very large. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projected cost will total about \$30.8 million for 2012-13.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. So this would be something like an 8 percent increase over the year, projecting a little bit here. Recognizing this, what's the projection that we've used for '13-14?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll go to Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will be looking at a base adjustment for next year. I guess the trend for medical travel hasn't been, even over the last number of years it's gone up and gone down. Again, as the Minister stated, it is a bit of a demand-driven activity. So the rationale for the increase this year is an increase in the number of patients and also the cost to transport the patients as well. So it's a combination of the two that's driven this, but as I mentioned earlier, this will be one of the activities where we'll be considering a base adjustment, given what we've seen over the last couple of years. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. Obviously, we have approved the budget for '13-14. So I assume Mr. Aumond just talked about the '14-15 year?

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you. That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Committee, we're on page 7, supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$2.302 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Community wellness and social services, not previously authorized, \$5.9 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In some ways similar questions with the adults in residential care. These are increased costs. What are our total costs, and while we're at it, is this also sort of uneven year to year, or is there any kind of a trend here? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The trend has been slow and steady

increases. The information we have here indicates that there was \$1.2 million in 2006-07. In 2012-13 that number, from the information I have, is \$8.6 million. In 2006-07 it was for 35 adults. For 2012-13 it was for 55 adults. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I wasn't writing and hearing fast enough, but did I hear \$8.6 million was our base for this year and the \$2.864 is on top of that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For clarification I'll go to Mr. Kalgutkar.

**MR. KALGUTKAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. For southern placements in adults, the total projected expenditure is for '12-13 at \$8.6 million. Also included in that activity is costs for psychiatric services associated with those clients, which is around \$1.3 million. Total expenditures for that area are about \$10 million for '12-13. For children in southern placements, total expenditures there are around \$7.6 million for '12-13. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. Obviously, it looks like, according to those figures, we're talking about a 28 percent increase for adults and something along those lines for children. It seems like an extraordinary increase there to me. Is there any explanation for that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is another demand-driven area, but there has been a steady increase. The program review office, one of the tasks there that have been given is to look at these areas. One of the questions that has occurred in the past is, is there a sufficient capacity in the North or can the capacity be built in the North to have the facilities up here to repatriate those services. We put in facilities in Hay River, for example, to do that. Over the years, way back, Trailcross was built. There's been other receiving homes built to try to repatriate services, the Territorial Treatment Centre up here and now we've done that with the thought that we would be able to minimize our reliance on southern placements, and that is the case for a period of time, but over time, as the statistics show, the demand creeps back up. So we're looking at that area in terms of not only efficiencies, but is that a service when you look at the specific case requirements of all the individuals, adults and children, can we have and do we have the capacity to put the infrastructure in place, but also have the trained staff and keep that money in the North. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. I appreciate the Minister's comments there. I think it's definitely a concern. I am aware, too, of the work we've done to repatriate people, adults anyway, and of course we did do a thorough look at this with the Child and

Family Services Act review during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly and made a lot of recommendations. Had they been in place, I suspect we shouldn't have this increasing problem, at least with the children side and ultimately with the adult side as well.

Can we expect to see those recommendations put in place during '13-14 to start to deal with this? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. We are going to apply ourselves and resources to answer the questions that we've been talking about in the House today and we'll be coming forward with the cost projections. We have to do the needs analysis almost on a client-by-client basis to see how different and how varied they are, to sort out those complexities, but we intend to do that in the coming year so we can make some hard decisions about the potential to first repatriate and try to identify with more clarity the trends, and what do we need to do on the prevention side. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. I appreciate that we're going to look at this and figure out how to try and repatriate people, including children. I guess the frustrating part is the Standing Committee on Social Programs did have a close look at this, made recommendations. I don't think the program review office needs to redo that work. What's needed now is some implementation on those recommendations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll take that as a comment unless Mr. Miltenberger would like to reply. Go ahead, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not going to reinvent the wheel here. We are going to look at the work that was done, but with an eye to trying to identify costs if we proceed with repatriation. The client base is constantly changing so we have to make sure and do that review, as well, to make sure we know what the needs are. We are going to make full use of the work that was done by committee.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister's comments there. I just would observe that many of the recommendations were of a systemic nature and totally in line with the prevention side the Minister had mentioned. I hope the Minister will take account for that and put some of his effort into implementation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I believe that was asked and answered already. Page 7, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community wellness and social services, not previously authorized, \$5.9 million, total department, not previously authorized, \$15.165 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 8, Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$316,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$316,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 9, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1 million. Income security, not previously authorized, \$956,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.956 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The million dollars, is that to look after Nunavut artifacts at our cost? Is that what that's all about?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's to compensate us for providing that service to Nunavut.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I just want to say that I think this is a responsibility of the government, and particularly in this situation where the Northwest Territories split in half – half of ourselves became Nunavut – I think there's a real responsibility to look after artifacts until such time as Nunavut is able to take that on. I appreciate the work that's been done to secure that million dollars and help us with that responsibility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 9, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1 million. Income security, not previously authorized, \$956,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.956 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 10, Transportation, operations expenditures, highways, special warrants, \$1.2 million. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question about this special warrant. It would seem to me that we should have had a better understanding of the costs of our winter roads. We should have been able to gauge ahead of time that we were going to have this expense. Why did we need to do a special warrant for this particular work?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular request deals with our business with the industry, working with industry to construct winter roads, and they compensate us fully for that and was done during a time when there was no opportunity for the Legislature to meet. This is working with industry, they assist us and give us

direction on the winter road construction and they compensate us.

**MS. BISARO:** So just to follow up, this is not activity. I gather this is, I think this is in the Sahtu area or from Wrigley and up, but I gather that this is not an activity or the activity in that area could not be foreseen when we were doing the budget. Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. The request was unanticipated and it came at a time, as the Minister said, between sessions and the work had to take place at the beginning of the winter. It was to provide some services for industry for which they provided compensation to the Department of Transportation for.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 10, Transportation, operations expenditures, highways, special warrants, \$1.2 million. Highways, not previously authorized, negative \$5.025 million. Marine, not previously authorized, negative \$409,000. Total department, special warrants, \$1.2 million. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$5.434 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 45-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 23-17(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 3, 2012-2013,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** I move that consideration of Tabled Document 45-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 45-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, if we can continue, we'll look at Tabled Document 51-17(4).

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Mr. Miltenberger, do you have any opening comments?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-14. This document

outlines an increase of \$3 million in operations expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The major items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. \$1.670 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to increase funding for prevention and promotion services.
2. \$600,000 for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to increase funding identified for increased investment in tourism marketing activities.
3. \$400,000 for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to implement a program to replace electric hot water heaters with fuel-fired hot water heaters in communities that depend on thermal generation of electricity.
4. \$330,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services to establish midwifery services in Hay River.

Also included in the supplementary estimates is a transfer of \$100,000 from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to increase funding to the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. If I could get you to take your place with the witnesses. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Okay, committee. If I can get committee to turn to page 3 of the Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$330,000. Community wellness and social services, not previously authorized, \$1.67 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 4, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, environment, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Page 5, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014. Industry Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, energy, not previously authorized, negative \$100,000.

Tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$600,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree that we've concluded consideration of Tabled Document 51-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 24-17(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2013-2014,  
CARRIED

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 51-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 51-17(4) be reported and recommended for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Before we continue, I'd like to thank our witnesses here today. Mr. Kalgutkar, Mr. Aumond, thank you for today.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Mr. Menicoche, the wish of committee?

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Chair, I move we report progress.

---Carried

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 43-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012; Tabled Document 44-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012; Tabled Document 45-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013; and Tabled Document 51-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014, and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted, that consideration of Tabled Documents 43-17(4), 44-17(4), 45-17(4) and 51-17(4) are concluded, and that the House concur in

those estimates and that appropriation bills based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The seconder is Mr. Abernethy.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

---Unanimous consent granted

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills (Reversion)

BILL 7:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 4, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

BILL 8:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 4, 2011-2012

Mr. Speaker, I will give notice that on March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

BILL 9:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 3, 2012-2013

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013, be read for the first time.

BILL 10:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2013-2014

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 14, 2013, I will move that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act
  - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act
  - Committee Report 1-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:16 p.m.