



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Nunakput)

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(Great Slave)

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Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

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Resources

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(Inuvik Boot Lake)

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 28, 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 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER'S RULING

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. I wish to give my ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Miltenberger on October 24, 2013, with respect to comments made by Mr. Hawkins on the previous day. I would like to thank all Members who spoke to the point of order.

Mr. Miltenberger's point of order was on the content, volume and tone of Mr. Hawkins' comments in his oral questions to Mr. Beaulieu on October 23^d violated Rule 23(k) as insulting and abusive language, and 23(l) as speaking disrespectfully of any Member.

Mrs. Groenewegen, in speaking to the point of order, said, at page 3 of unedited Hansard, she also found Mr. Hawkins' comments "to be offensive and it did, in my opinion, reduce the demeanour of our House."

In responding to the point of order, Mr. Hawkins said, at page 3 of unedited Hansard, "I'm here to do my job and demand results, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes that does cause one to raise the energy in the debate."

I am guided by the second edition of House of Commons Procedure and Practice, 2009, which states at page 619, "In dealing with unparliamentary language, the Speaker takes into account the tone, manner and intention of the Member speaking; the person to whom the words at issue were directed, the degree of provocation; and most importantly, whether or not the remarks created disorder in the Chamber."

I have reviewed Mr. Hawkins' comments from October 23rd and, taken with the volume and tone in which he made them, I consider they did cross the line of being insulting, abusive and disrespectful. The specific remarks are those quoted by Minister Miltenberger in his point of order, which I don't want to repeat here because we have already spent enough time on this.

I can appreciate that Members do sometimes need to speak with "energy" to make their points and represent their constituents; however, this went too far.

We are a consensus system of government and we have our own standards. A style of debate that might be business as usual in other Legislatures is not necessarily acceptable to this House. As Mr. Miltenberger stated, at page 2 of the unedited Hansard, "We pride ourselves on the decorum of this House, the propriety of the way we do business."

Members, given the events of that day, I also want to take the opportunity to remind you of a few things:

1. Members must speak through the Chair. Speaking directly to other Members as "you" is not acceptable.
2. Members must not interrupt the Chair. When the Chair calls a Member's name to caution him or her about continuing to speak when another Member has the floor, that Member needs to stop speaking right away.

These are not my personal rules. They are your rules, Members, and they are there to keep order and decorum in this House.

Let me also remind Members, for the third or fourth time during this sitting, that we are here to work for the people of the Northwest Territories. Be respectful of each other and this House, thicken your skins if you have to and let's get the work done for the people.

There is a point of order. I will now go to Mr. Hawkins and ask him to withdraw his remarks. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I thought about this over the weekend and wondered how you would rule on this particular item. Obviously, I was hoping you would rule on my area, but your wisdom and guidance of the documentation before you has led you to your decision today and that I will respect.

Mr. Speaker, in short, I find it unimaginable how to take back...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was going to say, in a roundabout way, was I find it difficult to take back passion and energy, but with that said, what I will do is I will respect the ruling and I will apologize for any concerns that I may have inflicted on Cabinet. What I will say, in short and in final, Mr. Speaker, it will not temper my passion to get the job done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins, I asked you to withdraw your remarks. Mr. Hawkins, will you withdraw your remarks to the House and apologize to the House?

MR. HAWKINS: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to hear you over Mrs. Groenewegen, who keeps talking. I missed what you said.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins, I'm asking you to withdraw your remarks and to apologize to the House.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could hear you that time. I apologize to the House in full. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins, you're wasting more time of this House. I'm going to ask you once again to withdraw your remarks and apologize to the House.

MR. HAWKINS: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. That was my intent when I said I apologize to this House sincerely and fully, and with that, I withdraw my remarks. My apologies for missing that last piece. It was not intended in any other manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The second time I had you do that, the first time was making comments to Mrs. Groenewegen. So you apologize for that and you apologize for what's been said. Thank you for the apology. We'll proceed.

Item 2, Ministers' statements.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 87-17(4): ABORIGINAL INCLUSION

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is recognized as one of Canada's top Diversity Employers in 2013 for the initiatives we've undertaken to enhance opportunities for Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and other under-represented groups. The GNWT is committed to developing and maintaining a public service representative of the people we serve across the NWT.

The Department of Human Resources, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, is conducting an Aboriginal Inclusion Survey among GNWT employees, focusing on recruitment and retention of Aboriginal persons. The survey will gather information about all of our

employees' attitudes and opinions regarding Aboriginal inclusion, and determine if there are systemic barriers that contribute to perceived low rates of Aboriginal recruitment and retention.

Human Resources, working with the Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee, has engaged the Aboriginal Human Resources Council so we can identify the GNWT's strengths, weaknesses, strategies, practises and behaviours related to Aboriginal inclusion. We share the council's goal of advancing the full labour market participation of Aboriginal peoples. The Aboriginal Human Resources Council has collaborated with us to develop the survey questions, is administering the survey and receiving the responses, and will prepare a final report and recommendations based on the survey results.

Aboriginal culture, values and experience inform program and policy development as well as front-line service delivery, and we are providing training in Aboriginal cultural awareness through our new Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training program. It is imperative that our public servants appreciate and respect NWT Aboriginal cultures. These training modules are accessible on-line for our staff and for any member of the public to view, and we are rolling out facilitated training sessions for our staff across the NWT this month. The training has been recognized internationally as a Top Ten Innovation in Diversity, putting us in the company of other progressive employers like RBC, Sodexo and American Airlines.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is committed to creating a representative public service that reflects the diverse cultures of the NWT and promotes the development and advancement of Aboriginal people. We are making progress in attracting, advancing and retaining Aboriginal employees. Statistics show movement in the right direction:

- During the 17th Legislative Assembly, indigenous Aboriginal persons have filled 19 of 59 senior-management staffing opportunities.
- Almost 20 percent of senior managers are indigenous Aboriginal. This has been increasing over the years, up from 15 percent in 2009.
- Since 1999, the rate of Aboriginal employee growth has been larger than that for non-Aboriginal employee growth and for the rate of GNWT workforce growth overall.
- The biggest increases in rates of Aboriginal employee growth have occurred in the management and health occupational areas.

Mr. Speaker, we do not rest on our laurels; more needs to be done. We are committed to continuing this momentum in order to champion diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness, and to see more

Aboriginal people represented at all levels of the public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 88-17(4):
INFLUENZA SEASON

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, this Assembly is committed to investing in prevention to keep our health system sustainable. Vaccines are a cornerstone of preventative medicine and I would like to encourage all Northwest Territories residents to get their free flu shots this fall.

Immunization prevents influenza and its serious complications. It protects individuals and families from severe illness. It contributes to the health of the population, by preventing time-loss at work and keeping children at school.

You need the flu shot every year. The influenza viruses change continuously and each year's vaccine has been updated. Last year's shot won't protect you this year.

Get the flu shot to protect yourself and your loved ones from getting sick. This is especially important for children, elders, people with chronic health conditions and their families. The vaccine is available in all communities and a complete schedule of flu clinics is available on the Department of Health and Social Services website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 89-17(4):
CULTURE AND HERITAGE AWARDS

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories strengthens awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our many cultural backgrounds and revitalizing our languages. I am very pleased to advise this House that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment held the third annual Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle to celebrate the tremendous contributions that people across this territory have made.

I am proud to honour the efforts of residents who work to strengthen the arts, cultures and heritage of the Northwest Territories. The Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle was established in 2011 to celebrate Northerners who contribute to the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in the Northwest Territories. Five recipients were selected from across the territory by an independent panel of judges. Our judges were William Greenland, Diane Boudreau and Mike

Vaydik, and I thank them for their service. Our recipients this year were David Gon, for the Individual category; Justin Memogana, for the Youth category; Emily Kudlak, for the Elders category; and Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute for the Group category. I awarded the Yellowknife Choral Society the Minister's Choice Award for sharing their passion for choral music in their community and territory. I am pleased to welcome them all here today.

I hope all Members of this Assembly will join me in honouring the Culture and Heritage Circle recipients and thank them for their work preserving, promoting and celebrating our unique cultures and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, languages and culture strengthen our greater NWT community, underpin many of the priorities of this Assembly and create an identity for all of us. They are a priority for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and we will continue to work with our cultural communities to ensure our territory retains the vibrant and unique identities we have worked to preserve. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
APPRECIATION TO COLLEAGUES
AND CONSTITUENTS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be back. I'm happy to report that I'm feeling much better and some people are even saying I'm looking better.

---Laughter

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my friends and family for the support the last couple of weeks. I feel rich for the support I received over these last two weeks. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank you and Members here, as well as the Legislative Assembly staff and obviously my constituents for all the support during the last couple of weeks feeling under the weather. I am looking forward to the next couple of weeks of session to complete the work that we have, the Wildlife Act, the capital budget, as well as several other supplementary appropriations and many acts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is great to be back.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I'd like to talk about the idea of regional high schools.

Historically, we know that students from Lutselk'e, a small community, went to Fort Smith; students from Res went to Hay River; and many students from across the North went to Akaitcho Hall. I was not directly involved in any of these, but at the time it seemed like not a bad idea. However, as government changes and as ideas change, the idea of grade extensions in the small communities became the best practise, the wisdom of the day, and that was what was undertaken.

I think it is time to once again have a dialogue and talk to people about what is the best opportunity for a good, comprehensive high school education for students from small communities. We had the Western Arctic Leadership Program which was in Fort Smith for a number of years and is not available anymore, and that did see students from across the North going to Fort Smith and being involved in different programs there.

Schools in regional centres do have a wider course selection available. They have part-time employment opportunities which may not be available in smaller communities. They certainly have more opportunities for competition and honing schools in the area of competitive sports, and although there are downsides for high school students to be away from their home community, I think some of those things I just listed are some of the positive points.

The argument can be made that by taking some high school students out of the small communities that we would then be watering down the great extension programs for those who may not want to go to a regional centre, for those who would want to stay in their home community. I think that with the advent of so much on-line and distance learning, which the grade extensions must have already to rely upon, I think we could offer students the option of remaining in their community and continuing on with that program, but also allowing opportunities for students who would like to go to a regional centre to go to high school to do so.

A lot of good came from the attendance of students in regional centres in high school. Everything is relative. If you live in Hay River and come to Yellowknife, as my children all did for a portion of their high school, that broadens your horizons. So when you're in a small community and you come to a regional centre like Hay River, that again broadens peoples' horizons and I think that we did see a lot of lifelong relationships, a lot of lifelong friendships that were developed as a result of students getting together at that age.

By the time young people reach the age of high school...

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: By the time young people reach the age of high school, maybe it is an opportunity and it is time for them to spread their wings and experience some new things and perhaps living in a new community as long as – and I have to really stress this – there is safe, supervised and supported living accommodations for them in those regional centres.

So I for one would be in favour of having this dialogue on revisiting the idea of regional high schools. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
WHISTLEBLOWER
PROTECTION LEGISLATION

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We seem to be living in the age of the whistleblower, and you notice I didn't say noisemaker, because all too often we have some of those people too. But the true whistleblowers, people who uncover fraud, mismanagement, government surveillance, you name it, are making waves worldwide. Some publish their findings on WikiLeaks, YouTube, or even use their own blogs.

So far we don't have any Edward Snowdens in the Northwest Territories, but maybe we should consider that it could happen. Do we want to have an environment where whistleblowers in the Territories are treated like criminals on the run for courageously informing the public? I hope not.

Many people see whistleblowers as heroes who go against the grain, taking great personal risk to protect public safety, stop corruption or safeguard peoples' rights. To some extent, our government has taken a step towards protecting potential whistleblowers from within and avoid media attention itself. I am referring to the 22-page agreement of the Union of Northern Workers on Safe Disclosure of Information.

For those of you who are not familiar, this agreement sets up a process employees can use if they see wrongdoing that goes unchecked. If all goes well, problems are corrected and employees are protected from reprisals. But the agreement does not cover releases of information directly to the media or to the public.

It appears that the UNW agreement and the discussion paper tabled in 2007 was merely a stopgap measure instead of introducing full-blown legislation to protect whistleblowers. Even then,

provinces like Manitoba and Saskatchewan had laws protecting whistleblowers in both public and private sectors.

I am wondering if we are falling behind the times. Information is sometimes so hard to come by, as I illustrated many times with MLAs having limited access to information in this Chamber, and some days I wake up half expecting an enterprising hacker or a researcher to have set up NWTLeaks to deal with our problems. If they do, I hope we have a law protecting legitimate whistleblowers.

It is clear more is needed to be done in this area than the mere UNW Safe Disclosure Program. Whistleblowers need the protection to report legitimate wrongdoings, and noisemakers need to be filtered from doing wrong unto others.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Justice on this topic. Thank you very much.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEBT LIMIT AND GNWT VISION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People across the NWT are concerned about this government's direction. I can't help but agree. Many have observed a distressing alignment with the approach of our federal government under its present leadership. Government communications clearly reveal it doesn't care what Members think or what the public thinks. A recent example is the surprising revelation that despite a 60 percent increase in our debt limit last year, our Finance Minister has initiated actions to seek an even higher debt limit. Not only no debate, but not even bothering to tell the elected representatives of a supposedly consensus government. To hear a Finance Minister say in this House that schools and medical infrastructure are not investments in economic development whereas highways are, shows a dysfunctional understanding of economic development. Sound economic development comes from healthy people, not from healthy roads.

Such thinking is all too common in this government's policies and pronouncements and these policies yield economic development that tends to benefit non-residents, leaving net costs to Northerners. Later I will be speaking to the government's plans for big subsidies to the richest companies in the world. Such activity will pull workers in from across the country, people who will not live here and will not pay taxes here, but will leave costs for us to pay.

Each of our current diamond mines have had to hire greater numbers of workers from outside the NWT. We now lose \$300 million in wages per year

just from diamond mines, not oil and gas included yet. In North Dakota we learned that workers making a dollar in that state pay income tax on that dollar in that state regardless of where they reside, yet I hear no plan to tackle this issue or any of the others associated with the government's development approach that will, again, largely benefit non-residents.

Last week the Premier said we will spend up to \$700 million on a transmission line to export power to Saskatchewan. Power in Saskatchewan costs one-quarter of that in Fort Smith, so we will sell our power at a steep loss. This even without considering the half billion cost of the power line. Are we exporting or are we actually planning to import coal-generated power through this line to replace our local clean hydro power or even diesel with the dirtiest power in the world? Either way, it is another example of the wasting of public funding on infrastructure for industry, while our community infrastructure and sustainable approach and local benefits falls apart.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: This and more, despite public input, considerable public input that has called for economic focus and diversification towards smaller scale and renewable resources, development that provides real benefits and healthy communities. We heard this with the economic opportunities consultation, a comprehensive consultation. Perhaps it's devolution on the brain, but whatever it is, it's reason for concern and a re-examination of this government's direction. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESOURCE REVENUE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HERITAGE FUND

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we rocket our way towards devolution on April 1, 2014, and towards the millions of dollars of resource revenue which will be our reward, and if we're to believe Cabinet, the panacea for everything that ails us from roads to rents, I'm very grateful that the 16th Assembly had the foresight and gumption to establish a Heritage Fund before it dissolved. That fund was established to capture and hold for our children's children and their children's children the revenue from the NWT's non-renewable resources. But how much of those resource revenues will actually make it into the Heritage Fund? That is yet to be determined by Regular Members and the public. But from government statements made recently, it's already been decided, and I have to say that I don't much like the decision.

In the government response to Motion 20-17(4), tabled in the House on October 17th, it says: "As a balance between long-term savings and addressing immediate infrastructure needs, the GNWT is proposing an annual contribution of 5 percent of resource revenues to the NWT Heritage Fund." And further down in the same response: "Consequently, the GNWT proposes retaining flexibility over the majority of the new resource revenues to invest in infrastructure and pay down debt."

The government response does also state that there is no intention to use resource revenues for operational requirements, and of that I am very glad. What saddens me is the miniscule amount proposed for the Heritage Fund: 5 percent of our resource revenues until such time as we have eliminated our infrastructure deficits and paid down our debt. Lofty as that goal is, has any government ever attained those two objectives? I doubt it.

In my view, we should be placing a minimum of 25 percent of our anticipated resource revenues into the Heritage Fund, and it should be so stated in legislation, not in regulations which are easily changed by government without any discussion with, or input from, the public.

As promised in the tabled response to Mr. Hawkins' June motion, the Minister of Finance is currently travelling the territory, engaging residents in the discussions about the budget and about how we should use our newfound riches, our resource revenues.

The Yellowknife public meeting with Minister and staff is tonight. They are looking for residents' views on both the budget and the Heritage Fund. Tonight, Explorer Hotel, 7:30 p.m. If you have an opinion on how much we should put into the Heritage Fund, make sure you show up and share it.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: The government has already made up its mind. Without any contradictions voiced, their decision will be the one that is put into place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government provides a very critical service to residents of the Northwest Territories and that service is medical travel. In my short time being an MLA and listening to a lot of the concerns that residents of the Northwest Territories have, especially in my region of the Inuvik region and constituents of mine that travel to either Edmonton

or to Yellowknife, there are still concerns with this medical travel. I wanted to bring the point to order today on what is all provided in this medical travel. One of the things that were brought to my attention is return airfare, but also things such as accommodation and, specifically, ground transportation.

I am bringing this up today, because on Saturday in Inuvik, we had, I believe, about six medical clients who returned back to Inuvik after going out for some treatment or going out for medical appointments and who got stranded at the airport. Obviously, it is on the weekend, so the government only usually runs from Monday to Friday, government workers, but this does bring to attention that when we do send patients and clients out for medical service and appointments that there has to be somebody there coordinating to ensure that this individual gets back to their point of origin in a safe manner.

In one case I heard that one of the clients that did return on Saturday, who was also an income assistance client, was even thinking of walking into the community of Inuvik. In this temperature, about 11 kilometres, that's uncalled for.

Later on today I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on what actions are going to be taken to rectify the situation and also deal with some of these matters at hand such as escorts as well as people who travel to Yellowknife and need that transportation to get either to the boarding homes or to their appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GWICH'IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTE AWARD

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great honour and much excitement today that I congratulate the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute on their most recent Group Category Award presented by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

The GSCI displays a fine role in developing and supporting cultural heritage. I am proud that such a group can celebrate, promote and preserve the arts, culture and heritage as defined in the eligibility for this award.

What great timing as the GSCI celebrates its 20th anniversary this fall, such an honourable way to recognize this organization with 20 years of researching and recording over 100 projects for our future use. Also, 414 official place names have now been approved and the geographical map has been

developed showing over 900 Gwich'in place names.

I would also like to acknowledge the people behind the work: the staff and the board of directors, past and present, for making such a huge commitment and being proud of their accomplishments.

Many of the elders who started this project have now passed on. Their participation in this project, in identifying place names with their stories, will be an educational tool for years to come. Congratulations, once again, to the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute on your hard work and dedication. Also, congratulations to the rest of the recipients of the Ministers' Culture and Heritage Circle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SCHOOL-BASED DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need a pilot car to drive home the idea of having a driver education program in our school communities, small schools. Mr. Daryl Dolynny, Member for Range Lake, last week spoke about this. He actually made a suggestion. Minister Ramsay, Minister of Transportation, talked about how the Department of Education and Department of Transportation are working together in regards to driver education programs in our schools. I think it's time we have a pilot project by next year. When it makes sense, such as our need to invest in our children and into our future, give our youth a challenge to take the opportunities on the road to success.

The 17th Assembly Caucus priority states, "believing in people" and I believe this is a doable project for the reasons I will state. Creating a pilot project in the schools, in the small communities especially, we have regional disparity. Sixty-seven percent of young drivers, aged 15 to 24 years, in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River have their licence, compared to 33 percent in the small communities aged 15 to 24. That's regional disparity.

Now, the Minister goes on to talk about the Project Gearshift. So I tell the Minister, it's about time we get a high school that will give them incentives to get to school and to have an actual driver education training program. Will Project Gearshift actually give the youth a driver's licence? What services and programs do we have to wait for? How long will a qualified driver instructor come to our communities and to our school? Where do they get their Class 5 driver's licence? Well, that can change. Go to school.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: I say to the Minister, initiate a pilot project now. Start to introduce one next year, with a target date of September. The message is: education pays. Drive home this pilot project.

I call upon this government to bring forward a proposal to have a driver's education training program in one of our Sahtu communities or any other small communities in the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIRST NATIONS AND FEDERAL/TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every day in the news we hear troubling stories about poverty, violence, abuse and neglect, but they are not stories from far-off, distant lands. They are stories that affect the lives of Aboriginal peoples right here in Canada.

For anyone with a conscience, it should be deeply disturbing about the abuses of residential schools and the terrible living conditions in communities like Attawapiskat law enforcement to be concerned about the disappearance of countless Aboriginal women, or the destruction of our land and water by big industries engaging in practises such as fracking. But think of it this way: For every big news, there are many, many untold stories of suffering. In 2007 the UN passed its Declaration on Indigenous Rights, which set a standard for the treatment of Aboriginal peoples by government worldwide. I think it says a lot about how the federal government abuses Aboriginal people, and Canada was only one of four nations out of 148 that did not support the declaration when it was adopted.

Canada has since shown support for the declaration, but as the UN Rapporteur reminded us this month, Canada's treatment of the human rights of its Aboriginal peoples leaves a lot of room for improvement. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why there's a sense of mistrust between Aboriginal peoples and the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada.

Federal and GNWT policies on First Nations land claims and self-governments state that they aim for certainty and finality, yet progress towards the completion of these claims is so slow it is spanning generations. The GNWT has promised that it will work with all First Nations on the Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management, based on the Devolution Agreement. We have assurances that devolution will not change the fundamental relationship of the Crown with First Nations people. How can we trust these

assurances when so many promises to the Aboriginal people of Canada have been broken or left in unrest?

Perhaps it is time for the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to support establishing a tribunal with First Nations peoples and governments to resolve impasses, conflicts and disputes. This would create a mechanism for mediation to resolve disputes more effectively than the courts can. Maybe then we could really put behind the injustices of the past and also set up the relationship between Aboriginal people and the Government of Canada, a new frame of trust for moving into the future. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SERVICES DELIVERED BY DENTAL HYGIENISTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Cavities, toothaches, bad breath and painful extractions that might have been prevented, these things aren't talked about very often. Unfortunately, though, oral health problems are very common amongst my constituents. With a simple legislative change to the Dental Auxiliaries Act and a promise from our government to invest in visits to small communities, residents could receive timely and valuable dental care.

In nearly every Canadian province, dental hygienists are allowed to work independently. They aren't required to work under the direction of a dentist. In the NWT dental hygienists don't even have that freedom. This means NWT residents are not benefiting from a range of services offered elsewhere in Canada.

Better alternatives are available. One example is the use of interim stabilization therapy. This is basically a temporary filling to relieve pain and halt the progression of tooth decay. This type of therapy can be performed by dental hygienists in most provinces and it should be performed by hygienists here too.

A simple legislative change has the potential to prevent a great deal of pain and expense associated with tooth decay and gum disease. We should make it possible for hygienists to practise independently. This would be a win-win prospect. Residents would benefit and so would dental hygienists. People of all ages would have timely access to oral health care and it could be served in a variety of settings, from schools and community health centres to private clinics in people's own homes. They could receive more regular checkups starting at an early age.

Dental hygienists have a proven record of innovative service delivery and they could do a

world of good in our small communities. The Northwest Territories needs to bring its legislation in line with the majority of the Canadian provinces. I will have questions for the Health Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE POWER RATES

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, when I was visiting constituents this summer, as I do each summer, I heard a number of complaints about this government, which should really be no surprise to anyone in this building. In fact, there were so many complaints about this government I don't know if I can fit them all in, even in replies to the opening address.

However, particular attention was paid to this government's lack of attention to families and their bottom line. People told me devolution is important over the long haul, but they can't make the short haul, so the long-haul details really don't matter.

In particular, families are struggling day by day and, when they see our cost of living go up to number one, they don't like being number one. Who wouldn't want to be number one in the real world, but when it comes to your power bills, they don't like being number one.

We certainly have to thank the Premier, in his old role as Minister Bob McLeod, because Bob McLeod helped move our power bills in the method that they are going. He deserves the credit for this, and let me explain why.

A few short years ago, Members will recall the power rates were engineered so that they would be lower in the communities, but locked-in in Yellowknife. Let me be the first to say that the communities struggle day to day and certainly their power bills are no envy of anyone. In fact, if you're not on the hydro grid, I don't know how you survive. I believe it's very necessary to pay particular attention to those problems and I certainly support solutions that work toward that.

Affordable living is a challenge everywhere in the Northwest Territories, but government does what government does. I'm not disagreeing with the first part. That took a bit of courage, but it's the second time they have had to look at what else happened. So they were artificially lowered, and somebody had to pick up the costs somewhere.

What happened was power rates in Yellowknife were frozen, but what they didn't tell is – and here it is – the rate riders in Yellowknife were just about to fall off. So in other words, they locked us in at a higher rate. Then they shifted the administrative burden from the regional centres to Yellowknife. Again, the cost of living continues to go up.

When you compare apples to apples, Yellowknife to Iqaluit, Yellowknife to Whitehorse, Yellowknife to even Barrow, Alaska, guess what, we're number one. Our power bills are horrible. We want to do something about real-life working families who struggle to get by day after day. This Cabinet needs to come down from its perches and big salaries and lofty offices and see what it's like for the living families to struggle each and every day.

I won't have softball questions today for the Ministers, but they will be getting a bit of a push from me, that's for sure.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize some of the recipients that are here in the gallery. First of all I'd like to recognize the Youth category, Justin Memogana is here with us from Kugluktuk. His brother Chad is here with us as well. Also, the Elder's category that is here with us, Emily Kudlak from Ulukhaktok as well. In the Group category I'd like to recognize from the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Alestine Andre, Bertha Francis, Ingrid Kritsch and Robert Alexie Sr., who are here with us today. Also, Minister's Choice, Yellowknife Choral Society, and here with us today are Lorne Gushue, Ruth McLean, Constantina Tsetsos and Margo Nightingale. Also with our department here with us are Karen Wright-Fraser and Ashley Green. Welcome to the Assembly. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize my constituents: Alestine Andre, from Tsiigehtchic; Bertha Francis and Robert Alexie Sr., of Fort McPherson; along with Ingrid Kritsch, who are the recipients of the Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Award. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize all of the winners of the Culture and Heritage Awards today. Congratulations to them and, particularly in the House today, members of the Yellowknife Choral Society, some of the members, and I know Constantina Tsetsos is there, a resident of Weledeh, as well as Lorne Gushue and Ruth McLean, Margo Nightingale, I don't know if Margaret Peterson made it or not. So congratulations, and I don't know if Jennifer Young is there. I can't see everybody behind me, but she

is one of the co-founders of the Yellowknife group Face to Face. It's a support group for people suffering from the loss of infants during pregnancy. So I'd like to recognize Jennifer as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate and welcome all the recipients of the Culture and Heritage Awards today, specifically the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, and also welcome Karen Wright-Fraser, who is a relative and who has been a very strong advocate for cultural contributions and the prolonging of the Gwich'in culture. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a number of people today. Karen Wright-Fraser is a constituent of Frame Lake. Congratulations, Karen, on your award and welcome to the Assembly. I would also like to recognize the members of the Yellowknife Choral Society who are here and congratulate them on their award. Lorne Gushue, Ruth McLean, Constantina Tsetsos and Margo Nightingale, your hard work is obviously recognized. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're going to fight over Karen here because I thought she lives downtown. With that said, she is certainly worthy of the prize to fight for; she is such a great lady. I want to start off by recognizing Karen Wright-Fraser. She is known for a lot of things, not particularly because she worked with me a long time ago, but she is a talented artist in her own right and very well renowned. Her skill is amazing and she has great talent at keeping her traditional life.

The other constituent that I'd like to acknowledge, and who has been acknowledged several times already, is Lorne Gushue. He's a community activist in many ways, a stalwart volunteer on so many efforts, we don't have time to go through every single one of them. I can tell you we spent a lot of time talking about what a great community fellow he is and to that end I say thank you to both and welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Today several outstanding Northerners were recognized in representing our arts, culture and heritage across our great territory. I really would like to welcome Mr. Justin Memogana and his brother Chad from Ulukhaktok. Welcome to the House. That is drummer dancers that, when we were up at our Caucus retreat, all these members were drum dancing while we were up in Ulukhaktok. That was our main drummer right there. I know your dad

would be really proud of you, so congratulations again.

Ms. Emily Kudlak, thank you for your Elders Category Award. Thank you for all you do for the community of Ulukhaktok. I know you are always active in the community with our youth, so thank you and keep up the good work. Thank you.

Welcome everybody in the House here today for taking in our proceedings and to all of you, congratulations on behalf of our House. Thank you very much for being there for us, especially our elders.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Acknowledgements

10-17(4):

STEPHEN KAKFWI –

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S NORTHERN MEDAL

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize Weledeh resident and former Premier, Stephen Kakfwi, who received the Governor General's Northern Medal on October 4, 2013, in Quebec City. The highly regarded award was established to honour Canadians whose actions and achievements contribute to the North. Originally from Fort Good Hope, Mr. Kakfwi spent 16 years as a Sahtu MLA and served as a Cabinet Minister and the first Premier of the NWT after Nunavut was created.

On behalf of Weledeh residents and the people of the Northwest Territories, I would like to congratulate Mr. Kakfwi and his family for his accomplishments, and thank him for his continued important contributions to the people of the North. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 378-17(4):

SCHOOL-BASED DRIVER EDUCATION
IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement and certainly reading here Mr. Dolynny having an exchange with Mr. Ramsay last week in regards to driver education programming in our school, I want to ask the Minister if he's given some serious consideration with his colleague, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Is this something we can look forward to putting on a piece of paper saying by next year, if we put our heads together and the will of the people and the will of the department, we can have a driver

education training program in one of our small communities?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the regional disparity in numbers of young people in the territory that have a driver's licence of one form or another, Class 7, Class 5 probationary, or Class 5 licence between Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and the other communities in the territory. Certainly, we need to do something about that. The department is taking this challenge seriously. We have Project Gearshift that we're allowing participation in schools. We are going to cover up to \$3,000 or 50 percent of the cost for them to host professional driver trainers in their communities. We believe that's going to certainly be a step in the right direction.

Going back a number of years, we had driver training in some of the high schools here in the Northwest Territories. Given what is happening today in the central Mackenzie Valley in Norman Wells and with the pending construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway, the Member's concern about trying to get some type of program into a high school in Inuvik and Norman Wells certainly has merit. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly, we want to close the gap on the disparity within our regions. We know not all regions are created equal, so I want to ask the Minister with regard to the driver education training program, is this something that he and his colleagues, specifically the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, can look at as a pilot project in the Sahtu, for example, to raise the challenge with our young people to have one of these types of drivers' licences for next year?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, high school students in Yellowknife and Hay River can still receive two credits toward their high school diploma by taking professional driver training, but that is only available in Yellowknife and Hay River. That, again, is part of the reason we're looking at Project Gearshift, to get the professional driver instruction outside of those two communities and to young people across the Territories so they can get drivers' licences. We're also developing flashcards and an app that is based on the NWT Drivers Manual. I believe in responding to Mr. Dolynny last week, these will be available sometime early in the new year. We believe that will go a long way to helping students pass their driver's test when the examiner does get into their community. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, would the driver education program have a schedule in a Sahtu community high school for these driver education training programs, that every so often the instructors will be coming into these schools where there's incentive to receive a credit, get to school,

and every three months that in one of the Sahtu communities you'll know these young students will be receive one type of driver's licence. It will do a lot of wonderful things in terms of increasing their self-esteem, once they get a driver's licence.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, with the economic activity construction happening in the Mackenzie Delta and also the activity that's taking place in the Sahtu, it certainly is in our best interest to ensure that, at the high school level, youth have access to getting... One of the fundamentals is a driver's licence. I think the more we can do that, the better off our young people will be and better able to get employment. I think, at the end of the day, really that is what this is all about, is independence and getting employment for young people across the territory.

On Project Gearshift, that would have to be initiated by schools. Again, it's funding; it's a program that's available to schools. So schools, whether they're in Inuvik or Norman Wells, can certainly apply for the funding that is available through Project Gearshift. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see a program stronger than Project Gearshift, but that we actually have a program in our schools that would allow a driver education program for our youth, that they actually not wait for funding but initiate it. Schools are always competing for funding and other initiatives, and sometimes we're not quite there as we'd like to be in regards to having funding for the schools.

Is this something that they could look at more concrete that could be a pilot project, so say this could work, especially in the Sahtu where there's oil and gas activity that's going to be flourishing in the next couple of years?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. The discussions have already begun between ECE and DOT. We will continue to have discussions. In the past these programs ended because of concerns with liability and also logistical concerns.

I think these are things we can get over and we should get over. If there's a real need in a community like Norman Wells or Inuvik or other communities around the NWT, this is something that we have to get our heads around. Certainly, we can continue the discussions and I will do that through the Minister and the education board both in the Beaufort-Delta and in the Sahtu. We'll continue and see where we can get these discussions and keep Members apprised of where we get with the program. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 379-17(4):
GOVERNANCE OF HAY RIVER HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, the last couple weeks I spent some time at the Hay River hospital, I and I forgot to thank them.

My questions today are for the Minister of Health. Last spring the Minister had talked about making some changes to the authority and giving Hay River some feedback. I'm wondering if we could create kind of a community-driven authority where the community could give feedback. Is there something, a board that they're looking at setting up where the communities can have feedback? I know right now we have a public administrator, but is there any thought to putting something like that in place?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the thought is to return to a board structure for the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. As the Member knows, we are in the process of constructing a new health centre and we're hoping to be able to provide some medical services to surrounding communities. So once we've determined the full scope of what that specific health centre can provide to the surrounding areas, then we are going to talk more with the staff and the public administrator to determine what type of board structure we should have in place for Hay River Health and Social Services. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister's answer there. The Minister talked about the new facility. Do we have to wait for that facility to get that kind of feedback from the general public? We're looking for some sort of feedback that the public can give on the current operations in the current facility, as well, and what kind of timeline we're looking at in order for implementation of that type of an advisory board.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: No, it's not essential that we wait for the health centre to be completed in order to have some sort of board structure. The public administrator and I did discuss that possibility. He recommended that we start off by maybe asking a couple of people from Hay River on the recommendation of maybe even the municipality, the MLAs or even the Aboriginal organizations' area to appoint people that he could start working with and having some discussions. That's something that we are currently contemplating. I've had my first discussion on that type of structure, I would say, about two months ago with the public administrator. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. Obviously, in the health care industry it's very important to have consistency. I guess a question I would have about that authority is also the promotion and recruitment of doctors.

I'm wondering if the department has been in discussion any further. I know the Minister has talked in this House about a centralized doctors' recruitment facility. I'm just wondering where the department is currently in that discussion with the Hay River authority.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As the Member knows, we've recently moved the CEO to a position with Health and Social Services. We have an acting CEO and then there's going to be a new CEO for Hay River coming on stream within weeks. I've had that discussion with all of the Joint Senior Management Committee – that's all of the CEOs across all of the jurisdictions and some senior staff with Health and Social Services – and made it a priority. One of the top three priorities for the health system is recruitment of doctors.

Plan A for the recruitment of doctors would be to recruit doctors in the communities where they will be working. Plan B would be to move doctors from those communities to live in Yellowknife, but again, our intention is to continue with plan A and push the idea of having doctors brought into a place like Hay River. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's answer there and I appreciate the concept, but how much of a priority is it to assist the authority in promotion of the community itself and to get a doctor in place? I understand the concept of a central unit, but obviously in this House we have concerns about decentralization and we want to see that in the communities.

How much is the department pushing the recruitment of doctors in the communities versus a centralized doctor pool?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. That is the ultimate way to go. We recognize that the doctors will be living in the communities where they're serving, so that continues to be our push. When I talked to all of the Joint Senior Management Committee a couple of weeks ago, I did talk only about trying to get doctors into a community. The new CEO that will be coming on is very versed in bringing in and talking to doctors and trying to hire doctors and so on. We also have a support system in Health and Social Services that will help the communities and CEOs recruit doctors for their communities. That continues to be the number one priority for us as far as doctor recruitments go. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 380-17(4):
WHISTLEBLOWER
PROTECTION LEGISLATION

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up to my Member's statement earlier today, my questions will be directed to the Minister of Justice.

If my memory serves me correctly, the current Minister of Justice was interested in full-blown whistleblower protection or legislation when he was an Ordinary Member. So there should be no big surprises here in the House today. However, one of the surprises is the lack of progress this government and department has undertaken since tabling a discussion paper on whistleblower protection back in 2007.

Can the Minister of Justice please inform this House why there was little to no action on whistleblower legislation after the 2007 discussion paper? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for the actions of a previous government, but I can say that when we came into the 16th Legislative Assembly, whistleblower legislation was a priority for both Regular Members and I as the Minister. Through negotiations with the union, the union requested that we work with them on a memorandum of understanding to put together some joint policies around whistleblowers, which we're basically used as a pilot study. That work has been done. It was made effective April 1, 2013. I made a commitment that after we ran this program for a year, we'd do a bit of a review, learn lessons from that year and we would move forward with legislation. I will be coming forward with a legislative proposal to committee probably around October 2014, which gives us the year to run the program, a little bit of time to do analysis, which I will absolutely be sharing with my colleagues on both sides of the House and we will be coming forward with the legislation, without question. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. That's promising news here and I think it's important that the public hear that as well.

So to truly appreciate what we currently have to protect our public sector, can the Minister please indicate what is the government's experience so far with the memorandum of agreement with the UNW on whistleblowing within the GNWT? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. The memorandum of understanding and the policy went live on April 1, 2013. We tried to get that

information out as best we could. We've included it on our website; we've got it out in Bear Facts a number of times. We had a joint letter go out with the UNW to all UNW representatives in the Northwest Territories, and to date, we've actually had nobody take us up on this policy and program.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess just to pinpoint a little bit of the time flying by that the Minister has just indicated, he has indicated earlier that in October 2014 we should be seeing some type of legislative proposal on this side of the House. Can the Minister indicate as to when we might see a draft proposal at its earliest?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I've indicated, we're running this program for a year. We're learning our lessons. We're getting information. Unfortunately, we haven't had any uptake on it, but we may. We will take that time from April 1st to the following October to draft some draft legislation and we will come forward with the legislative proposal and follow the normal legislative process in the Government of the Northwest Territories, and we will definitely have something through the House, hopefully before the end of this government.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate the Minister's response there. I guess we all know how government works here when we see a proposal of this nature, large proposals coming really late in the 17th Assembly. Can the Minister give some reassurances here that we are going to have ample time to have all the amendments in place and to have full-blown whistleblower legislation by the end of our sitting in the 17th Assembly?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'm committed to taking it through the process. I've already made that commitment to the House a number of times both today and previously. We will follow it through the normal legislative process, which includes going to committee, spending 120 days with committee, and then going to the House for, hopefully, first, second and third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The Member for Hay River South, Ms. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 381-17(4):
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS PROPOSAL

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today on regional high schools, before I get into my questions, let me just make a clarification. I made a brief reference to my own children coming from Hay River to Yellowknife. I am not advocating for any student from Hay River coming to Yellowknife. It was just an unusual circumstance where they had a parent at both sides of the lake and they took

advantage of an option. I was speaking to the relativity. When you're from Hay River, Yellowknife's big. When you're from Fort Res, Hay River's big. When you're from Toronto, Taipei is big. Everything is relative, right?

Getting into my questions, I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for Education if the idea of regional high school education is on the department's radar in any way. I believe the option should be there for students that want to remain in small communities, but for those who would like an enriched curriculum, a variety of courses and subject material, that this could be available. Is this on the department's radar?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Specifically, if it's on the radar, probably not at this point, but I can certainly raise that issue with the school board chairs. I usually have a meeting with them. Part of the discussion that we've been having about grade extension is based on the feedback from the communities, the parents. The parents don't want their kids to be sent out to regional high school. They've had some experience where their children, their students, I guess, would get into whether it be trouble or the substance abuse in the larger communities due to the fact we've created these grade extensions into communities. This is an area that we can certainly have discussion with the school board chairs.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In my Member's statement I was very clear to suggest that this would not be feasible, doable or even desirable if there were not home boarding or residential options available to these students that were sober, supervised, supported and in every way healthy for the children.

The Minister says that parents don't want their high school students to go to regional centres for the reasons that the Minister stated, and he said that he will speak to the superintendents of education. Could we not perhaps find a way to ask the parents how they feel about that? Because I have run across many parents who feel that their young people do well in the small communities, they get to a certain point, they're bored, they are feeling like the education system is not challenging them, and they would love an opportunity for their students, for their children to go to a regional centre to go to high school. Is there a way that we could actually canvass the parents to find out if they have an interest in this?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There has been a survey in the past, when we started the discussion on grade extension. We can reopen that dialogue with the communities, especially with the parents. I would like to hear from the parents, the school board chairs, the superintendents, the educators

and the grandparents how they feel about having regional high schools in another part of the community to send their kids over there. By all means, I will be more than happy to have this dialogue happening in the communities through the school board chairs and the school board directors.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I think anything that offers more options to our secondary high school students in the Northwest Territories to make sure they get the best high school education they can, should be looked and should be considered. I would like to ask the Minister, do the education councils at this time have any funding in their budget for one-offs. If a parent came and said, you know what, I would like my child to go from Tuktoyaktuk to attend school in Inuvik, is there funding in budgets right now on an application or one-off basis where parents can have their student or their child attend a regional high school for the cost of travel and home boarding?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: More options, I totally agree with that. That's why we're looking at various programming such as I mentioned. E-learning is just one of the examples that the Beaufort-Delta has been very successful; also, the tutoring in the South Slave region. Those are just some of the areas that we continue to push.

With respect to some of the areas for funding allocation, we provide funding to DEC's, district education councils, on an annual basis, based on enrolment, and part of that has been distributed to district education authorities so they can expend at their pleasure. We provide funding on an annual basis and they decide where the money should be expended.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hay River has a wonderful high school, which is not utilized to its maximum capacity, with very experienced teachers and a very wide variety of course options, so I would like to ask the Minister if he could report back to us what a survey of parents might indicate who, in the South Slave, in small communities, might be interested in accessing an education in Hay River.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We'll definitely do that with the community of Hay River and also the surrounding small communities that the Member alluded to earlier.

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

QUESTION 382-17(4):
PAYROLL TAX APPLIED TO
NON-RESIDENT WORKERS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are based on learning that in North

Dakota, workers pay income taxes to the state of North Dakota regardless of where they reside. I'd like to direct my questions to the Minister of Finance exploring our situation. Early in the previous Assembly, we learned that we were losing about \$300 million per year to high salary workers flying in to work in the NWT mines from other provinces.

Would the Minister have any update on how much this figure is currently for mine workers and what additional we are losing now for oil and gas workers?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to get that information for the Member.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks very much to the Minister for that commitment. I think he would probably agree that it's a substantial number and not something we'd like to see. A report published in 2008 by the Parkland Institute pointed out that the GNWT does collect the payroll tax from all workers, including those who fly in and out, which I think is beneficial, but I don't believe we have increased those payroll taxes in the last five years. Now, this could be done in a way that does not change things except increase the tax we collect from fly-in/fly-out workers.

Would the Minister be able to confirm that raising the payroll tax for high-income workers while lowering the income tax by an equal amount, or the payroll tax, or income tax for those at lower income would allow the GNWT to collect increased taxes from fly-in/fly-out workers without changing the tax burden on NWT residents? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I don't have access to the document that the Member is quoting from the Parkland Institute. I can indicate to the Member that we have looked at increasing the payroll tax in nearly every Assembly that I've been in. We've broken it down in great detail; we've looked at it from every angle. The bottom line determination to date has been that increasing the payroll tax, when you look at all the administrative costs and the complexities and the amount of money spent making sure that there is no negative impact on Northerners has made it not worth pursuing at this juncture. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those comments. I would be happy to provide him with a copy of the report, although this isn't totally from the report. The Minister mentioned it has to have a benefit to it. There are some costs associated with this. Right now we have the federal government collecting income tax for us. That's a bit of a deal, because it's an expensive process. At some point, you hit an inflection point where it becomes

worthwhile paying the administration and doing the collection yourself.

Has the Minister looked into that at all to decide when it would be... I appreciate his commitment to find out how much we are losing. Maybe he would be interested in doing some projections. Has the Minister looked into at what point we might consider collecting those ourselves? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we would be more than willing and interested to appear before a committee to lay out in detail the specifics of the payroll tax as we have it set up now and the work that we've done in looking at alternatives and options to increasing. We have, in fact, done that in the past and it may be time to have another look at it. I would be interested in looking at the Parkland Institute paper, to see if there is something new that hasn't been contemplated. As well, I think the big issue is the leakage and what is the best way to prevent that leakage of all that money going directly south, and is the payroll tax increase the only or the best way to do that. I know we have had, and are having, discussions with Dominion Diamonds, for example, to look at ways that we can encourage and incent more people to stay and come to the North to live and work, not just work. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister. There has been a lot of work done and I supported that and appreciated that. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be getting us where we want to go.

Just following up on my last, what action is the Minister taking to discuss this topic with our neighbouring jurisdictions, particularly Nunavut and the Yukon? Certainly, they have to be having similar issues and maybe they will more and more. So there's an opportunity, maybe, for northern Canada to have a special dispensation where we can actually collect income tax from dollars made here. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, in fact I do believe, as well, that Alberta has the same challenge with a significant amount of workers it brings in mainly from eastern Canada on an ongoing basis. We have had discussions about the challenges they face. I haven't had any immediate or recent discussions with our northern territories. I have had more discussions with Alberta as they struggle to come to grips with the same issue. They may have come up with no surefire solutions, either, because the planes still fly on a weekly basis full of workers returning home or on shift change. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 383-17(4):
INVESTIGATION INTO RELEASE OF
CONTAMINANTS NEAR TULITA

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I would like to ask him about a letter that was written about two months ago. The NWT Chapter for Council of Canadians made a request to the Minister of ENR. That request was for an investigation under the NWT Environmental Rights Act. The letter said, "This letter asks you to investigate the likely release of contaminants not specifically named by ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corp under the Type A land use permit and Type B water licence in the Tulita district issued by the Sahtu Land and Water Board and to require full public disclosure of all chemicals used."

I would like to know, first of all, from the Minister, whether or not he is aware of this letter or this request, and if yes, can he provide an update to the House on where this request now sits. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The letter has been responded to. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Minister for that information. I was not aware. Perhaps the Minister could advise us as to what was included in that letter. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, in some way, as I'm sure the letter will become public knowledge soon enough, I am declining the request or the demand that we strike an investigation into the Sahtu permits that were handed out. There are a number of reasons for that, which I would be happy to discuss if the Member has further questions. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I do have questions for the Minister. I guess I don't understand why he would deny this request for an investigation. The act is Section 4, I think it is, and the act is relatively clear. It states that residents may apply to the Minister for an investigation. I need to ask the Minister why he feels that this investigation is not merited. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the project that was called into question had already gone through a thorough environmental assessment process under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, which is federal legislation. That act came after the implementation of the Environmental Rights Act. When the Environmental Rights Act was drafted in the 1980s, in my opinion and from what I understand, it did not contemplate such legislation and was the only

opportunity Members had at that juncture to raise issues. Since then, we set up land and water boards. We've had the environmental process and it was given a thorough screening. On that basis, I declined to call another investigation in what, in my opinion, would have been a type of double jeopardy on the process. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for his response. I can appreciate his rationale but I have to agree to disagree as, unfortunately, we often do. I think the chemicals need to be made evident to us and the public.

Could the Minister advise when the letter was sent, and was it e-mailed or was it mailed? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have a common concern about making sure we have the best industry practises when it applies to any type of resource development; in this case, hydraulic fracturing. As a government, we have come forward with a draft guidance on the issue of best practises for hydraulic fracking. That information, the document, now sits with committee, looking for their feedback.

As industry has indicated to us, as well, they are prepared to do full disclosure. It's something that is supported by CAP. We are looking for feedback, but we are fully intent to make sure we manage and have that balance between the resource development and protection of the land, water and animals. I believe the letter went out last week. I will have to double-check. We probably did e-mail and regular mail, but I will double-check for the Member. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 384-17(4):
SERVICES DELIVERED BY
DENTAL HYGIENISTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about the dental hygienist and the poor oral health in the small communities and the abilities of the dentists to get out there. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what the department is doing currently to remedy the poor oral health practises and visits to the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that poor oral health is costly to our health system and that poor oral health leads to all kinds of other problems that negatively impact students in schools. So what we are doing in the big picture overall is developing an oral health

strategy, working with the two northern jurisdictions, Yukon and Nunavut, to develop an oral health strategy.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Also, I would like to ask, is increasing the amounts of dental days to small communities part of that strategy.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The dental services in itself for a Treaty Dene is not covered. It's not an insured service, so that is covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits from the federal government, although it's in the contract with us and we provide the same service to the Metis, and we also provide the same service to people over 60, through extended health. So that is something that we are looking at working on better ways on how dental hygienists can work with the dentists.

Right now we have to be under the supervision of the dentist, but we are trying to work on that. There is as much indirect supervision as possible, but at the end of the day, they have to be under that supervision. We have vacancies for dental therapists right now in the NWT. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I think all governments should invest into more visits to our communities.

Also in my Member's statement, I spoke about the ability to change the Dental Auxiliaries Act to allow dental hygienists services and to provide that service. It's another alternative way to provide better oral health to our communities. Will the Minister focus on that and move to make legislative changes? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Certainly, we will have a discussion with the dental contractors to provide more days. It would cost the system more money to provide more days. So if what we're finding is we know the exact amount of days a dentist goes into each community, so we would check to see the utilization of that time that they're in. An example would be if they spend 43 days in Fort Liard in 2010-11 and 42 days in 2013-14. So there would be no increase, so my assumption would be they weren't having full utilized days while they were in there. But I will check that and if they are fully utilizing all their days and there is more time needed in any of these communities, we'll have that discussion. That would be something that would have to go into the contracts we have with various dentists.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that. If the Minister can just speak about amending the Dental Auxiliaries Act specifically to allow dental hygienists to operate unsupervised in the communities, that will give us the potential for increased visits to the communities as well. Also, Mr. Speaker, I really believe we

should invest in oral hygiene care in all communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. That's more of a comment. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health and Social Services Professional Act is something that the Member is aware that we are going through 19 different acts, including the Dental Auxiliaries Act. That is something that we are looking at, so it's a future possibility that we can develop regulations specific to dental hygienists. However, there is another factor and that is there are no dental hygienists school in Canada at this point. So what we are hoping to do is work with perhaps not even other jurisdictions, but right into other countries. We are thinking about working with Alaska on that.

So we are looking at the acts to change them so dental hygienists can be a bigger piece of the puzzle and work independently at the community level. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 385-17(4):
MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the Medical Travel Policy. I guess my first question would be: Does the department have a point of contact or an NWT coordinator or regional coordinator for anybody that's travelling to either Edmonton or Yellowknife for medical treatment or appointments to contact, should they be travelling on the weekend, say a Saturday or Sunday, and needs some information? It might even be late at night and somebody could give them assistance so they can get back to their home town, back into their community such as Inuvik. Does the department currently have an on-call service for after hours or on the weekend, should people find themselves in that situation?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anyone travelling with medical travel, according to the policy, should have an after-hours number so that if an individual is returning from medical travel on Sunday, Saturday or a late night flight, then that individual is supposed to be equipped with an after-hours number if they cannot afford to get back home to their community. So if an individual is landing in Inuvik and they are from another community in the area, they would overnight in Inuvik in a boarding home. If they are from Inuvik, they are supposed to just jump in a cab, go home and be reimbursed. If they don't have money, there is a number that is provided to them.

MR. MOSES: When individuals are consulted on this after-hours number or when they are going through their itinerary, is there somebody else in the room with these clients or individuals? In some cases, I've had elders approach me where they have agreed on medical travel and agreed to go to Edmonton without an escort when, in fact, they did need an escort. When I have approached the Minister in the past, he's always said this elder – the Minister's office, I shouldn't say the Minister himself – was consulted. However, in some cases, the elder or the individual might just agree, not knowing what they're agreeing to. So is there someone else that is consulted, a third party that the client can approach that attends these meetings with the client?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: There should be. If the health professional is not able to communicate with the individual, then there should be somebody else there that can provide assistance to the individual and the health profession to ensure communication. I'm afraid what the Member is bringing up is correct. Sometimes elders will just get the information and then go down south. What we can do is, in cases where individuals are travelling to and from, we can alert Larga. For example, if they are in Inuvik, Vital Abel is available if they are here, to make sure that the people understand when they are going back home or when they're travelling in, they understand that these are the numbers they are to call if they were to get into any distress or if they are feeling nobody is there available to pick them up at the airport and so on, so we can ensure that the system is picking that up. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Another issue that we're having with the Medical Travel Policy here is the amount of time it takes for an individual to get approval for their travel, for their appointments and the amount of time when they do have an appointment, they're usually given sometimes last minute notice – a day, not even two days, sometimes even the same day – that they've got an approval to go on travel. This also results in some of the no-shows that we have, this government has taken in as debt because of people not showing up to their appointments.

Has there been any update or any upgrades to the approval system of medical travel in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The Department of Health and Social Services is able to gather all of the information necessary to modernize the Medical Travel Policy and the Medical Travel Program. At this time, some of those issues are the exact things we're trying to work out of the system. We recognize that medical travel is a very important part of people travelling to appointments because we can't always bring the doctors to the people. So we are working with that,

we're looking at some electronic aids and so on that would be able to help sometimes and maybe divert medical travel. But at the end of the day, there are 1,000 medical travel trips a month. We're trying to make each of those events as uneventful and smooth of a trip down to see the doctor and back. So that is something that we are currently looking at. Hopefully we'll get the bugs out. It's a difficult task, but we're trying to get the bugs out of the medical system so it works effectively for everyone. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Medical Travel Policy itself hasn't been revised in about 15 years and the Minister has made some suggestions to that. When would this government look at a possible revised Medical Travel Policy that might include such things as an after-hours coordinator, a weekend coordinator, language translator and speeding up the process such as putting in timelines? Is there a timeline that we can see a revised Medical Travel Policy within this government? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Unfortunately, I do not have the exact date of when we are going to make changes to the Medical Travel Policy. We have someone currently working on it. I don't know of the timelines, but I am prepared and willing to provide that information to the Members as soon as I can. Before the end of session I can provide the timelines. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 386-17(4):

911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week on Thursday I was trying to raise the issue of 911. The fact is, the concern in Yellowknife, as well as across the Northwest Territories, is this file still has gone nowhere.

So I ask the Minister of MACA, who is in charge of the 911 issue, I guess one could look at it that way or I don't know what he's doing with it. So that's where my first question lies.

What is the Minister of MACA doing to move forward the file of 911 to ensure we have safety for all Northerners as requested by NWTAC, the City of Yellowknife and Northerners at large? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, 911 is a concern across the Northwest Territories. We've heard about it in the many meetings we've had. I have asked officials to

go back and have a look at it, considering the fact that technology and telecommunications have improved throughout the North. So I have committed to revisiting the issue. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Maybe the Minister could elaborate. The 911 issue has been brought up no less than 13 occasions in this Legislature and it was always hinging on being able to reach out to the communities and cell phone services. So I'd like the Minister to actually explain to this House what does he mean by he's looking into this. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I said we're revisiting the issue. The question has been raised. The Member said what, 13 times. I think it was a lot more than that, but at the time, because of the lack of communication across the Northwest Territories, telecommunication, it would have been difficult to work on or implement this system. So with the improvements, we are going back. I have directed officials to revisit this issue and see if there are ways that we can possibly implement this program. We're working with the communities to implement this program on a stage-by-stage basis. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Written words speak louder than oral words. So what is the Minister willing to table before this House or even put in a letter to Members to show that MACA is committed to this, rather than just standing here and saying we're behind it? Well, let's prove it. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. If the Member doesn't want to take my word for it, then we'll put a letter together and send it to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Has the Minister of MACA ever gone to the FMB Cabinet table to fight for 911 and is he able to prove that for a fact? A lot of Northerners in this city and across the territory all feel that this issue continues to get dusted off and ignored. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. It's not our intention to dust this off and keep pushing it off. I have not gone to the Cabinet table yet. We are planning on doing a little more work on this and then once the opportunity arises, we're looking for some funds, and I will approach FMB and see if there's a possibility that we can gain access to some of these funds. But in the meantime, we do recognize that things are changing across the Northwest Territories and I've heard from a lot of folks out there. I've heard from NWTAC, I've heard from Members in the 16th and 17th. So it is one that I have committed to revisiting and seeing if there's a possibility that we can advance this issue any further. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 387-17(4):
POST-DEVOLUTION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're marching towards the April 1st, 2014, deadline of completing the devolution transfer process. However, we have regions that haven't settled their land claims and, at the same time, haven't signed on to the Devolution Agreement. So my questions are for the Premier.

The Intergovernmental Council that's described in the post-Devolution Agreement sets a relationship between this government and also Aboriginal governments. Will the Dehcho and Akaitcho be involved in that process in terms of the Intergovernmental Council? Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process, as laid out, is for Aboriginal governments to sign on to devolution in order to be part of the Intergovernmental Council. Having said that, we are currently under discussions with both the Dehcho First Nation and the Akaitcho First Nations to find ways to move forward and hopefully get both the Dehcho First Nation and the Akaitcho to sign on to devolution. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. Unsettled regions are described as historical treaties and the Premier just indicated they're making efforts to ensure that efforts are made to bring along the Dehcho and the Akaitcho with the devolution process.

Can the Premier explain the GNWT's efforts to work with both regions to ensure they come on board on the devolution process? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. The grand chief of the Dehcho First Nation and myself approved a terms of reference for a small working group of senior officials to have a without prejudice discussion on ways to move forward on land issues. It's our expectation that very soon we'll be able to approach both of our leaderships to see if we can find common ground to move forward. My principal secretary met with some of the leaders of the Akaitcho First Nation to see if we can work together to set up a similar process.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The land claims and self-government processes are basically predicated by federal government policy including, just to name perhaps two, the comprehensive land claims policies and the inherent rights to self-government.

What guide and policy does the GNWT take into consideration when engaging First Nations on lands, resources and self-government arrangements?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As a government, we have approved mandates that guide our negotiations on comprehensive land claims. We have also approved the inherent right to self-government and we have our own mandates and policies and guidelines that we adhere to.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier perhaps give us an indication of a timeline when those groups that haven't signed on to the devolution process may come to the table?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As the Member knows, we are guided by the Constitution of Canada, and the Constitution of Canada provides for comprehensive land claims. As I said many times in the House, the Dehcho First Nations and the Akaitcho First Nations both don't believe the written versions of the treaties. They believe the oral version of the treaties. That is what has complicated the negotiations.

Now, both processes involve land, and lands are big issues. As part of the final agreement on devolution, we have a process whereby there is up to one year after the implementation date for an Aboriginal government to sign on, and there are also financial considerations for which the Government of Canada is paying; things like waste sites. There is also money for implementation, and those funds will drop off after one year because the Government of Canada doesn't want to continue to carry those forward as liabilities. On our part, if after a year those financial considerations by the Government of Canada fall off, I think it's incumbent on us, if the Aboriginal governments sign on after one year. Obviously, our government's objective and preference would be to have all Aboriginal governments sign on to land claims or sign on to devolution and that's what we're working towards.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. 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 144-17(4):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES MISSION TO KIRUNA,
SWEDEN, AND MUNICH, GERMANY –
MISSION REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 145-17(4):
NWT WATER STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT,
APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 146-17(4):
NWT WATER STEWARDSHIP REPORT CARD,
APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents, entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Mission to Kiruna, Sweden, and Munich, Germany: Mission Report; NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, Implementation and Progress Report, April 2011 to March 2013; and NWT Water Stewardship Report Card, April 2011 to March 2013. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 27:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
REVOLVING FUNDS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, I will move that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 17, motions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Motions

MOTION 25-17(4):
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR
PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories wish to acknowledge the profound grief experienced by families who suffer the death of a small child, infant or preterm baby;

AND WHEREAS this devastating tragedy often occurs suddenly, without warning, as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), accident, or other causes or complications;

AND WHEREAS SIDS is the number one cause of death in Canada for healthy infants under the age of one;

AND WHEREAS the tragedy of pregnancy and infant loss, which exacts a terrible emotional toll, may be preventable in some instances;

AND WHEREAS the 15th day of October is recognized in parts of Canada, and in many other jurisdictions around the world, as a day of remembrance and awareness of pregnancy and infant loss;

AND WHEREAS increased awareness of the causes and impacts surrounding pregnancy and infant loss may lead to greater understanding, support and resources in communities across the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS a day of remembrance honours the lives of children taken far too soon and supports grieving parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly resolves to formally observe October 15th as a special day of awareness and remembrance for pregnancy and infant loss in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

“Jacob Ryan was born on October 2, 2008, at 3:45 a.m. The doctors said he was perfect but would never take his first breath. I was only 22 weeks into the pregnancy. His lungs were too underdeveloped, so it was a stillbirth. The hardest thing that I ever had to go through was to pass this little body to the nurse, knowing we would not leave the hospital with our son.”

I read this account that was written by a constituent and which precipitated the bringing forward of this motion today.

“I did my best to make it appear to others that everything was okay. To everyone else, it seemed that I had successfully dealt with the loss and moved on with life. The death of my child was not a big deal, and we would just try again later. The truth was that losing Jacob was heartbreaking. Almost instantly I was filled with shame and guilt. Shame that I should have known something was wrong and the nagging guilt that I had somehow been responsible for his death. There were constant reminders that we did not have our baby, which left me depressed, angry and feeling alone. In the months following our loss, it was painful having

to hear that other couples were expecting and even harder having to see them bring their babies home.

"It was close to the first anniversary of his death that I finally started the process of accepting the loss of Jacob. For me, it started with the realization that life is not always fair and bad things happen. It was also during this time that I was forced to deal with the disappointment and heartbreak I still felt over the earlier pregnancy which had ended in a first-trimester miscarriage. I was fortunate enough to be able to connect with others who shared their stories and helped me discover that it was possible to make something good out of my experience.

"Although we have since been able to bring home a healthy baby girl from the hospital, I will never get over the memory and pain of having a miscarriage or of having to bury Jacob. I have been told numerous times over the last few years that you do not get over a loss like this, but you can learn to live with it. Since we've lost Jacob, I have been surprised by the number of people who approached us and said that they also had experienced a similar type of loss. Until then, I had no idea that these individuals had ever been in the same situation as we had. Losing a baby is not a happy, feel-good topic, so it is understandable that it isn't something that comes up in casual conversation. It can be uncomfortable for both the person sharing as well as for those who are listening, even more so for those who have been fortunate enough not to have lost a child. However, it is something that many individuals and families face. If you haven't experienced it directly, you know someone who has."

"In many provinces, October 15th has already been declared as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day. It has been designated as a time to draw attention and educate others on miscarriages, stillbirths, SIDS and the death of newborns. It was not created as a day to get sympathy or make others feel bad, instead as an opportunity to celebrate the little lives that are not here with us and show support to the families who have lost them. The goal is to encourage others to share their story and start a conversation that can lead to an openness of the topic. Everyone deals with their loss in their own way and time; however, it is important that they know that they are not alone. There are others who have had the same experience, those who understand firsthand the struggle and pain that they are going through. These people are willing to support and help them if they want it."

I'm happy to recognize today in the gallery a young woman who has started a support group for parents

who have lost infants. I'm really pleased to see that that support is there in the community and I think that we have a role here as a government to go one step further, to recognize this one day and to offer our support in any way we can to parents, to grandparents of families who have lost a little one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. I will allow the seconder to speak to the motion, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Mrs. Groenewegen put it very wonderfully in that letter in the sense of she spoke her heart. I think the letter conveys the pain that the mother had struggled forward through.

I have no doubt that this is a burden that is carried by many, if not a haunting reality that they go through every day, knowing that they have done everything perfect. Everything may have appeared perfect and then the world comes tumbling down around them.

This is a struggle that many of us may think has not touched us, but in some ways, when we dig deep, we find out that there are families around us that have gone through this loss.

This motion may not be the answer to SIDS, but it is the answer to sometimes the hopelessness you feel when you don't think anyone is listening. This motion, in some small way, I think, reaches out to folks in our world and says the Legislature understands and hears you. Although we wish we could help with every individual struggle, the one message it should deliver is you are not alone and we grieve with you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am especially pleased to rise in support of this motion. I would like to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing it forward and I would like to thank Mr. Hawkins for seconding the motion.

I don't know if it was mentioned, but Yellowknife has established a support group in the last couple of years, called Face2Face. I am very proud to say one of the founding members is a Frame Lake resident.

It's appreciated that the male Members of this House are supportive. Mr. Hawkins has spoken in support. I presume other Members, and I hope other Members, will speak in support.

This motion speaks to a very unique loss and to very unique emotions that can only be felt by females. Yes, it's felt by both parents, but females, unfortunately, have a particularly strong connection to a baby.

Recent communication from Mrs. Groenewegen has made it very obvious to me that this motion is

extremely important for the recognition of people who are suffering this loss. It is very important and the group members are really pleased that this motion has come forward. There is undoubtedly, in my mind, many other people in the territory and in this city who have experienced this loss who aren't part of any group. This maybe, hopefully, will bring some recognition to that and will assist them to join the group if they feel that is what they need to do.

I wish it weren't so, but I can attest to the devastation that is felt by parents on the loss of a child. If this motion brings some awareness, provides some awareness, if it provides some hope to grieving parents and mothers, if it brings some support to them, to any of our residents, then I think that's wonderful and it's the least we can do as an Assembly.

In my mind, it's most unfortunate that the previous Health Minister chose to ignore the request when it was presented three years ago. I am really pleased now that it is here and that this day, this event in people's lives will get the recognition that it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to just offer my condolences to all the parents and family members who have lost a small child, an infant or even a preterm baby.

I do rise in support of the motion. It sheds light on many different issues here, first being that this government supports the promotion of healthy pregnancies and takes into consideration not only the role of the mother but the role of the father, as well, and any other family members that might be involved.

In some of my previous job positions, I worked in health promotion for quite a number of years. I remember going to prenatal classes and talking to parents and mothers and fathers about the use of tobacco and the exposure of environmental tobacco smoke to not only the pregnant mother but also to small children and infants, and all the effects of environmental tobacco smoke. When this was brought forth, it brought back a memory of talking about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, stillbirths, miscarriages and the connection that all those have with not only environmental tobacco smoke, which is second-hand smoke in the household, but also it brings forth illicit drug use and alcohol consumption before, during and after pregnancy.

The motion itself recognizes what people have gone through, but it also brings awareness that we have to promote healthy pregnancies, healthy births and healthy families in the communities and in the Northwest Territories.

I applaud Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing this forth today and Mr. Hawkins for seconding the motion

and all those who are going to speak in favour of the motion. I think it's a good opportunity for this job to start recognizing that and bringing that to the forefront. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know people who have suffered from pregnancy or infant loss. Through the dedication of some mothers, we have been learning a lot recently about the cost of this loss. I appreciate the work that those people are doing to bring that recognition forward. They are also pointing out the need to acknowledge this loss and provide support for those who suffer from it and especially the emotional trauma that goes along with it. So this is a real educational effort as well as an attempt to get some recognition on a much broader scale through this motion.

I would like to thank, again, those people who are bringing this perfecta forward and also for the movers of the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen and Mr. Hawkins. I think this will be a step in the right direction, and as my colleague Mr. Moses has mentioned, there are many other aspects to this that members of the public are bringing forward, particularly those who have suffered such loss and giving some profile to it. I hope it will enter into all of our thinking. This day will be a good reminder of that every year, if we need such a reminder. Thanks to all. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing this motion to the floor and having Mr. Hawkins second the motion and the Members who spoke in support of this motion. I think Mr. Bromley said it best, if we have a day that is dedicated to this issue here.

It is a very personal issue. We can talk about bridges, roads and infrastructure, but how do we talk about a human being, a gift from God, of our choosing? How do we talk about the intangible questions of what a parent is going through, what a mother is going through, what a father is going through?

I have dealt with this issue in my past life. I've dealt with it in the last 10 years as an MLA. There are questions for the young mothers especially. I was always reminded that this issue here is best answered by the elders. They talk about the little angel coming down and the angel is here for a purpose. We don't know what happens to give comfort to the mother or to the father. The elders are telling us that there is something bigger that's at play. I just wanted to say that there is an importance and, as hard as it may be, that when you sit with the elders, they explain it in a way that's

comforting for the parents and comforting for me. I had to talk to a young mother about the loss of a special person that's coming to life here. It's difficult.

So I want to thank the mover and the seconder, and for speaking on this issue. It's something as legislators to be reminded of the close, intimate issues that we have to deal with as opposed to the far, distant, cold issues of infrastructure stuff. Sometimes we need to be reminded to come back and remember what's important and to listen to people. Even by this motion, to have a day makes a difference to somebody out there. I will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I rise in favour of the motion today. I recognize that this is a very serious matter for some families. As indicated, I think sometimes the loss of a very young child goes almost unnoticed by the general population, even if it's in the communities. But it never goes unnoticed or is forgotten by the parents.

I knew a young lady as a young mother who lost a child, and 30 years later it was still on her mind, and her baby was 35 days old. This is direction to the Legislature that Cabinet will be voting in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I will allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues on both sides of the House for this gesture of support to parents who have lost a child. It means a lot to them, I know, and I would also like to thank my constituent who had the courage to raise this issue and asked me to bring this matter forward to this House. I'd like to thank her for sharing her story about her loss and hopefully we can be supportive of those around us in a more meaningful way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Blake.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 26:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 3, Wildlife Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act; Bill 18, Apology Act; Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act; Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act; Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Committee Report 6-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 3, Wildlife Act; Committee Report 7-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013; Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014; and Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair. By the authority given me as Speaker, by Motion 1-17(4), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Good afternoon, committee. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have a number of items before us on the agenda this afternoon. What is the wish of the committee today? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Committee would like to deal with Tabled Document 134-17(4), Tabled Document 135-17(4) and, if we have time, Bills 17, 18, 19 and 21. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. We will commence with that agenda after a brief break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible, the honourable Mr. Miltenberger, if he has any opening remarks.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014. This document provides for an increase of \$275,000 for infrastructure investment expenditures in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The two items in this supplementary estimate include:

1. \$100,000 to the Legislative Assembly for the design, fabrication and installation of a prominent sign welcoming visitors to the Legislative Assembly in all official languages.
2. \$175,000 to the Legislative Assembly for the enhancement of the Water's Edge Park to develop it into a multifunctional public park that can accommodate ceremonial and special events hosted by the Legislative Assembly.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I'd like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me the deputy minister of Finance and the director of the Management Board Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): We'll open up the floor for general comments on Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was my understanding that there was a lot more money transferred to the Legislative Assembly by, I'm not sure what we call it, the Board of Governance; I've forgotten what it is called, the name. Sorry, thank

you, the Building Fund. So the Building Fund, how much was fully forwarded to the Government of the Northwest Territories as an appropriation to the Building Fund? They wrote a cheque and I want to sort of start cross-referencing the number being spent or allocated today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a cheque forwarded, or an amount forwarded of \$400,000. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I thank the Minister for that. So my next question to the Minister would be that perhaps my NWT math isn't so good, but I'm noticing there's a discrepancy between the \$400,000 being committed here, or perhaps my NWT math is pretty good. It looks like there's a variance between the money being allocated and that's going forward to be spent. Where is the rest of the money, if there is outstanding money, that would have been linked to the \$400,000?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is a capital infrastructure component, which is currently before us. Then the remainder of the balance of the money will be accounted for in the O and M supp. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. The remainder balance, just to be clear on the record, because I'm not sure it's an O and M supp question, I'd like to know officially how much that is allocated to and if the Minister could explain to me the policy by which the money was to be spent. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There's \$125,000 that will be accounted for through the O and M supplementary appropriation and this has come forward to the legislative process through the Board of Management in terms of the money that was to be spent on infrastructure and the money that's going to be spent to accommodate and pay forward the celebrations that are going to be taking place here on Friday and Saturday. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I guess now begs the question are we not breaking the bylaws or the spirit and the intent as prescribed that the whole surplus money, if there was money, was to be spent on infrastructure? I can appreciate maybe some is spent into the concept of packaging the infrastructure, organizing and launching it et cetera, but it sounds like more than 25 percent of it is being allocated to O and M, which, if I heard the Minister correctly, the intent was to be directed at infrastructure. Maybe he could explain that. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Legislative Assembly Building Society's bylaws state that any surplus is to be used for the benefit of the Legislative Assembly building and the Legislative

Assembly did receive legal advice from its Law Clerk that the wording of the society's bylaws was broad enough to include all the planned projects for the surplus, including the celebration events. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I will just say that I do not agree with that interpretation and that I hear the Minister that the legal opinion may say that, but it's my interpretation that when the money is to benefit the building, it is intended to benefit the building, not to be a celebration, party, travel fees, whatever. So I would like to register my concern and certainly grievance on this issue. Members in this building will know this is not new, this is consistent from my earlier opinion on this and I think the additional \$125,000 should not be wrapped up in plane tickets or parties or whatnot, and what the whatnot is should go to the benefit of the citizens through some type of legacy infrastructure. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I note the Member's concern and, of course, we're here before this Assembly to seek approval for these expenditures. I look forward to the decision of the Assembly, but the Member has made his comments noted for the record and I'll let it stand at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Any other general comments? Does committee agree to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Legislative Assembly, capital infrastructure, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$275,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$275,000. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to continue on some of the questioning that was brought forward by Mr. Hawkins, so I can get a complete understanding about the allocation of this money, its original intent, and whether we are following within the spirit of that intent.

Now, this money or this whole framework was the Legislative Building Society. They created a framework, basically a program to which there was money invested and there could have been potential surplus at the end of that 20-year cycle. I want to get just a general sense. What were the original bylaws or what was the original intent, because many Members here felt that with correspondence that these were supposed to be designed for a legacy project for the building, whether it was infrastructure or not. But can we get the Minister to clarify what was the original spirit and intent of any surplus funds as a result of the Legislative Building Society at the end of its term?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I laid out what the bylaws say and the money is to be used for the benefit of the Legislative Assembly, so there is a significant amount of discretion. The Board of Management looked at what was in the best interests of the Legislature, both in terms of \$275,000 that's going towards infrastructure improvements, and then, since this is a building of the people, you have a celebration of the fact that we have paid off the mortgage. We had some surplus left, and we have a good reason to celebrate, and so they combined the two. It's been checked through by the Law Clerks and everybody is agreed that what is being put forward and what is before this House is within the spirit and intent of the bylaws.

MR. DOLYNNY: I think the interpretation of what would be considered legacy for the building could have various meanings here. I guess my other question is that if there was indeed a surplus that was generated by the Legislative Building Society, why is it that they did not imitate the purchase of or the completion of their intent? Why was a cheque written over to this government now? Why that process? I just don't quite understand that?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: My understanding is that the body in question did the job that they were tasked to do over two decades. That they had helped come up with a financing arrangement for the building of this singularly stunning edifice that we work in, and now their work is done. The mortgage is paid off. Not only was the mortgage paid off but they managed to accrue a small surplus which they have turned over to the Board of Management, to the Legislative Assembly to do with as they will under their bylaws, which is do something for the benefit of the Legislative Assembly, which is what is being done here today.

MR. DOLYNNY: What was supposed to be fairly clear has now become a little bit muddy. The spirit and intent sounds like it was clearly laid out by the members of the Legislative Building Society. That they were to carry out their own bylaws to spend the overage, but then, in turn, wrote a cheque to the GNWT here, to the government here, to say now spend it in the intent that we originally designed.

Every antenna that I have goes off, going, why would they do that. I think they're doing that because this topic became a political hot button. They are aware that some of that spending wasn't going into the true nature of what its original intention was and I think they got, I'm assuming, maybe a little bit of cold feet. Now, they came to remove themselves from the political decision-making and that's why we find ourselves here today.

I guess I'm a bit at odds and really at the mercy of the Minister here and at his convenience in terms of trying to get to the bottom of this. But I guess what I'm trying to say here, in so many words, is that I'm not sure that the Building Society would have earmarked a bit of a lavish celebration in terms of bringing Premiers to an event and stuff like that would constitute in the true nature what their original intent was. With that in mind, if we can get maybe a bit of a breakdown so I know that some of that \$100,000, which I know is designed for an event here later on this week, which I think is a good idea, but I just want to make sure now that this is public money, it's very critical that we talk about it in a public sense. Maybe if I can just get a breakdown of what some of the costs are attributing to this \$100,000 gala.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That number, we can discuss now, but it's actually part of the O and M supp that's going to come following this particular deliberation on these two very specific capital items. If it's the wish of the Chair to blend the two together, we can have that discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I will remind Mr. Dolynny we are talking about the capital plan here. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Chair. I am very much familiar that we are talking about capital. I'm talking about the \$100,000 to fund a public commemorative event. If I can get a breakdown of what that commemorative event will entail within the \$100,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Mr. Dolynny, The item before us is the capital, not the operations side of it, and that's the next supplementary appropriations we will be looking at. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll reserve my question until we get to that other supp.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Anyone else for general comments? On the details. Sorry. Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$275,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$275,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 94-17(4):
CONCURRENCE OF
TABLED DOCUMENT 134-17(4),
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be now concluded, and that Tabled Document 134-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Does committee agree to consider Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I would like to ask the Minister responsible, the honourable Mr. Miltenberger, to make opening comments.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014. This document outlines an increase of \$24.290 million in operations expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The major items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. \$8.7 million for the Department of Executive for funding for costs associated with the implementation of the final Devolution Agreement. The net impact on government operations is nil as these costs will be offset with funding to be received from the federal government.
2. \$1.6 million for the Department of Finance for costs associated with an increase in the contribution to the NWT Housing Corporation to address increased costs for heating fuel and electricity in the delivery of the Public Housing Program.
3. A total of \$13.9 million for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to fund fire suppression costs that were approved in two special warrants in July and August.

4. \$650,000 for the Department of Transportation to fund emergency repairs to the Inuvik Airport runway.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I will get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister like to introduce his witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have Mr. Michael Aumond and Mr. Olin Lovely from Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. We will open up the floor for general comments on Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014. Does committee agree there are no further general comments? Does committee agree we go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. We will go to page 3, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$100,000. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to continue my questions from the infrastructure supp regarding the \$100,000 component here under the operations side. If the Minister can give us a breakdown as to what that will entail under that \$100,000 expenditure. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately \$50,000 is for the public event in the Great Hall. This includes entertainment, photograph displays of the history of the Legislature, a time capsule and production of video of the event, which will be available to the people across the NWT. Approximately \$40,000 is for travel and accommodations to bring in former Speakers, Premiers, Commissioners and Clerks. One of the events associated with the celebration is the unveiling of portraits of former Speakers and Premiers, which will feature prominently in the building. It is customary to invite the subject of portraits to be present for their unveiling. Therefore, we would consider this part of the expense of

having the portraits done. Approximately \$10,000 is budgeted for a private dinner for former and current MLAs, Commissioners, Clerks and the Legislative Assembly Building Society, just over 100 confirmed guests. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Chair, given some of the numbers that we just heard here, about 40 percent of this \$100,000 allocation will be for travel, and he talked about a private function that is occurring here. I didn't hear a dollar figure that was set aside for that function. Would the Minister like to share that number, please?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I will restate for the record, approximately \$10,000 is budgeted for a private dinner for former and current MLAs, Commissioners, Clerks and the Legislative Assembly Building Society, just over 100 confirmed guests. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Really, if we start adding up the numbers, about 50 percent of this \$100,000 is set aside for, basically, travel, accommodations and a function. I'm trying to see how this fits in the original bylaws of the Legislative Building Society. I have a hard time fitting that in.

There are really muddy lines in the water when it looks at legacy and I think the public has shared their concern about this a number of times as well. Let's be clear. I'm all for having a nice time to commemorate the building. I don't want people to think I'm a party pooper here. I'm not. Far from it. But this is now public money. I have to do my job and ask those right questions.

I don't have any further questions on this one here, but it raises some big question marks, really, in the true intent of what was originally earmarked 20 years ago. I am not sure that the Building Society had a party in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, the Building Society decided to cut the cheque because they wanted to wind up the affairs. They have been in business for 20 years. If they would have had to set up a trust, they would have to continue on as a legal body until the trust monies were all spent, which would have meant more meetings next year and they wanted to be finished now.

I think we should recognize the fact that they did a yeoman's job, a fine job minding the public purse for us, helped us get this building. Now their role is finished and they made that determination and handed over the funds to us. Now they are before this House, having been through the Board of Management and working within the spirit and intent of the former Legislative Assembly Building Society's bylaws. While I appreciate the Member's concern, I think this money can, has and will stand any scrutiny folks want to bring to bear upon it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear we have Mr. Dolynny on board with this particular matter and I'm happy to welcome anybody else who wants to join this side of the perspective.

Quite frankly, I'm concerned on how we're proceeding. This is not directed to the stewardship or the mentorship of the Minister who has to carry this through, shepherd it through, this requirement and spending bill, which is, of course, the way we do business, which is, in essence, law; but the reality here I'm suffering from is the full appreciation when I hear the spirit and intent and a legal opinion and all is good.

Quite frankly, when I hear that this was rushed through, a cheque was cut, dropped off and, like Pontius Pilate, they sort of clapped their hands and sort of walked away like it's not their problem, I find it a bit of misinterpretation or a missed opportunity for some type of due diligence.

I would like to be surprised by this next question with a clear answer, which seems to be not the obvious, which is: Was there a letter ever sent to the government in any form under the Building Society's letterhead or stewardship that basically says that this is how they envision the money to be spent? We keep hearing about the spirit and the intent. Did they put pen to paper, other than to sign a cheque? Did they provide some direction and has anyone consulted with them? It feels like, sure, they may have rushed the cheque out the door to close the society's door and I'm sure I don't begrudge them of that. After 20 years, that's great, but after 20 years they could have waited 20 more days to do this. I understand they may not want to be the stewards of a scholarship. No problem there. That makes sense. But, quite frankly, a little instruction from them would have gone a long way.

Here we are sitting here, debating what was prescribed 20 years ago as the mandate of this organization and sitting here wondering. When I hear it was left for the building, to me it sounds like it is left for the building. I would certainly welcome any clarification or guidance the Minister could provide, because that would certainly take some concern away that I have at this moment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The correspondence I am aware of was the Legislative Building Society wrote a letter to the Speaker, indicating they wanted to wrap things up and that they accounted fully for all the work they've done, that they had met their mandate and that there was a residual amount of money,

\$400,000, which they were turning over to the Speaker to use on behalf of the Legislative Assembly building and here we are today. I'm not aware that they wrote a list of things that they wanted to see done. I think, in keeping with the information we have, that they wanted to wrap it up and they did not want to set up a separate trust and they did not want to have to keep in existence for another year to expend the funds, that they were more than happy to turn over that responsibility to the Speaker and the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, I don't disagree with the description or the common sense brought forward on this issue by the Finance Minister, which talks about the administration and the trust, the headaches of carrying on a society that probably isn't necessary. I'm not arguing that. The issue I'm trying to lay before the House, quite simply, is did they provide a letter or any type of guidance to the House on is a \$100,000 party okay. As far as I'm concerned, that's 25 percent of this money. If you add the \$25,000 on top of that, we're talking one-third of this surplus money is not left for the building and what sounds like to me is the prescribed mandate of the society. I think we are doing ourselves a disservice in some way. I'm not suggesting it's evil or bad intent or evil intent or nefarious or anything. I just don't think we are following the mandate and wishes of the bylaw as prescribed and I think we are making a serious mistake.

This money should all be committed to the Legislature, whether it's to signage, walkways or parkways, something that is designed to enhance the public's access and the public's benefit, be it fixing the Chamber doors, for goodness sakes, or carving them. It doesn't really matter. As we keep repeating over and over again, it talks about it's intended for the building.

Can the Minister of Finance explain to me why flying in former Premiers and whoever, MLAs or whatever the case may be, solves that problem or meets that test? How does that help the building? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I would suggest that explicitly, maybe not explicitly but at least implicitly, the Legislative Assembly Building Society regarded that the Legislative Assembly would make the right decisions. In fact, as I pointed out, they are going to come to the dinner and they are going to join, with the rest of us, the mortgage burning, the fact that we have this lovely building paid for and it was all under their watch that they accomplished this and they did a fine job.

Everything has been accounted for. Lawyers have looked at it. I appreciate that there are some concerns by Mr. Hawkins in the joy of this democratic forum that we're in, in this House,

where we represent the people, that it's now paid for, thanks to the oversight of the Legislative Assembly Building Society. We will have a vote that will prove or disprove of this money and I can't give the Member any more information than that. I look forward to the direction of the House. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: The Finance Minister is the one who has to carry this file and it's unfortunate that he has to carry this file, which really isn't his file to carry. It should have been handled, rightly so, by the Building Society. If they had provided a letter saying they supported this or not...They weren't kept in the dark. To suggest that they are coming to the dinner is almost like the spider saying to the fly, come to dinner. I'm sorry, making them culpable by saying they will be there by dinner, don't worry, we're all one, doesn't cut it for me. I don't think it's doing our job.

I shame all the MLAs who are going to vote for this because it sounds like it's not for the Building Fund. I will leave it at that. I think the argument has been made. We could go back and forth another two minutes or three minutes or whatnot, but I've stated my grievance repeatedly and I encourage all my colleagues in this Assembly to vote against this portion and we redirect it to some type of capital legacy infrastructure commitment that is so rightly intended by the mandate of this board. It's not a question, but I do appreciate the Finance Minister taking the full breadth of my grievance on this issue. As guided by the Speaker today, I guess I have to talk to Cabinet nicely, so I will leave it at that.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I just wanted to note, for the record, that the Member referenced the culpability of the Legislative Assembly Building Society members and I wanted to point out clearly, unequivocally, with no ambiguity, that culpability implies some kind of wrongdoing, some kind of guilt for something that's happened.

I think we should all be collectively thanking the Legislative Assembly Building Society members for the work that they've done, the honour that they've carried out the responsibility with and the thoroughness and long-lasting dedication.

For the record, there is no culpability. That word shouldn't even be used in this Legislature on this issue, where we're supposed to be celebrating a relatively unique, historic achievement. I just wanted to make that clear that we owe a great debt of gratitude and debt to those members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Office of the Speaker, not previously authorized, \$25,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$125,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Executive, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$706,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to confirm that these dollars are part of the 23 or 25 million that the federal government is providing for our costs of implementing devolution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For the record, I would like to clarify the number is \$8.706 million. I missed the \$8 million. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount we're getting is \$26.5 million and, yes, this \$8.706 million is part of that fund. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I thank the Minister for that information. Is this the first \$8 million or have we expended additional funds to this and how are the projections looking relative to that absolute amount of \$26-something million?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This \$8.706 million will have us fully subscribing to the \$26.5 million.

MR. BROMLEY: So just to confirm, will this take us to the end of the fiscal year, the implementation date of April 1st, or are we spending more than the \$26-something million to do this work. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, this particular supplementary appropriation will allow us to be able to conclude all the activities for which the money was dedicated, the transition costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Directorate, not previously authorized, \$8.706 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$8.706 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Department of Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.645 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe these are primarily for the utility costs, heating and electricity, which we know are going up steadily. At the same time, I know the Housing Corporation are doing work to improve their efficiency of facilities

both on the heating and electricity side of the equation. So I'm wondering if there's an explanation... Are we still not saving enough to account for these additional costs or is there something else going on here? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the increased amount of money required is for the natural gas conversion to diesel in Norman Wells and incremental costs associated with the provision of synthetic natural gas in Inuvik. It also relates to the increasing electricity rates approved by the Public Utilities Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Okay, and thanks for that information. There are a couple of big costs there, for sure. Now, we're just starting this, I guess, with the liquid natural gas. Can we expect that these total energy costs will remain higher like this and we can expect additional requests or that our budgets will be bigger for Housing Corporation utilities in those areas? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The infrastructure costs, the conversion costs are going to be one time for the synthetic natural gas. There has, in fact, been a modest decrease in overall consumption. So as the energy issues both in Norman Wells and Inuvik play out, we'll see where we end up, finally, when it comes to an ongoing energy source.

There also has been, not so much in the Housing Corporation, but there's been a migration by a lot of individuals to biomass and other forms of heating energy that they control on their own just because of the uncertainty. But we anticipate that the costs, those start-up costs won't be ongoing. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister. My last question on this, given the higher costs for these utilities, and particularly in the two problem areas mentioned by Mr. Lovely, can we expect the Minister will ensure, as we go forward, that will be brought into the full-cost accounting? In consideration of alternative sources it might be less costly and provide other benefits. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We pride ourselves on trying to do that full-cost accounting in all its aspects and we'll, in this case, note the Member's concerns and we'll do that. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just before we leave this area here, just so we get an

understanding of the full-cost accounting, this \$1.645 million that is considered not previously authorized, what percentage of this number is in relationship to the overall costs of heating fuel and electricity for public housing? What percentage does this represent? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: I would have to get back to the Member with that information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The purpose for my question with that is it has to do with just some facts that we do know. The fact that, number one, our inventory of public housing has not changed in the last year, so we were led to believe that we were dealing with same inventory issues. We've also been told in this House and other forums that we have seen roughly about an 8 percent savings in retrofits and in doing more energy-smart initiatives to make our public infrastructure that much more economic. So right away we should see savings in design. We know there's been roughly about a 7 percent increase in electrical costs during that same given year. So if you start adding up all the numbers, Mr. Chair, that's why I want to know whether or not that percent increase is within what I consider the norm. Not to mention the fact that we heard earlier today that some of the costs were due to conversion of oil to LNG, which really begs the question, is that operational costs or is that a small capital infrastructure changeover for equipment. So really I'm personally thinking maybe that's not the right category that we should be looking at as an operational cost.

So without knowing that variable of whether or not that percent increase is the norm, given what I just stated as facts that we've had here in the House, I have a hard time with that number. So unless you're able to provide it, I have a hard time accepting that number today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The universal number is there. So the Member wants to know the breakdown. We've got heating costs, we've got electricity costs, we've got conversion costs for synthetic natural gas, power rates have gone up, as the Member has indicated, the price of synthetic natural gas is high. So at one point the Member is saying there's a problem with the \$1.6 million, or is he wanting to know the breakdown in a tighter, clarified way that would allow us to put percentages on what does the heating fuel cost of 7 percent for electricity, as he's

indicated, the conversion costs account for 30 percent, 40 percent of the \$1.6 million? I'm not quite sure what the Member is taking exception to in terms of not being able to support this number. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My intention is not to belittle the question. It's just that the fact remains that we've got some consistent facts or variables that I consider baseline and without knowing what this number means in relationship to the overall costs of heating and electricity for our public housing, there's nothing to gauge whether or not \$1.645 million is reasonable, given the facts we know today. So unless we're able to baseline this number in relationship to what is considered a fair increase, that has yet to be seen and we don't have that information today.

So again, I'm at the Minister's mercy to agree to something to which we're not prepared to discuss here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the heating fuel costs, we're looking for \$685,000. That's on top of the \$7.8 million that's currently sitting in the base of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, which translates to roughly 8 percent.

In terms of the electricity costs, the amount that we're sitting in the base for the Housing Corp is \$7.846 million and we're requesting \$960,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. DOLYNNY: I didn't do that last math quickly enough here, but can we get a clarification on the electricity what that percent increase is over and above the base? Thank you.

MR. LOVELY: It's about 8 percent.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate Mr. Lovely and the Minister for indulging me to get this number. I think with that number it should make a bit more sense and I appreciate them sharing that information today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.645 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.645 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 6, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$546,000. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. So we're saving this because of efficiencies realized through our energy saving

measures. What period of time is this for and would we know how many facilities this has been provided from? I'm trying to get a sense of what this means of all the work we've been doing. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's from the budget year '12-13 and what it notes here is they completed 39 projects to date and we have an appendix attached, which lists all of them right from Yellowknife NSCF right down to Behchoko Chief Jimmy Bruneau, and things like installing biomass systems, electrical heat conversions, energy retrofits, lighting retrofits. I think committee has that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$546,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$546,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 7. Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and policing, not previously authorized, \$316,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Corrections, not previously authorized, \$311,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$627,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 8, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$189,000. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering, this is carry-over funding, what was the total amount, if we have that handy, for climate change-related research and development projects that we were provided through the Building Canada Plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The total amount was \$406,000, of which \$217,000 was expended and the request is to carry over the remaining \$189,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Have we been provided with a report on what we found with the other research with the previous dollars that have been spent on this file?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask if the Minister of Transportation could possibly respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a total of \$595,000 and some of the work is going to be carried over. What we can do is commit to the Members there are a number of projects, Inuvik to Tuk highway test section, winter road vulnerability assessment, remote weather information system that we're putting in, sensors and equipment and permafrost, a short course that was run. We would endeavour to get a report of those activities to the Members when they're concluded, and again, they're not all concluded, as you see the carry-over for \$189,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Corporate services, not previously authorized, \$189,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Airports, not previously authorized, \$650,000. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd just like to be sure I understand this. I believe, if my memory serves, this is a sudden collapse of a part of the Inuvik runway. I'm wondering: Is this sort of related, sort of the climate change that we're seeing, is it related to the loss or permafrost? What have we got and what do we expect the full cost of this correction to be?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have \$650,000 before us today, and then in 2014-2015 we are budgeting \$2.350 million. They're still doing the technical and geophysical testing to find out, but there's a strong assumption that there are permafrost issues, moisture issues and those types of things that are contributing to the slump in the runway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Airports, not previously authorized, \$650,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, not previously authorized, \$839,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 8, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forest management, special warrants, \$13.894 million. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I find myself almost repeating some of the same things I did last

time we went through this exercise, in terms of a special warrant of over \$10 million. In this case, we've got one closer to \$14 million. This is something that I know is hard to put in the books. I mean, how do you predict fires and everything else, but that said, I think for budgetary purposes, if we've got a repeated pattern year in and year out that we're exceeding our budget by such a large figure, I'm hoping that the budgeters can start putting that in, into the whole cost accounting for this here. But that's not my question.

My question has to deal with we've got a severely aging fleet of our CL-215s that we continuously hear that they're at the end of their lifecycle, or very near to the end of their lifecycle, and there is a point in time that that aging fleet is going to start costing us more money than making us money. My questions here today really revolve around are we starting to see the brunt of an aging fleet that are adding more dollars at the end of the year as a result of not dealing with the issue sooner than later.

Can the Minister maybe elaborate if the department has done any calculations whatsoever? Have there been extra costs attributed because of this aging fleet?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of budgeting, first, for fires, we've had some modest increases to the base, and it's come up a number of times. This particular year, last summer was very intensely dry, a lot of lightning, a lot of fires by significant values at risk, especially in the Deh Cho. The fact that we were competing for scarce resources, we had to bring in other crews, other planes.

As it pertains to the 215s, the Member is correct; the 215s are nearing the end of their best-before date and some would say they've passed that. We're struggling to keep them in the air. Just with the access to avgas alone is a major problem. There is a significant fleet review, as I've indicated, that is currently being completed that will be making its way through the appropriate channels and on to the desk of the committee, to look at the challenges that we're facing as it comes to decisions that are going to be required in the coming years. We still have an existing contract for air support services, both land-based and skimmers, that takes us to 2017, but we are hard at work to make sure we start the process and the reviews so that we are well along the way with key decisions being made in the life of this Assembly that will determine the path forward with regard to air support services for firefighting.

MR. DOLYNNY: On the subject of air support services, and obviously, going back to the CL-215 scenarios here, did we have any times whatsoever

during the summer where any of the CL-215s were grounded for whatever reason, repairs, inoperable, or maintenance?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We've managed to keep them all airworthy. Not this summer, but last summer they were grounded. Our fleet was grounded because we had used up all the gas available in Inuvik so we had to bring in, on very short notice, some turbo prop aircraft, or a turbo craft aircraft that could assume those duties. That's one of the biggest challenges. We've addressed it in the short term in the communities, trying to make sure we have gas available. That's the one thing that has posed a real operational obstruction and challenge. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Chair, if the Minister can also maybe give a clarification. Out of the \$13.894 million, what dollar figure from that was due to acquiring and subcontracting other air support other than what we have currently in our fleet? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I can tell you where all the fires are but I don't have that level of accounting detail in terms of the aircraft costs versus the breakdown of detail to the degree that the Member is asking, so we will commit to get that for committee. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Chair, I thank the Minister again. I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would the Minister happen to know what the last two or three years total cost expenditures were for fire suppression?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, we spent approximately \$18.3 million in 2012-13 for suppression in the NWT.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. So to put this in context, we've had a couple special warrants. I think we're up to about \$13 million added to the budget. What are we anticipating the budget will be for this year?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, \$21.407 million is what it all adds up to with the projected surplus that they are just finalizing now, possibly \$1.1 million. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, I realize these special warrants are partly catch-up and partly projection, so you can end up with a surplus despite the bigger budget, so \$18 million and \$21 million and these are well above the set amounts for the annual budget. I am just wondering: Is there a trend in what's happening with our fire seasons? Are we aware of any trends with our neighbouring

jurisdictions, Alaska, Yukon, or our northern provinces? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The fire seasons are starting earlier. They are lasting longer. They are more intense. There are more draught occurrences. There is more critical fire issues tied to values at risk. The amount of lightning seems to be on the increase. As we deal with things like, unfortunately, the pine beetle coming north and if we are going to end up with forests of standing dead trees, then that will be just another further complication that will significantly affect fire behaviour.

Yes, there is a trend. If you turn on the TV and watch California or Alberta where they have fires in March, or what is currently going on in Australia, there is, absolutely, trends for the amount of fires tied to increased temperatures, draught and all the issues we have just talked about. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, thanks for the Minister's response. It sounds like he is on top of the situation. It sounds pretty challenging and expensive.

The availability of avgas sounds like a big one. Do we have a sense of how much of our... These exceptional budgets – and I assume this happened last year too; I think I remember the Minister mentioning it – how much of these exceptional costs are due to the whole avgas issue versus more severe fire seasons? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that level of detail, but I can tell you that this year there were significant efforts made to make sure we had enough avgas and infrastructure to deliver avgas in a regulated way that would meet the stringent standards for aircraft in the regional centres. The challenge is to try to figure out where the fires may occur, because once you move any significant amounts of avgas into a community or a region, chances are, if you don't use it, you're not going to be able to send it back, so it's a sunk cost. We are very cognizant and we try to plan correctly. Inuvik was a real case in point for us where we didn't have enough two years ago and it was a real challenge. We will be able to get a breakdown for the Member about what that would translate into in dollar figures. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, I can see we're providing for that. To the extent we can beforehand would be a lot cheaper than doing it last minute when we understand we have to get some into some places. It's going to be more expensive to get it there, likely. So I think it is a good investment there.

That's really all the questions I had. I know this is a very challenging area. I think the Minister has taken my points, such as they are. I'm sure they are not new to him. There is a big challenge here and it is

probably not going to get better in the foreseeable future. I'm assuming that the Minister will be ensuring that we have discussions to try and assess out whatever possibilities there are to try and manage these issues. That's all the questions I had. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I have just two quick comments. The issue with avgas is you have to make sure you have it there ahead of time, because if you don't have it and you need it, chances are it's going to take a week, 10 days, sometimes two to three weeks if it has to come in by truck, so you're really up against it.

Yes, absolutely, we will be continuing to come forward to committee with big reviews, all the matters pertaining to firefighting behaviour along with the very many other ENR issues that we routinely come to committee with. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to address a question to the Minister. Just recently there was a report of a fire that is smoldering underneath the ground level between Fort Providence and Fort Simpson. I was wondering if there's going to be any impacts on further costs. I know the fire season is over, but we're kind experiencing perhaps different forest fires from year to year, so I just wanted to pose the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have our eye on that fire. At this point, as the Member has indicated, the fire season is over and the resources are, for the most part, not around. We know that the one resource that we can pretty well count on for the next six months is going to be Mother Nature, between the rain and the snow and the cold, to knock that fire down. Whether it will go down deep enough to actually put it out, we'll see in the spring, but that is the state of the status at this point. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Chair, it kind of begs the question in terms of how the department might be approaching the next forest fire season. I know he has stated what is assessed in approaching these kinds of fires are the values at risk. Would there be a fairly consistent policy from the previous years in prioritizing how it is that we mobilize resources on these forest fires coming this year? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chair, we have a very clear policy as it pertains to the values at risk, starting with safety, people, communities and infrastructure and then we move back from there. As we saw this summer in the Deh Cho, for example, there were a number of fires in their communities and we pulled all our resources available, plus we brought in whatever we had to, to

protect those values at risk. That policy and criteria is very clearly laid out. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: No further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Forest management, special warrant, \$13.894 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Total department, special warrant, \$13.894 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of TD 135-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Mr. Dolyunny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 95-17(4):
CONCURRENCE OF
TABLED DOCUMENT 137-17(4),
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013, 2014,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be now concluded and that a Tabled Document 135-17(4) be reported and recommended for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): The motion is carried.

---Carried

As agreed, we'll go to Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act. We'll go to the Minister responsible, Mr. Abernethy, to introduce the bill.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of this bill.

The purpose of the Protection Against Family Violence Act is to provide emergency and long-term protection for victims of family violence. The act also allows emergency access to assist a person who may be the subject of family violence.

In 2011 an evaluation examined the first five years of the act's operation, to determine how the

legislation was meeting its goals. The recommendations from the evaluation prompted departmental staff to identify several issues that could benefit from legislative amendments. In the 2012 Nuttal v. Kikoak decision, Justice Schuler, senior judge of the Supreme Court, ruled that she was unable to vary an emergency protection order unless a separate court-ordered hearing was held to make the correction.

This legislation corrects an ambiguity within the current act, and provides the Supreme Court with authority to vary an emergency protection order during the review process, rather than having to convene a separate hearing. It also provides the department the authority to review emergency protection order transcripts for training and evaluation purposes, and increases the maximum fine under the act to underscore the seriousness of making a false statement or breaching a protection order.

I would be pleased to answer questions that the committee members may have regarding Bill 17.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I will go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act, on September 17th. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill removes an ambiguity in the act respecting the duration of emergency protection orders. It also gives the Supreme Court authority to correct minor defects in emergency protection orders and it allows the Minister to review emergency protection order transcripts for research, evaluation and training purposes. The bill also increases the maximum fine for offences under the act.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 17. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as you proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses in?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister please introduce the witnesses?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left is Shirley Kemeys-Jones, assistant deputy minister of the Solicitor General branch of the Department of Justice; and, Thomas Druyan on my right, legislative counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. I will open up the floor for general comments on Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act. There are no general comments. Clause-by-clause review?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 5 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree that Bill 17 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 17 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you to the Minister and his witnesses. Please escort the witnesses out, Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you.

Next we have Bill 18, Apology Act. I will call the Minister responsible, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 18, Apology Act. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review of this bill.

This legislation would make an apology or expression of sympathy made by or on behalf of a person inadmissible as evidence of fault or liability in any judicial or quasi-judicial civil proceeding. Nine Canadian jurisdictions have enacted similar legislation.

In the absence of this legislation, people are unsure of the legal consequences of taking the natural human step of making an apology. They fear that an apology can be considered as an admission of guilt, thereby voiding an insurance policy or encouraging a lawsuit.

However, apologies have been called the "key to healing." An apology has the power to heal wounds and restore a victim's dignity. A 1999 report by the Law Commission of Canada found that people who have suffered loss, injury or damage were driven by the desire to heal, as opposed to making compensatory claims.

I would be pleased to answer questions that committee members may have regarding Bill 18.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. I will go now to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public

review of Bill 18, Apology Act, on September 18, 2013. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill provides an apology made by or on behalf of a person in relation to any civil matter does not constitute an admission of fault or liability by the person or confirmation of a cause of action related to the matter and does not affect insurance coverage available to the person making the apology.

The bill also provides that an apology is not admissible in any judicial or quasi-judicial and civil proceeding and may not be considered or referred to in relation to fault or liability in any such proceeding.

Following committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 18, Apology Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 18. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, please, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Abernethy, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Kelly McLaughlin, the director of legislation. On my left is Emily Ingarfield, the policy analyst. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. We'll now open the floor to general comments on Bill 18, Apology Act. Clause-by-clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does the committee agree that Bill 18, Apology Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 18 as a whole approved for third reading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): We'll have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

As agreed, we'll move to Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013. We'll go to the Minister responsible, Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review of this bill.

The purpose of this act is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed and errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

- a) It must not be controversial;
- b) It must not involve the spending of public funds;
- c) It must not prejudicially affect rights;
- d) It must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most amendments proposed in Bill 19 are minor in nature and many consist of technical corrections to a statute. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

I will be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. We'll go to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013, on September 18, 2013. The clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day.

The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with matters of a minor and uncomplicated nature in the various statutes. A minor amendment was made at the committee clause-by-clause review and was concurred with by the Minister. Following the committee's review a motion was carried to report Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statutes Law Amendment Act to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 19. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Could the Minister please introduce the witnesses?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Today with me on my right is Kelly McLaughlin, the director of legislation with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. I'll open the floor up to general comments on Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013. Going to the clause-by-clause review. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 13 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does the committee agree that Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 19 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I ask that the Sergeant-at-Arms escort our witness out. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy.

As agreed, we'll go to Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Professional Act. I ask the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act.

This bill will amend the Dental Profession Act to make the supervision of dental students more practical for the NWT. It is our hope that dental students who take advantage of the opportunity to work for a term in a northern community will return upon completing their dental degree.

We also made minor changes to the act such as changing the term of "secretary" to that of "registrar." This amendment will also allow the Minister to appoint a registrar who will be responsible for registering all applicants. The act is also being amended to comply with the labour mobility provisions in the Agreement on Internal Trade.

In addition, this amendment will update the composition of the Dental Registration Committee so that the proposed changes will now reflect that the registrar is formally appointed to the Dental Registration Committee as well as an employee of the department.

The proposed amendments will allow the Dental Registration Committee to approve a dental specialist's application if an applicant is licensed or registered in another province. Alternatively, an applicant can show that they have passed the National Dental Specialty Exam and have successfully completed a specialty training program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

I would like to thank members of the standing committee for their review of this bill and for their comments. Thank you, also, to the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Hay River South for bringing this matter to the attention of the department. Finally, I would like to thank the NWT/Nunavut Dental Association for their support in seeing this legislative initiative through.

That concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. We'll now go to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted a public review of Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, on September 18, 2013. The clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day.

The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill revises registration requirements for specialists, as well as the registration and supervision requirements for students. It also amends the composition of the Registration Committee and creates a position of the registrar replacing the secretary.

Finally, the bill makes a change to meet the requirements of the Agreement on International Trade and respect of residents. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister please introduce the witnesses.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Thomas Druyan, legislative council, and to my left, Gillian Burles, senior policy advisor, legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. I will now open the floor for general discussion on Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering: With respect to the residency and the agreement in trade, does this essentially mean that if we have a local dentist in a community that's barely big enough to support a dentist, but through good fortune we've managed to capture one and have him reside there, that now another dentist can come in and undercut this dentist by avoiding the steep costs of maintaining infrastructure locally and employees locally? Is that in fact what this is doing? Is it enabling non-resident dentists to do this under the agreement in trade?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will only prevent us from not registering a dentist from practising in the NWT as opposed to specific community by community but for the whole territory as a whole.

MR. BROMLEY: Was that a yes?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I suppose that possibility could occur.

MR. BROMLEY: I think it falls under that be careful what you ask for. This is the sort of thing that many governments are pursuing now, to the cost of their residents and especially to the cost of local sustainability, and that's why I raised this question. I will be voting against this bill.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: From our perspective, if the other dentists wish to practise in the NWT that would provide more services. We're short dentists, as we hear in the Legislative Assembly frequently, so we would welcome other dentists to come in and practise.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we can maybe get some clarity. We assume that this amendment was reviewed by the dental profession itself of the Northwest Territories. Did the department receive any submissions to speak against this amendment that we have here today from the Dental Association?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did not receive opposition. We received an e-mail of support from them.

MR. DOLYNNY: My second question has to do with individual dentists. Did we receive any individual dentists submit any type of notation, letter, e-mail or phone call that spoke against this amendment that we have before us today?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We did not receive anything like that from any dentist.

MR. DOLYNNY: Finally, and I thank the Minister for his response, did we receive any submission whatsoever from any health care professional or residents of the Northwest Territories that is opposing the amendment we have today?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We did not receive any letter opposing this from any resident or health care profession of the Northwest Territories.

MR. DOLYNNY: The Member for Range Lake is satisfied. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Is committee agreed that there are no further general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): We'll do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act. Clause 1.

---Clause 1 approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Clause 2. Mr. Dolynny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 96-17(4):
AMEND CLAUSE 2 OF BILL 21,
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
DENTAL PROFESSION ACT,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a motion I would like to share with committee. An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, I move that clause 2 of Bill 21 be deleted and the following substituted:

2. Section 1 is amended by adding the following definitions in alphabetical order:

"Registrar" means the registrar of the dental profession appointed under Section 82.1; (registraire)

“unrestricted licence or registration” means a licence or registration to practice dentistry that is not suspended, cancelled or revoked or subject to the imposition of any term, condition, restriction or other requirement (licence sans restrictions ou inscription).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Going back to clause 2 as amended.

---Clause 2 as amended approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Clause 3.

---Clause 3 through 9 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): The bill as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does the committee agree that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act as amended is ready for third reading?

---Bill 21 as amended approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, committee. I'll excuse the witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them out of the Chamber.

Ms. Bisaro, what is the wish of committee?

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I will rise to report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014; Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act; Bill 18, Apology Act; Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013; and Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Professional Act, and would like to report progress with three motions being adopted, that Bills 17, 18 and 19 are ready for third reading, that Bill 21 is ready for third reading as

amended, that consideration of Tabled Documents 134-17(4) and 135-17(4) are concluded and that the House concur in those estimates and that appropriation bills to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Do I have a seconder? Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. McLeod.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 13:

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE CURFEW ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLeod.

BILL 14:

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE PAWNBROKERS AND SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 14 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 15:

GUNSHOT AND STAB WOUND MANDATORY DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 16:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 16 has had third reading.

---Carried

Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, October 29, 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
 - Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 3, Wildlife Act
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 - Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
 - Committee Report 6-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 3: Wildlife Act

- Committee Report 7-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 24: An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
- Committee Report 8-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013
- Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 29th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:59 p.m.