



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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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)

Hon. Glen Abernethy

(Great Slave)

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Minister responsible for Seniors

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(Tu Nedhe)

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Mr. Michael Nadli

(Deh Cho)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	3303
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	3303
96-17(4) – GNWT Occupational Health and Safety Program (Beaulieu)	3303
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3304
Recognition of Former Clerk David Hamilton (Groenewegen)	3304
Tax Collection on Tobacco Sales (Dolynny)	3304
Reflections on the Legislative Assembly Building (Bouchard)	3304
“Movember” Prostate Cancer and Men’s Health Awareness Campaign (Hawkins)	3305
Infrastructure Contributions to Non-Government Organizations (Bisaro)	3305
Educational Renewal and Innovation Framework (Moses)	3306
Pembina Institute Analysis of the Mineral Development Strategy Panel Report (Bromley)	3307
Evolution of the Legislative Assembly (Yakeleya)	3307
Adequate Housing for Aklavik Teachers (Blake)	3308
Acknowledging Fort Providence as a Transportation Hub (Nadli)	3308
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	3308, 3320
ORAL QUESTIONS	3310
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	3320
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	3320
THIRD READING OF BILLS	3321
Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Education Act	3321
Bill 22 – Territorial Emblems and Honours Act	3321
Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act	3321
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act	3321
PROROGATION	3321

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, November 1, 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, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good morning, colleagues. Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the presence of the Honourary Clerk, former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. David Hamilton.

---Applause

For over two decades he guided the Assembly through many of its most important changes including division of the territory in 1999. He was the Clerk who oversaw the building of the House where we are sitting here today. I don't know if any of us can imagine what a huge task it would have been. It's very fitting that he's here to celebrate our 20th anniversary. We welcome you back to the Chamber, Mr. Hamilton. Thank you for your long service to the institution and thank you for being here today.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Beaulieu.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 96-17(4):
GNWT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY PROGRAM**

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the health and safety of our employees is of utmost importance in ensuring we have a strong workforce, able to provide services to residents of the NWT. We have been working aggressively to uphold and enhance occupational health and safety across all Government of the Northwest Territories worksites.

To this end, we are pleased to confirm the launch of the GNWT's corporate Occupational Health and Safety Training Program. OHS training helps all employees understand the value of health and safety to reduce workplace injuries. There are two streams. One focuses on training for all staff, including specialized training that addresses risks in certain occupations or worksites. The second focuses on training for OHS committee

representatives to ensure they have the knowledge and tools to manage OHS effectively in their workplace. Courses will be available on the GNWT training calendar by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Speaker, the training for all staff is being delivered in partnership with the Northern Safety Association. This association, formed in 2007 and funded by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, is mandated to work with partners to reduce human, social and economic losses as a result of workplace accidents and injuries. The goals of the Northern Safety Association are to foster a commitment to workplace health and safety workers and employers; to save lives and reduce workplace accidents, injuries and illnesses; to reduce all costs associated with workplace accidents; and to strive to provide proactive programs and services that will contribute to creating a sound foundation for a safer, healthier and more profitable future for workers and employers.

Mr. Speaker, among the many services offered by the Northern Safety Association to workers and employers is the delivery of quality safety training. The association has access to specialized occupational health and safety training through its provincial and territorial partners and offers a combination of on-line and in-person training opportunities. We are pleased to advise that the Northern Safety Association and the Department of Human Resources are partnering on elements of the corporate Occupational Health and Safety Training Program to make occupational health and safety training available to all GNWT employees.

Departments and agencies are actively working to manage injury claim costs, apply health and safety practices and ensure their workplaces comply with health and safety standards. The Department of Human Resources continues to develop guidelines to support implementation of our Occupational Health and Safety Policy, approved and implemented earlier this year. There is a web page dedicated to the GNWT's Occupational Health and Safety Program and its requirements to provide employees information and tools. Quarterly OHS coordinators meetings are held to develop skills, hear from safety experts and share best practices.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is a safe employer when one examines occupational health and safety-

related metrics such as time loss claims and number of workplace safety and health accidents across the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear: Better safety means healthier employees, which in turn means more effective programs and services.

We are committed to ensuring that the Department of Human Resources continues its work to lead the corporate framework that supports departments and agencies as they implement the GNWT's Occupational Health and Safety Program within their respective mandates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF FORMER CLERK DAVID HAMILTON

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise today to say what a pleasure it is to have Mr. David Hamilton back in the Chamber today. I was elected, as Mr. Miltenberger was, in 1995, and was greeted by a bigger than life personality that was around this institution at that time and certainly I don't think you could describe his influence and his work in this Assembly simply as Clerk. Mr. Speaker, I just jotted down a few things. Today in P and P we talked about the team that worked on the building. I think the team was actually a team of one. I think that this building was, in fact, a vision and a dream, and Mr. Hamilton's influence was greatly brought to bear on what this building looks like today.

Mr. Speaker, he was an event planner, he was a guidance counsellor, ambassador for the North and often a peacemaker in times as often can happen in political settings like this, things were rocky. I'd just like to say that I have very fond memories of those years. When Mr. Hamilton was here, he set a high standard for those who would follow him and it is a pleasure to have him in our Chamber today. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TAX COLLECTION ON TOBACCO SALES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in February 2012 I shared findings with this House, followed with a press conference that clearly demonstrated we were not collecting our fair share of taxes on tobacco products.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations was also interested in these findings, as was the Auditor General of Canada. Since then, the Department of Finance undertook a feasibility study to investigate such findings, with the hopes of better clarity on the collections and establishing some sort of tobacco commission in the Northwest Territories.

Now, unfortunately, I will not be able to discuss the findings of the study as it belongs to the Department of Finance and is currently under committee review. All I can say at this point is the Department of Finance continues to support a process whereby we are relying on out-of-territory wholesalers to self-report on tobacco sold from their facilities to retailers in the Northwest Territories.

This self-reporting I referred then as the perfect loophole in our tobacco tax collection. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this has not changed.

We have a serious flaw in our system of tobacco tax collection which has been going on for years, yet after every measurable attempt to persuade the department to retool their program, we are no further ahead than we were 20 months ago. This is shameful, Mr. Speaker.

The public deserves the utmost confidence that our tax collection system is foolproof and without the potential doorway of exploitation.

I was elected to this position to scrutinize every dollar spent by this government and maximize the same in revenue collection. Accountability, transparency and protecting the public purse is not just a slogan I casually throw around and I take it with extreme prejudice when, for the second time this week, I have to publicly remind the Minister of Finance that money is being left on the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the building. I think we need to take the time to thank the Premiers, Speakers, Ministers and MLAs that came before us that had to make the difficult decisions to build this building. Today we have the opportunity.

We also need to thank the former staff, like my colleague had mentioned, Mr. Hamilton, and some of the other staff that have been before that had to make the tough decisions on how we build this building. We need to thank the Building Society for their strong efforts and vision to finance and complete the construction of this building.

Two years ago when I started here in this position, it was very intimidating to get up and speak in this House. It's a very majestic building. Members of the public often come to the building. We are very proud to show the building off to them. We have people from around the country of Canada who come here and we show off our building. It's one of the nicest Legislative Assembly buildings in Canada.

We just had some foreign dignitaries come here. We're very proud to show the building, show some of the attributes that are here, talk about how much light is in the building and how well designed it is.

On this date today, we have to thank those people who came before us who had the vision and had to make the tough decisions. I know we didn't have the money at the time and we probably wouldn't do something like this today just because of the fiscal restraint that we have. I'd like to thank those Members who came today and all those Members that had vision. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Colleagues, before we move on this morning, I'd like to welcome back to the House former Premier Floyd Roland and Angela.

---Applause

It's good to see you back. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
"MOVEMBER" PROSTATE CANCER AND
MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Movember is an annual month-long event including the growing of mustaches during the month of November to raise awareness about prostate cancer as well as other male cancer. The goal of Movember is to change the face of men's health by encouraging men to get involved. Movember aims to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis and, certainly, effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths.

Besides getting annual checkups, the Movember Foundation encourages men to be aware of any family history of cancer and to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Since 2004, the Movember Foundation charity has run Movember events to raise awareness and funds across the world. In 2007 many events were launched and it then included Canada, and I'm certainly proud to say that Canadians have been some of the largest contributors to the charity through Movember to help men's health.

James MacKenzie and Sujan Mannavarajan have been leaders in this initiative to bring it here to Yellowknife. Last year they were key to ensuring that it got off the ground. This year was no different.

Those two individuals are bringing this campaign to life.

This evening there will be an event at The Cellar, where men are encouraged to come on down and shave their mustache. There will be an inaugural shave by Jimmy the barber, and many of us know him from Ragged Ass Barber Shop. He's a fantastic guy, and he's been a leader and, certainly, a pillar to this event. Other folks in this Assembly are joining on this Movember campaign. We have Mr. Dolynny on this side here. We also have Mr. Moses who will be joining. I even heard, as of this morning, that Mr. Dennis Bevington, our MP, shaved his 40-year-old mustache off in support of the Movember campaign.

The last person I need to say is maybe we should encourage Mr. Bromley, who's got his Back to the Future beard here, and with a little political pressure, maybe we can get him to join in on the fun of the campaign.

Not everyone will be able to make it down to The Cellar this evening. With that, I'd say please contact myself, Mr. Dolynny, or even Mr. Moses if you want to know more. Furthermore, if you need to know even more, go to Movember.com and I'm sure it will lead you in the right direction.

The last thing I want to say is the intent of this year's campaign was to make an NWT-wide team. As such, feel free, everyone from the Northwest Territories, to join Team Primo here and we will do it together in men's health. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over two years ago, as Members reviewed the 2012-13 capital budget, we debated a \$1 million infrastructure contribution to an NGO. As part of the capital budget, Cabinet had proposed this considerable contribution to the Children First Society in Inuvik for a new early childhood care centre. I opposed that project, not because I did not see value in the project, and not because I disagreed with the intent of the building. No, I opposed approving the funding because it was a one-of-a-kind budget item and there was no government policy to guide how this type of contribution should be made. On what grounds and under what circumstances would it be made?

The government had never before made a cash contribution to a non-government construction project. I want to make it very clear that I have no problem with this NGO receiving these funds. In my mind, this is exactly the kind of project that deserves funding from our government. The

Children First Centre had the support of the entire community. Both financial and personal resources were put behind this project. The society had already raised over 80 percent of the funds needed for construction, proving what a viable project this was.

Where I had problems was with the process, or rather, lack of process. There was no call for proposals for this million dollars. The decision to include it in the capital budget was made by Cabinet alone. There was no policy in place to guide the awarding of funds to an NGO construction project.

There are a great many NGOs in our territory who would love to get a million dollars to help them build their infrastructure, but since last year, the Standing Committee on Social Programs has tried several times to get the government to develop and put in place a policy to govern infrastructure contributions to NGOs. To date, there's been no commitment from government. We've heard a number of reasons why it can't be done, why it's been sloughed off: my department doesn't need one; that was a unique project, one-time request; it won't happen again. Those reasons are invalid, but precedent has now been set. As it stands right now, any NWT NGO with a construction project can apply to the government for a bunch of cash through their MLA. We need to develop a policy for use for the next request. Government is accountable to the public for the effective management of all public resources including that provided to NGOs.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: We need to not only be fair but be seen to be fair. Cabinet must develop a policy and criteria for that policy. In order to qualify for funding, organizations must meet that criteria. Right now, in the absence of any policy and criteria, decisions to fund or not to fund are highly subjective and politically influenced. That is not fair to our hard working NGOs, nor is it fair to our residents who benefit from the NGO's hard work.

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

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND
INNOVATION FRAMEWORK

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tabled a document in the House, entitled Education Renewal and Innovation Framework: Directions for Change for our education system here in the North.

I appreciate and recognize the hard work and efforts that went into this document by the Minister's office, also by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I also acknowledge the hard work that the Standing Committee on Social Programs put into this document by providing their input and recommendations, as well as any other Members that came to those meetings.

However, there are still some concerns and questions that I have as a Member who has a special and a strong interest in the education of people of the Northwest Territories, specifically our youth in our small communities. When we are going through the process of developing this document, what input did the district education authorities, the NWT Teachers' Association, the Aboriginal student achievement committees, what kind of input did they have into this document and whether or not the time to give input was sufficient to get quality feedback on this important document? It is a document that is going to be affecting our residents for the next 10 years.

I know with the Standing Committee on Social Programs, in the short time that it was provided to us, we actually sat down, went line by line of the document in the short amount of time to get all the recommendations and feedback into it. It was a lot of work and I commend the committee for doing the hard work they did in such a short period of time.

Other concerns I have is with the ERI initiatives. There are 53 recommendations coming out of this. Actually, they are potential initiatives. Why, in this document, is it not hard commitment from the Education department on these initiatives to get them done? As I said, it's going to be a document that is going to serve our people of the Northwest Territories for the next 10 years. We want to make sure that there are not potential initiatives, but hard commitments from his department and this government. With these 53 potential initiatives, there are going to be costs and I want to know what some of those costs are.

Like I said, I do appreciate the hard work that went into this document, but as Members on this side have said before, you have to have something that's going to work for the people and that we do it right. If this is a document that we're going to move forward, you have to make sure it's the right document.

I have questions for the Minister later on today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PEMBINA INSTITUTE ANALYSIS
OF THE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY PANEL REPORT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure tabled a report by the Pembina Institute, entitled Responsible Extraction. As we heard, the report was commissioned because there were substantive concerns that the industry panel report towards the GNWT Mineral Development Strategy seemed to be not only far from public interest policy, but leaning towards an industry wish list of support and public expense. I mean no disrespect to the authors of that report, but I think that their terms of reference and their composition did not foster public benefit approach.

In contrast, the responsible extraction report is a thoughtful analysis focused on public benefit. I encourage you to read the review in full for points in common, disagreement, and new points offered. The list of industry subsidies critiqued is too long to be detailed here but, in brief, report conclusions include:

- Total revenues from royalties collected on northern mines from 1956 to 2011 was less than \$1 billion, or considerably less than the \$3.5 billion currently being spent on northern contaminated sites.
- Mining jobs with a rotational schedule are unsuitable for a significant portion of the labour supplied, so it is unlikely that further training and recruitment efforts will succeed in significantly enlarging the mining industry's northern workforce.
- It is not economically or socially sustainable for the GNWT to be so dependent on volatile mineral industry revenues. Diversify.
- Mining has significant environmental impacts on ecosystems across the Northwest Territories, particularly with regard to toxic waste and habitat disturbance. The industry also has significant environmental impacts related to climate change.
- Neither the GNWT nor any regulatory board or agency in the NWT has formally recognized or created any policies that would ensure mining respects the principles of environmental sustainability by staying within specific ecological limits.

Most importantly, the report recommends that the GNWT undertake a more balanced and open public consultation process as it drafts its response to the panel's recommendations.

I encourage all members of the public and this House to read this well-researched report and give

their feedback to the committee as per the chair's invitation. Most of all, I encourage the Minister himself to read the report and give his feedback, something he has not yet done despite being in possession of this taxpayer-funded report. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EVOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was thinking last night about today's significant celebration. Hearing some of the Members this morning, I'm not going to do a song this morning. There are some songs I'd like to do. For example, If These Walls Could Talk, or Mansion on the Hill. There are lots of songs. Anyway, I'm going to skip over that.

I want to say, in all seriousness, I want to give recognition to all who made it possible so that we are standing here today, when we look at the significant changes that we made as a government or as a people of the Northwest Territories from living in the bush on the land to our small communities, to having people in Ottawa at one time make decisions for us in the Northwest Territories and actually having an Assembly in the Northwest Territories in Ottawa, and slowly, over time, evolving to the pioneers of our first MLAs and Ministers, to bring it into the Yellowknife Inn and having sessions there. Then somebody said no, we have to have our own Assembly, we need our own building, bring some legitimacy and some credibility, so we, today, can enjoy this.

We're at a point now where we're into talking about devolution. We have evolved over time. I want to give recognition to the people, because I've been here and there's Members who have been here longer than me that have the privilege of serving our people 365 days a year. I've been here for 10 years, but there are Members who have been here longer that really, really know the essence of what it means to be a legislator. There are good times and there's not so good times, but there's also past Members who were also in our shoes, past staff members, and we've got current Members who are also experiencing it with us, everybody.

Somebody had the idea and the fortitude to tell everybody this is what we've got to do, just like we're moving through the phase of devolution.

So, I want to say congratulations on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, especially the Sahtu; and people from the Northwest Territories, come out and celebrate what is yours. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Colleagues, before we go on to the next statement, I'd like to welcome back to the House Mr. Henry Zoe, former Member of the Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR
AKLAVIK TEACHERS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Time and time again we repeat our own words about the importance of our students staying in school, attending regularly and completing high school. Education is one of our main focuses in this Assembly. We can boast that we have the best schools in all of Canada and employ top notch teachers. Our students are privileged to have such fine education, but this is only possible with good teachers.

My concern today is housing, housing for our teachers. We are faced with this issue every summer. We hire the best teachers, and in the end, we have no place for them to stay.

My community of Aklavik suffers with the lack of adequate housing for temporary residents and housing for staff. There are at least 15 teaching positions in Aklavik and many of them are filled with people to come here, eager for the opportunity to work in the North. Inadequate and unaffordable housing makes their jobs less attractive and their lives much more difficult.

Leadership in Aklavik is concerned about our teachers. The community wants to make housing available to them and it's willing to partner with government to build houses and provide quality housing, especially if there's a commitment that someone will live there every year.

Aklavik and all of the Mackenzie Delta communities need school professionals. Let's give them a place to call home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ACKNOWLEDGING FORT PROVIDENCE
AS A TRANSPORTATION HUB

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort Providence is a community geographically situated in the centre of the Deh Cho and the Northwest Territories, with the Deh Cho Bridge, our major highway north and south of Yellowknife, now we have cellular communications and, of course, it is also the first community of many communities along the Deh Cho.

The community has a tradition of boat captains and operators. Their knowledge of the river helps navigate boats up and down the Mackenzie. At the same time we have the present team of highway operators that make the maintenance camp for the highway and the Deh Cho Bridge. Sadly, our winter

road crews who have built the ice bridge for many years have moved on and are hopefully still building other bridges. Similarly, the crew of the Merv Hardie ferry have also sailed on.

Building upon these realities, I believe we need to capitalize on our strength and challenge our thinking of helping communities such as Fort Providence, and decentralization.

The biggest natural strength that we have in Fort Providence in our favour is the spring breakup that happens in the early period of mid-May, long before the Great Slave Lake begins to clear in June. Therefore, I will be interested in knowing, from the Department of Transportation, the possibilities of considering creative opportunities with the community of Fort Providence. Decentralization of positions, a regional centre, a marine division, a marine museum, a bison interpretative centre, a highway ambulance responder team are a few ideas that are recommended to the Department of Transportation. I look forward to renewed discussions with the community of Fort Providence.

I will be asking questions in this regard later. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a former colleague and good friend, Floyd Roland, former Premier. With Floyd is Angela Young, who has worked as an educator in Inuvik for the past 12 years. I'd also like to recognize former colleague Mr. Henry Zoe. Welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of people I'd like to recognize today. I want to start with a constituent, Chris Johnston. He's with the Northern Safety Association. If anybody can keep bees safe this winter, it will be Chris. So, welcome, Chris.

Also Sarah Johnson, and Chris Robb with UNICO Contractors, a good Kam Lake business. Welcome.

Welcome to former Premier Mr. Roland. It's good to see you back in the House. Mr. Zoe, welcome. Also, Mr. Hamilton, a special welcome back to David. I know I came into the House in 2003 and David was just on his way out. I didn't get a chance to work with you, David, but welcome back. It's good to see you here again.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] I would like to recognize Mr. Henry Zoe, who is a past MLA. I want to have him recognized. And also Floyd Roland, who is the former Premier. I would like to have him recognized. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm going to start with first and most important visitor to recognize, and I'm going to start with David Hamilton, the first Clerk here. I've known David so long. I remember when we were both the same height and we both had lots of hair. It's been a long time from those days in Fort Simpson. I've known him a long time, and I've had the pleasure of working with him at the old Ledge many years ago in many capacities. To him, I'm very grateful for always being a mentor to me.

In the gallery we have many people. They've already been mentioned, but I think they certainly deserve further mention, Christopher Robb of UNICO Contracting, Sarah Johnson in the middle there, and Chris Johnston with the Northern Safety Association.

As Mr. Ramsay had mentioned, I too wish to recognize Henry Zoe and also former Premier Floyd Roland. The last thing I'd like to say is former Premier Roland does not get enough credit for the bold action he took by signing that original AIP that is helping bring the devolution train home, and I never miss the chance to remind people it was that bold signature that got it finally going. Although Premier McLeod will get the credit of seeing the train come home, I will say Floyd Roland deserves a lot of credit.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize the former Premier, Premier Floyd Roland. It's good to see you back in the House here. Also, to Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe was the MLA for Monfwi and also a Minister. He was also a Clerk in the House here at one time. I want to recognize him. Also, to Mr. Hamilton. As Mr. Ramsay has said, when we were coming into the House he was leaving, but I also want to say Mr. Hamilton left a piece of advice that I hung on my wall in regard to my new job as the MLA.

I also want to recognize, if I may, your family. It's good to see Jenny and the kids here to the Assembly. It's good to have family here.

Last, but not least, I want to recognize my old schoolmate and good friend, Samuel Lennie. He comes from Tsiigehtchic. It's good to see you. We haven't aged one bit.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize one of my constituents and brother-in-law Mr. Samuel Lennie. Also, if I may, I'd like to welcome your family, as well, Jenny and your children. Welcome to the House.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize and welcome to the House former Premier and current mayor of Inuvik, Mr. Floyd Roland, as well as Ms. Angela Young, who is one of our hardworking educators at the East Three School.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize former colleagues. I won't name them, as they've been mentioned here before. I'd also like to recognize a little girl, Mikayla Jacobson. When we had a retreat up in Tuktoyaktuk one time, I met her before I met our Speaker. We attended a child care centre there, and Mr. Ramsay and I were both quite smitten with this beautiful little girl that was sitting there. She was so engaging in talking to us, and when she arrived here last night at the Assembly, she wanted to go immediately down to Mr. Ramsay's office to say hello. What a delightful young lady she is, and I want to welcome her here today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you, as we heard earlier from the Minister, the Northern Safety Association. We have Mr. Chris Robb. We have Mr. Chris Johnston and, of course, Sarah Johnson here with us. We've got a lot of dignitaries here in the room, and I'd just like to welcome you back. And of course, as always, to have the Jacobson family in the House is always a pleasure.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Minister's statement I talked about the partnership between the Northern Safety Association and the Department of Human Resources. I would like to recognize the people from the Northern Safety Association: Chris Johnston, Chris Robb, and Sarah Johnson. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I, too, would like to welcome my wife to the gallery, and Mr. Aaron Kowikchusk, and my daughter and my little baby girl, Mikayla. You can see my wife is holding our newest addition to the Jacobson family...

---Applause

Joseph Hayden Avik Jacobson. I also would like to thank his mom and dad. We had custom adopted Joseph about three and a half weeks ago, so he's my boy now. It's good to see him here. Thank you, colleagues.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 420-17(4):

INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on my Member's statement. I have some questions for the Premier today about the lack of a policy for infrastructure contributions to a non-government organization. I mentioned in my statement, the Standing Committee on Social Programs has tried unsuccessfully, several times, to get the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to take on this task and to bring it forward and we have been rebuffed at least twice. Committee believes really strongly, as I do, that we need a policy.

I would like to first ask the Premier whether or not the Premier and/or the Executive Council have been made aware of this request and what action is he taking to address it. Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of this request in response to the opposition of previous funding, as the Member indicated in her Member's statement. We do have a capital planning policy and we have previously responded to the committee that it's very simple: we will not be entertaining those requests anymore. Any requests will go through the capital planning process. There will be no queue jumping, and any requests that come from the public, we will share with the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I'm struggling to understand this process. I know we have a capital planning process and it works very well, but this is a situation that has not occurred before.

I'd like to know from the Premier what is in the policy that he referred to. He said there is a policy. I don't think it has come to committee. I would like to know what's in that policy that references infrastructure contributions to non-government organizations. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, what I said was we have a capital planning process. Any requests will go through that process.

In the past we have contributed approximately \$2 million to Betty House. We provided \$60,000 per year for Rockhill Apartments. We provided funds for repairs to NGO facilities through the CAEP budget. We recently reduced the rent charged to the Centre for Northern Families housing. We provided operating funding for North Slave Housing and we provided capital and operating funding for Avens. The policy, as I indicated, any requests for funding we will say no. We will also share it with the committee, and if committee feels we should deal with it, then we will put it through the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Premier, but I don't feel that we're going to have something which Members and/or the public is going to agree with. The Premier said that this is not going to happen again. Well, I have to say that one organization gets lucky and everybody else, too bad, it's not ever going to happen again.

I need to know from the Premier... He mentioned a number of funds that we give to non-government organizations. What I heard was that these are organizations providing government services. The example that I referenced is an organization that is not providing any government services; it's not operating on behalf of the GNWT. So when a non-government organization puts a request through to the Cabinet through committee or through a particular MLA, what is the government going to use to justify awarding that money? There's no criteria, no policy. So I need to know from the Premier how a decision is going to be made to fund an infrastructure contribution, not operations, to a non-government organization. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. With regard to infrastructure, we have a capital planning process. If there are any requests, they will go into the capital planning process. The capital planning process that we just finished is a process where we involve committees, and in developing our capital plan, projects are ranked in order of importance. There are five criteria: the protection of people, protection of assets, protection of environment, financial investments, program needs or requirements. So that's the process and that way there's no queue jumping. All projects are ranked on the basis of the five criteria. Then the Legislative Assembly votes on it or approves it. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier for itemizing those priorities. I agree with those priorities, but I have to again ask, when an NGO comes forward and is looking for infrastructure, construction money, what are we going to do? The Premier mentions that there's a process. I'd like to know if he would put that on

paper and provide it to me and to committee. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. So I guess my understanding is that the Member is not offended by the fact that we have provided such funding in the past, but would like to see a process where we can continue to do so. We're quite prepared to discuss this with committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 421-17(4):
DREDGING OF THE HAY RIVER PORT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today will be for the new Minister of Transportation. In this House I have talked about dredging and the dredging requirements in Hay River. I'm looking to see what the new Minister of Transportation is going to do to complete the dredging in the Hay River area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dredging of any rivers or ports is the responsibility of the federal government. However, we have, in the past, participated and I believe in 2012-13 we got some money from the federal government and we did some dredging right at the port. So we continue to work with the federal government to see if there's money that can be had to continue the dredging.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. The Minister talked about some of the, I think they call it dock maintenance that the GNWT did this year.

Does the Minister know how much money we've spent on dock maintenance this year and last year, and dredging in the Hay River area?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. We spent \$30,000 in 2012-13 and \$30,000 this summer of '13-14. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. I'm looking to see if the Minister will commit to assisting with the preparations and the assessment of what it's going to take to complete the dredging in the Hay River area. I know it's a federal responsibility, but I know the Department of Transportation has spent some money in this area, and I'm just looking for the Minister to commit to whether it has to be outsourced or in-house assessments of what the needs are to complete the dredging and what those costs are so we can take it to the federal government.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The best thing the Department of Transportation could probably do is continue to work with the local industry and lobby the federal government for more money to do the

dredging. The federal government recognizes that there are areas that have to be dredged, so it's not like they don't think it's necessary. Everybody agrees that it's completely necessary. We would be happy, as a department, to continue to work with industry. I would also be happy to facilitate a meeting between the federal government and industry in order to complete some dredging. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was my last question. Is the Minister committed to talking with the federal government, talking with the Prime Minister to get federal funding to complete this project?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, we are aware that the Canadian Coast Guard is currently working on a place, so we will continue to engage them at that level.

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

QUESTION 422-17(4):
STAFF HOUSING IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my statement earlier today, I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing what is being done to address the need for housing for staff in the Mackenzie Delta communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was an issue that we had a discussion with the NWT Teachers' Association about, and we had committed to them that we were going to do some work and see what we could do to provide houses in some of the communities where they face the most challenges, one of the communities being actually in the Member's riding.

We have approximately 102 units right now that we are renting out. I believe 41 of those are taken up by teachers. We've converted many of our vacant units into units that could be available to teachers, and we are planning, in the future, to work in each community that has the most need and possibly put some more units into those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: That actually answers the rest of my questions. Thank you very much.

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

QUESTION 423-17(4):

COST OF POWER IN LARGER CENTRES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Granted the issue of power rates and how those rates are arrived at are a complicated matter, but I'd like to quote from unedited Hansard from yesterday in the House. I'm quoting Minister Miltenberger. "One of the big factors in Yellowknife and Hay River, plus a couple of small communities, is that there is another power distributor, NUL. While we provide and sell power at wholesale rates, the provider in these communities adds their own costs on top of that, which is why there is such a distinct difference..."

Mr. Miltenberger's comments imply that there is a different rate structure in Hay River and in Yellowknife, when in fact the cost of power is arrived at on a cost-to-service basis. That's the type of industry this is and all rates are developed and approved by the Public Utilities Board. All communities in the Northwest Territories are rate-based on the cost of service, and these costs are highly scrutinized to ensure that they're eligible and these rates are approved by the PUB.

Could the Minister please clarify or confirm that this is in fact the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Power Corporation puts in general rate applications based on thermal zone and hydro zone. They generate and distribute. Northland Utilities operates and distributes, they don't generate, and they look at their business on a community-by-community basis. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: On this community-by-community basis, the rates are set and the Public Utilities Board examines the cost of delivering that service and approves those rates. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, another issue that seems to have been brought into this is the issue of the franchise fee. I just happen to have my Yellowknife power bill here. It clearly states in here what the franchise fee is about. Franchise fee is a flow-through fee that is approved by the Public Utilities Board that allows, in tax-based municipalities, the service provider to avoid paying a tax on the land or the infrastructure where transmission is located and then this cost is paid directly to the community by the service provider.

I will quote Mr. Miltenberger again, he said, "I will indicate clearly right now one of the big costs that Yellowknife has, that Hay River has and Fort Smith doesn't have, is the franchise arrangements and

the costs that flow from that arrangement that communities make on their own call, because of their franchise fee..."

Again, these franchise fees, I'd like the Minister to confirm, are agreed to between the service provider and the community and approved by the Public Utilities Board. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The NTPC rate zone cost for residential for all communities is 18.73 cents. The wholesale rate to NUL in Hay River is 9.66 cents. The Northland Utilities power rate in Hay River is 31.26 cents. But, yes, those are all agreed to by the communities. The communities make their decision and it's all approved through the regulatory process. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the point I'm trying to make here today – and I guess I'll just ask the Minister this one last question – is that it's not really fair to imply that there is something untoward or unregulated about the rates that Northland Utilities... It's like yesterday in the House there was, to me, an unfair comparison made between communities serviced by NTPC versus NUL.

I would just like the Minister to confirm, for the record, that these rates are fairly set, based on the cost of service, and regulated by the Public Utilities Board which this government oversees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we're going to provide the information to the Members. It lays out some of the information I quoted here and the different rates by community. But, yes, there is a process by which they're arrived at. Yes, some communities have chosen to deal with Northland Utilities versus NTPC. They negotiate their arrangement with the franchise fee. All that is done through due process. There's nothing untoward about it. But we will lay out the information and the rates so that we can respond to the request from the Member and Mr. Hawkins, and we will provide that to the House and to the committee. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 424-17(4):

EDUCATION RENEWAL AND INNOVATION
FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding his Directions for Change document that was tabled in the House yesterday. In the opening message in the document, the Minister talks about the coming action plan will breathe life into this framework. I'm

just wondering what the time frame is for this government and people of the Northwest Territories, specifically the educators.

What is the timeline for that action plan? When are we going to be able to see that action plan in a document that we can go by and our educators and families know what's going to actually be in that action plan? Can I get a timeline on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We just produced a document and tabled it in the House yesterday, Directions for Change, the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework.

Part of that will be developing an action plan in the coming months. We're hoping by next session, February or March, we want to table a document, an action plan that will deal with the nine commitments that have been identified as part of the framework. So the next session is our objective. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, the standing committee had a short timeline to give their feedback and input into this document moving forward. It is a 10-year action plan, so it's very important that we do it right the first time and that all the recommendations and input are addressed with moving forward with this.

I just want to ask the Minister, was proper consultation with the district education authorities, the Aboriginal student achievement committees, the NWT Teachers' Association, did they have a bigger time frame, because obviously these guys are the ones that are going to be working on this education action plan moving forward. Did they have sufficient time to give proper and quality feedback into this document and the action plan, and will their input be reflected in the action plan that we are going to see in February/March?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This whole engagement has been happening since just before 2007, before I became the Education Minister, and I've been engaging the general public, the DEAs and DEC's, the schools boards, the parents, the educators, the elders and the students. They've been engaged since day one and we will continue to engage them.

Yesterday's event with the media presentation, we had two of the partners, TCSA and also NWTTA, that have been actively engaged along with other DEC's and DEAs who were in the audience. They are our true partners in the communities, and we will continue to work with them on developing this action plan, and we will be keeping the Members informed as we move forward because we need their input as well.

MR. MOSES: I understand that the Minister's department had been engaging residents of the Northwest Territories since 2007. I was asking specifically to the Directions for Change document that committee saw and only had about a month to reply on that. However, I'll move on to my third question here.

With a lot of the monumental changes that are going to be happening within this education action plan, I would ask the Minister, will there be new dollars going into this action plan and is the action plan going to be implemented within the schools across the Northwest Territories in the 2014-15 school year.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: With any new initiatives, we need to be innovative and creative how we can move forward. Developing the action plan, we need to identify through the school boards, through our partners, the cost factor. Some of it will be with internal reallocation potentially, as we've done in the past, but obviously, we may have to look out for new funding, as well, new partners such as we've done, again, in other jurisdictions.

When it comes to education and teaching, those are some of the areas that we need to improve. We've been told over and over from the communities, the engagement we've had, even from the Assembly Members, that we need to change our thinking patterns.

We do not have the set cost today, but we will be developing that over time, and in the February/March session we want to produce that document that will highlight the detail of the action plan.

MR. MOSES: The reallocation of these internal funds also brings to light a concern. Which programs are they going to be taking the dollars from and which programs may be hindered by taking on these new initiatives? However, with the Aboriginal Student Achievement, before I got in this position, I did do some work with some of the committees in Inuvik in the elementary and in the high school in my previous position. I want to ask the Minister what is the role of these Aboriginal student achievement committees moving forward in this Directions for Change. Also, he mentions in his document that there was an Aboriginal Student Achievement Action Plan in 2011. Myself, I didn't see that action plan and I wonder if that was an action plan that was tabled in the House or that was sent to committee.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative that we've engaged the general public, this particular piece of work, the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework, is building on that. It's building on the success of our engagement. Through that there will be engagement with the committee that the Member is referring to, Aboriginal Student Achievement. There

are committees being established at the regional level, at the community level. We must engage them, as well, because what it comes down to is we have to involve everyone and not just our department going to the community and saying this is good for you. It's coming from the people, the general public, the educators, the parents, the grandparents. It's their voice. We have to keep moving forward on that and developing an action plan. They will be engaged and they will be participating in that too.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Colleagues, before we go to the next oral question, I'd like to welcome Mr. Ernie Bernhardt, a Member of the Legislative Assembly pre-division. Welcome back to the House, Ernie. And I welcome your wife too. Beatrice, welcome to the House.

Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 425-17(4):
REGULATION OF YOUTH ACCESS
TO TANNING BEDS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The World Health Organization has classified tanning beds as carcinogenic. The Skin Cancer Foundation qualifies it as ultraviolet tanning sessions increase a user's chances of developing melanoma by 20 percent. Lastly, those who begin tanning before the age of 35 increase their chances of getting melanoma by almost 75 percent.

I keep raising the issue of tanning beds and the concerns on our youth. My question for the Minister of Health and Social Services is – this is not a new issue – what is he now going to do about this problem.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll certainly have some discussions with the department to find out where we are with this, and I'll work with committee as we move forward, if we move forward.

MR. HAWKINS: Study after study keeps pointing out its significant risk on youth. We have an obligation. We restrict cigarettes for youth. We restrict access to alcohol to youth. Why aren't we doing the right thing and restricting access to tanning beds to youth? There's an immediate opportunity here today. The Minister could issue an order for promotion activities to bring forward this concern, and we could also agree to work on a policy to restrict access for youth. Will he do that?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Like I said, I will work with the department to get briefed up on this particular situation, and I'll work with committee as we move forward, if we choose to move forward.

MR. HAWKINS: This is not a new issue. I hear the Minister say he's going to work on this. It's well within his purview. He's heard this concern many times. I can even hear on the microphone he's being whispered to by somebody over there. Maybe somebody over there can help guide him with this immediate concern. I'd like immediate action.

Would the Minister be able to, at the very least, start a public campaign stressing the concern noted by the World Health Organization as well as the Skin Cancer Foundation, by stressing the risk that youth can have by doing tanning sessions?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'll certainly get myself briefed. I'll work with the department, I'll share the information with committee, and we will work as a consensus government to decide how to move forward on this issue.

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

QUESTION 426-17(4):
TAX COLLECTION ON TOBACCO SALES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, in my Member's statement, I made reference to the fact this government has a potential open door, a loophole, if you will, in its tobacco tax collection process. Specifically, we have a process whereby we are relying on wholesalers based outside of the NWT to self-report on tobacco sold from their facilities to retailers within the NWT. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

Can the Minister clearly articulate why he continues to support the process of self-reporting on tobacco sold?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Member's statement he made some very clear comments about the public purse and having to mind the public purse. It's an issue that we are, of course, very aware of. We work collectively on that all the time. We have an Aa1 credit rating. We have the lowest debt to GDP ratio in the country. Our debt servicing costs are the lowest in the country. We just tabled our public accounts information. We just approved our capital budget.

As we look at the revenues, of course, we also have to look at the other side of the equation, which is managing expenditures and expectations and the prodigious proclivity to engage in ramping up expenditures. As a government, we are very concerned and cognizant of our responsibility as fiscal financial stewards and do the things necessary to keep our Aa1 credit rating and the fact that we are on such secure, stable footing.

MR. DOLYNNY: The half response or quasi attempt to answer the question leaves me and the public at the Minister's mercy and convenience.

The recently tabled Interim Public Accounts for the Year Ended March 31, 2013, has tobacco tax collected in the main estimates at \$17.326 million, yet the 2013 actual collected is reported at \$15.587 million, a shortfall of \$1.739 million.

Can the Minister explain this approximate \$2 million in the shortfall? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, one is called an estimate and one is called an actual. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, it's clearly unfortunate we're not hearing answers here today.

Can the Minister reassure the public, given what I just quoted in the public accounts, that self-reporting of tobacco sold in the NWT is foolproof?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I don't think any human system, any tax system or any reporting system is foolproof, so I can't give that ironclad guarantee. I can tell you we have a system that we believe is effective. We have a lot of very helpful feedback and advice from the Member. We've exchanged ideas. We've put into effect some of the recommendations he's made and we are taxing due diligence. We are confident that the system we have is effective. We are going to make improvements like having all the black stock cigarettes are going to now move towards getting them so they have a mark and they are marked and we can track them better. We are going to do more audits and those types of things. We have a system that we believe is effective. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious, by our own public accounts, we have an issue, and it's painfully clear today that the Minister is not answering the specific questions pertaining to the tobacco self-reporting. I agree that the Minister putting provinces' stamps on tobacco does have merits in tax control, but it does nothing to address the self-reporting.

Will this Minister subject his tobacco tax collector process to the rigours of the Auditor General of Canada for review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I'm standing and I'm answering every question. The fact that the Member doesn't like the answers doesn't mean I'm not answering the question fully and in a forthright manner as befits a Minister of the government. Everything we do is subject to audit. If there is any part of the operation that Members want us to put under a magnifying glass, as they have done in the past in different areas, absolutely we will put any system we have under the rigours of

the Auditor General. If they can give us advice and recommendations that we haven't contemplated, we'll look at those. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Colleagues, before we move on today again, I would like to welcome to the House chief of Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Mr. Ernest Betsina. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 427-17(4):
PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE ISSUES
IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask questions to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. In my research on the housing in the Sahtu region, it shows a high percentage of households that reported at least one problem in their houses. In Fort Good Hope it was 68 percent; in Deline it was 72 percent; Norman Wells, 25 percent; and Tulita, 69 percent. I wanted to ask the Minister of Housing, with all the initiatives that I understand are going to be happening, do some of the reported incidents have to deal with water damage or molds in the public housing that we have in the Sahtu region?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't get as many concerns regarding mold as we used to. It was quite an issue a few years ago. We have taken steps to try and remediate some of this. Education of the tenants and our own maintenance staff, I think, was a big first step. The reports of mold in some of the units, not only in the Sahtu but all across the Northwest Territories, are coming down a bit. We look forward to having that number down to basically zero here very shortly. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, certainly I am with the Minister to bring the issue of mold down to zero in our public housing units. Is it possible for the Minister to direct the staff in Housing to look at the units in the Sahtu to look and see if there is a mold issue? I have been getting some calls that there are being some mold issues in the Sahtu. Look at all the public housing units: in Fort Good Hope, 53 units; Norman Wells, 36 units; in Deline there are 88; in Tulita there 69 units in that community. Again, do a sweep and say there is water damage, possibly there is some mold in this area, then that can give you a clean bill of health on the public housing units regarding mold in these units.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, our maintenance staff in all of the small communities, they do condition ratings every year where they go from unit to unit and look at some of the work that

needs to be done in there. They kind of use those condition ratings as a basis for some of the major improvement programs that we have through the Public Housing Program in our small communities. We do go through the units every year and identify all the potential maintenance issues, and then our staff in the small communities will then start generating work orders and remediate a lot of the issues that they find in the units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, fair enough. I am asking if the Minister can work with staff in regional offices. Can he then direct them to look at the public housing units, give a clean bill of health to the public housing units, and say yes, we checked all 53 houses in Fort Good Hope? We did it, there are no signs of mold, there is no dispute, then we can have, once and for all, this issue dealt with for all, not only in the Sahtu but other communities also in the Northwest Territories.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think I have already answered the Member's question when I said that we will do our condition ratings on these units. Most of the condition ratings have already been done for this year and that will give our maintenance people in the communities an opportunity to identify some of the issues that the Member speaks of, not only identify them but start to do work to repair those, not only with these particular issues but with everything else that may be wrong with the units.

With all the investments that we've been making in the improvement of our public housing stock the last number of years, the condition ratings in the communities are getting to be higher and the percentages are getting to be higher. They're identifying a lot of the issues and they're starting to take the steps to do all the maintenance on them. I can assure the Member that through the condition ratings they would be able to identify any potential mold issues, and if they do find them, then they remediate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly I did hear the Minister. Maybe I'll be more direct in asking the Minister if he would he commit to a time frame that these condition ratings can be done within the next three months, for example. Molds can be found anywhere. There are a lot of damages in the public housing units that mold can become a health hazard for the family. Between now and, say, New Years, can the Minister look at these condition ratings of these units and direct the staff members to take action within this time frame? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will follow up on the status of our condition ratings. I do know that usually by fall all the condition ratings are

done and any potential maintenance issues in the units are identified.

Again, dealing with the mold issue, I think through the investment we've made in the last number of years into the improvement of our public housing units, we've been able to see a lot of those issues come down. There are a number of factors. We have a website where the public can access, and for those that don't have a computer, I'm sure our LHOs will do some education on their part. It is a joint effort between the tenants and the local housing authority. So, again, I will follow up on the status of the condition ratings, but I can assure the Member that most of them are probably done by now and they're identifying all the maintenance work that needs to be done. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 428-17(4):
FORT PROVIDENCE
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate my colleague across the floor, Minister Tom Beaulieu, for taking on the big portfolio for Transportation.

My question is: Can the Minister provide an update on the relationship of the GNWT with the community of Fort Providence since the bridge has been in operation for about a year? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT has entered into a Community Opportunities and Involvement Agreement with the community, paying the community \$200,000 a year until the bridge is paid off, over 35 years. So that money is for the community to take a look at tourism opportunities and any opportunities that they may want to look at as far as tourism, such as a museum for transportation, marine transportation in that area and so on. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for that answer. Can the Minister, other than the \$200,000 annually that the community receives, clearly explain to the community – I'm sure they're listening at this point – their obligations other than the funding to the community? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The Department of Transportation has tried to find positions for individuals that were working on the ferry and the ice crossing. So at this point, the individuals that normally built the ice crossing will be given opportunities to assist on the Dempster ice crossing if they wish to do so. There were 13 employees on the ferry, most of them being casual employees, but three affected full-time employees. One retired. One of those positions was maintained

by the department and another one had moved to run a different ferry, at Fort Simpson, actually. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. It's encouraging that the government continues to at least build upon the relationship agreement with the Community Opportunities Funds and the Community Involvement Agreement.

How could the Minister of the Department of Transportation perhaps help out the community by, maybe, discussions with the community to help enhance the strategic location of Fort Providence as a major highway and marine centre and not just simply a drop-by community? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Certainly, anything that the community, the Fort Providence Metis Council and the Deh Gah Got'ie First Nations wish to do with that opportunities money that involves transportation, whether it be highways or marines, the department would be prepared to work with that community in order to develop something so that, as the Member indicates, it's not so much a drive-by community, because the bridge is in and the traffic does flow through more readily than it used to with the ferry. So, yes, we will be prepared to work with those two organizations to try to develop something that can attract people to stop in, in Fort Providence. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you. I'd like to once again thank the Minister for his response. It seems there's a positive spirit to maintain the working relationship with the community. One of the opportunities that the community faces, of course, is building upon the tourism opportunities.

Would the Minister agree that the GNWT Department of Transportation would continue its obligation to maintain the winter road access of the ferry crossing? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The department is prepared to look at the cost of maintaining the stretch of highway from the ferry on the north side of the river to the old ice crossing. Right now the only program that we have available is a capital program, the Access Roads Program, and that would be something that would go to make sure that road doesn't deteriorate and that would probably be summer work. But one of the main things where work is needed was to clear the snow. So we're going to work with the community to, first of all, determine the cost of that because it's not in any program, and then determine how we could maybe cost share to keep that road open from the bridge to the old ice road. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 429-17(4):
PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL
DETOXIFICATION SERVICES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 7th of this year, in this House, MLA Moses was asking about detox beds. The response from the Minister of Health and Social Services of the day was he said that there would be two detox beds in the North and there would be two detox beds in the South. This was very welcome news to people in Yellowknife. However, we continue to wait. The capital plan has just passed us and yet we've seen no results of these commitments. The Minister made a commitment. So the question to the Minister is: When will we see a promise made is a promise delivered? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll get that information from the department and provide it to the Member in committee this week or early next week.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister's binder would probably have a nice tab on this particular issue and I would encourage him to turn to that tab and read that page. Yellowknife continues to feel the cold shoulder of results and commitment by this government, especially on the issue of addictions. Northerners want addictions treatment.

Would the Minister read what the breaking binder page says on the tab and go to that tab and tell us what the Department of Health is doing on the detox issue?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I've already said I'll get that information for the Member and I will. I will provide it to the Member and committee in due course. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: This is an important issue; it's not a new issue. Northerners are in pain, Northerners are suffering, Northerners need help. What is this Minister willing to do as far as his briefing binder will tell him? Turn to that page and tell Northerners what the commitment is. Would the Minister do that for us?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. These are important issues, and as I've already committed to the Member, I will get that information, I'll provide it to committee and the Member in due course. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a couple of weeks we have the operations plan. Obviously, we still have a lot of work to do on the addictions issue. There was no capital investment for detox. Promised, but never delivered.

Will this Minister be working towards the operation plan in a few weeks, which is in about four weeks in early December? Will he be making a commitment in this House that he'll work to deliver those detox beds in that plan? Otherwise, there should be a clear statement that this government is not interested in this issue.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. This government, this department will live up to the commitments made by the current Ministers and the previous Ministers. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 430-17(4):
INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM WAGE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It has been a bit of an issue for me over my time here to try to advance the issue of minimum wage. So my questions to the Minister are in regard to the latest action, I guess, on the part of the government on minimum wage.

In the spring, in March and May, we had some talk about minimum wage and how to have a considered and constant increase to minimum wage. The Minister talked about establishing a minimum wage committee. My understanding is that that was done in the spring. So I'd like to first off ask the Minister if that committee was established, and if the committee was established, did it meet? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did appoint those members to the committee: the Federation of Labour, the NWT Chamber of Commerce, a business owner, two members of non-profit organizations and two GNWT employees. The committee has held a meeting in October 2013 and will make recommendations to me for spring 2014. So these members are currently established, they've met and they are going to make recommendations to me to move forward. I will keep Members informed about the progress. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that update. The committee was supposed to meet in October. It's gratifying to hear that they did meet at the time they were actually supposed to. It doesn't happen all that often.

I'd like to know from the Minister, they met in October and they are going to bring results forward to the Minister in the new year, so when is the committee supposed to meet next. How often will they meet and consider minimum wage? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The committee just met just recently. I believe the meetings required are on an as-needed basis between the parties, their availability and when the best time to meet will be. They will be providing recommendations to myself for the spring of 2014. I will be moving forward on it and working with the Members. I believe it will be on an as-needed basis when meetings are required. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I'm glad to hear the Minister say he's going to work with the Members, so I look forward to see the results of this committee and what they're proposing. My question about timing is a little more long term. I realize they may or may not meet while they prepare the results of this meeting held just last month.

Can the Minister tell me what the intention is of the department for his committee on an ongoing basis? Will they meet twice a year, will they meet four times a year, will they meet every two years, et cetera?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The timelines will be established by the said committee. My department will be working with the committee to establish those timelines. If it's going to be once or twice a year or on a quarterly basis, we will soon find out. They just met this past October, this past month. I will keep Members apprised as we move forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding was when this committee was established that the periods when they would meet, the frequency of their meetings was established in the terms of reference for that committee. Can the Minister advise me whether that is so? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The terms of reference has been highlighted and it does highlight a number of meetings, so it would capture when those committee members will be meeting, so I will be sharing that with the Members. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 431-17(4):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I continue to have questions and concerns raised to me by constituents around the issue of fracking in the Northwest Territories. There is so much information out there on this topic. People read it and they are concerned. We've had members of the EDI committee who have gone on investigative tours to see how this process is impacting other jurisdictions and this information has come back. I'd like to ask the Minister some really simple questions.

In terms of fracking, what is the status of approvals for this activity in the Northwest Territories at this time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the news came out that ConocoPhillips got approval for their application. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: If I had to convey comfort to people who are concerned about this, is the Minister able to comment on the environmental review and assessment and approval process that is in place? Since this is something relatively new in our territory, is he able to comment on the effectiveness of the approval processes that are currently in place for this activity? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are using the existing processes. We've offered our best guidance, advice and position, as a government, in a document in terms of best practices on fracking that has gone to committee, which we are looking on feedback for. It has been developed in conjunction with the regulators and we intend, once it goes to committee, to put it out to the public and industry.

We are also, as a government, as we look at post-devolution, looking at the structure of the regulatory regime so that we can design a northern controlled, made-in-the-North, resident-in-the-North regulatory process, all of which are going to allow us, I believe, to manage the risk and balance between the resource development and sustainable protection of the environment. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So, nothing about our approval or assessment process has changed specifically in relation to fracking, which is something, as we said, relatively new.

On the issue of a timeline for the kind of things that Minister Miltenberger is referring to, how far down the road of approvals for this activity are we going to go before these things that Mr. Miltenberger refers to are actually in place? Are there a lot of companies out there, or even ConocoPhillips... Is there a lot more of this activity imminent at this time? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are working closely with the current federal regulator, which is the National Energy Board. They've just released their filing requirements a few weeks back as it pertains to hydraulic fracturing on their requirements. For example, the disclosure is there of fluids on a voluntary basis. They are encouraging industry to make sure that they do disclose. We are told as a government that it's an industry best practice that there be public disclosure. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers agrees. We are working with all the various parties

to come up with a guidance document. So this is going to continue to evolve. We are going to make improvements, but we currently have the processes in place that are working. After devolution, the governance piece is going to be looked at and we are going to continue to look at what we need to do to have the best system possible.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and a well-known keen champion of the protection of our environment, our land, our water, our resources, I'd like to ask the Minister if he is satisfied at this time with these approvals going forward, given the additional work, obviously, that still needs to be done. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are collectively in the practice of managing risk. In this case, we are doing that and I'm of the opinion – and I've stated this already and I will restate that for the Member – as a government that we can manage that risk. There are things we have to do for clarity, for prudence on a go-forward basis and devolution is going to allow us to do some of those things. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 432-17(4):
GNWT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY PROGRAM

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we heard the announcement from the new Minister of Human Resources and I'd like to welcome him to the file. Clearly, this is a great announcement that we have here before us. I want to make sure, for the record, that it was a lot of pressure for this side of the House that has been applied as of late. Again, we had numerous numbers of fines, double fines, some of those fines to the tune of over three-quarters of a million dollars. We did talk about a lot of increased claims growth that the GNWT had. It was clear that we needed a definite change in direction to make sure we had a safer GNWT. My questions today will be for the new Minister of Human Resources.

Can the Minister indicate prior to today's announcement, how many full-time safety officers did the GNWT have for its almost 5,000 member workforce? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how many full-time safety officers that the GNWT had. However, I do know that this is a piece of work that has been in the works for seven years. It has taken a lot of work and lots of

reviewing of a lot of acts and regulations. In fact, there were 14 different health and safety acts and regulations that were reviewed in order to come up with this agreement and this partnership with the Northern Safety Association.

MR. DOLYNNY: I think I know the answer to my question because I just did a little bit of research on our website. I think we had one. We had one member for almost 5,000 employees, which is kind of a paltry number, if I do say so.

With today's announcement, how many more safety officers will the GNWT acquire?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I recognize that this agreement with the Northern Safety Association allows them to go out and get some specialists in certain fields. I am told by the individuals from that organization and the department that this will actually be an agreement that will assist us in the issues that were recognized in the House here over the last couple of years, where there were some fines and so on levied by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission from workplace injuries and so on, and how they would try to focus in on the key areas that we've identified in the House; the hospitals, the corrections centres, and so on, where there's high incidences of those type of injuries and workplace accidents. I think this is a move in the right direction, so I believe this is something that we're going to all benefit from.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's response. I agree; claims that we've had, claims growth that we've had and fines, like I said, well over three-quarters of a million dollars. Clearly, we had to take a new directional change in our department safety and our government safety.

With that, with this new initiative there has got to be some cost forecasts that were done by the government. Can the Minister say what will it cost for the implementation of this new direction in safety?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Although I am prepared to provide the cost to the Member, I don't have the cost of the partnership agreement between ourselves and Northern Safety here with me today, but I'm sure that I can get that very quickly.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's commitment. I realize he's brand new to the file here, so can I get the Minister's commitment to the House that he will report our training progress annually with this new program and all our partnerships that are involved with our safety?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, that shouldn't be a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Colleagues, before we continue, I'd like to draw

your attention to the visitors gallery and former Member and colleague Mr. David Krutko, who is in the House today. Welcome.

Oral question time has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Before we proceed with any business in Committee of the Whole, I'm going to call a break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

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

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Do we have a seconder? Mr. Ramsay.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am requesting to return to item 5 on the agenda.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Miltenberger.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this relatively rare opportunity to recognize a very important person who has the patience of Job, my dearly beloved, Jeri.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure today to be able to recognize former Commissioner John Parker and his wife, Helen Parker. I knew them as parents when I was teaching and I'm really glad to see them here. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also with great pleasure that I recognize John and Helen Parker, who have had a big influence on my life, as they well know. I'm very glad to see them in the House. Mahsi.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The man that cannot be ignored up there is Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford, who served this House and the people of the Northwest Territories for many years and I look forward to the many years ahead of us working together. Mr. Whitford, it's great to see you, too, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Lafferty.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 12: AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

BILL 22: TERRITORIAL EMBLEMS AND HONOURS ACT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Blake.

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 third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 27: AN ACT TO AMEND THE REVOLVING FUNDS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Colleagues, today we will conclude the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly. The Fifth Session will begin on Monday, November 4th.

Before we conclude, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly building, beginning here at 4:30 today. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of Yellowknife constituents and our constituents here in this great city of Yellowknife to come and enjoy a good afternoon with us.

There will be a panel discussion of former Premiers, unveiling of several new portraits, entertainment by Leela Gilday and Renelitta Arluk, and much more. The public will be able to visit the Chamber floor and other areas which are not usually open to visitors. I encourage everyone to join us as we mark this very special occasion.

Madam Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George L. Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills and prorogue the Fourth Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Prorogation

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

This government has set aside the next few days to celebrate two decades of progress in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. The Northwest Territories has come a long way and has shown much success as it continues to move forward.

We will celebrate and we will also take time to look at what the next 20 years holds in store in terms of governance in the Northwest Territories.

The true northern spirit of working together to achieve the goals that you have set out as the 17th Legislative Assembly is commendable and must continue to be top priority. Congratulations and all good wishes.

I would like to welcome to the public gallery two of our former Commissioners: Stuart M. Hodgson, who is accompanied by his son, Eugene. Mr. Hodgson served as NWT Commissioner for 12 years, from March of 1967 until April of 1979. Also here today is former Commissioner John H. Parker and his lovely wife, Helen. Mr. Parker served as our Deputy Commissioner, alongside Mr. Hodgson, for 12 years, before becoming NWT Commissioner in 1979 for 10 years.

I would like to join everyone here today in welcoming you both back to Yellowknife. I hope you will enjoy your short visit, and I trust that the warmth and hospitality of Northerners will make up for the cold weather outdoors at this time of year.

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

- Bill 3, Wildlife Act;
- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act;
- Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act;
- Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act;
- Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act;
- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace 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;
- Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;
- Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act;
- Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014;
- Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014; and
- Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015.

Prior to proroguing this Fourth Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly, I wish to announce that the Fifth Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly will convene on Monday, November 4, 2013, at 1:30 p.m.

Now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Fourth Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, quanani, koana.

---PROROGATION

The House prorogued at 12:50 p.m.