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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 12, 2014****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 57-17(5):
RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES'
CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVOLUTION**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, in a little more than two weeks, the Government and Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will be taking on new responsibilities for public lands, water and resources. For the first time, Northerners will be able to pass laws and make their own decisions about how our environment is managed and protected and our resources are developed. As we have acknowledged many times in this House, this is an historic occasion in the ongoing evolution of this territory.

We sometimes forget, Mr. Speaker, that history does not just happen, history is made. As we open an important new chapter in the history of the Northwest Territories, I would like to recognize the many hardworking public servants who have made that possible, and so made themselves a part of the story of our territory. We would not be where we are today without the commitment, dedication and efforts of these employees who have spent many years, in some cases, advancing the cause of devolution.

Today we are joined by many of those employees in the visitors gallery, and on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I want to thank you all.

---Applause

We have been well served by your efforts and your commitment to our future.

In addition to core staff, many other employees in departments have supported devolution implementation work, and my thanks goes out to them as well. It has truly been a team effort and

one where each person has played a critical role in achieving our overall goal.

Many Government of the Northwest Territories employees not directly involved in devolution implementation planning have also played an important role by supporting their colleagues who were more closely involved. They have kept the home fires burning, Mr. Speaker, and we are appreciative of their commitment as well.

Almost a year ago, we set up, with our devolution partners, 14 working groups to guide the work necessary to bring devolution to the Northwest Territories. Those working groups included 85 Government of the Northwest Territories staff, working either full time or part time on this project.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has never undertaken a project of this magnitude. It has only been achieved because of outstanding leadership, great dedication and a lot of determination. The success of our implementation planning speaks to our ability as a jurisdiction overall to manage our own affairs, to be responsible decision-makers and to serve the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the hard work of devolution negotiations is behind us, the hard work of implementation planning is almost behind us as well. What is in front of us, Mr. Speaker, is the future, a prosperous future, and we have our dedicated employees to thank for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 58-17(5):
INUVIK-TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY**

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, in early January 2014, the construction of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway was officially started.

This is an important first step to realizing the long-term goal of an all-weather road through the Mackenzie Valley. This is the largest and one of the most challenging infrastructure developments ever undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is a strategic infrastructure investment

that will strengthen and diversify our economy and is a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

The project will improve the quality of life for community residents by providing enhanced economic and social opportunities, enabling economic development and strengthening our country's claim to Arctic sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway will be built on an alluvial deposit that is ice-rich with continuous permafrost, a terrain no other highway in the world has been constructed over. The design and planning has been undertaken by a team of experts, including world-renowned engineers and permafrost scientists. The nature of the project presents risks that are a challenge to manage. The department has taken the steps necessary to ensure the project is delivered in a manner that addresses the concerns, expectations and requirements of all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, we have made significant progress. The department has obtained all required permits and authorizations, completed land and royalty negotiations, entered into the federal funding agreement and finalized the project design. We have done additional work on project risks, project management structure and communications, including the launch of a dedicated website to keep the public updated.

Mr. Speaker, steps have been taken to ensure the project can be delivered within the available budget of \$299 million. The new highway has been procured within a single design-build contract. This has brought unit prices down and ensures appropriate risk-sharing related to the design.

In addition, EGT Northwind, the project company, has demonstrated its commitment to maximizing local involvement by engaging businesses or employing residents from all regions of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that up to 600 people will be employed during the peak of the highway construction.

The contractor has already trained 38 individuals on different types of equipment using a simulator. Two additional driver-training classes are planned for the near future. Already, five graduates of a Class 1 driver licence with air brakes training program completed in Inuvik in November have received employment offers. In addition, a training program for wildlife monitors was delivered recently in Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik.

Mr. Speaker, we are excited to have officially launched the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project after investing a substantial amount of time and planning effort to bring the project to this important, defining moment in northern history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. R.C. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 59-17(5):
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the athletes, coaches, cultural delegates and mission staff who will be representing the Northwest Territories at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks later this month.

This year, Team NWT will include 365 participants representing over half of NWT communities competing in 19 different sports and the Games' cultural program.

The Arctic Winter Games are the largest and most important multisport cultural event held in the circumpolar North. There are nearly 2,000 athletes, cultural performers and community volunteers from nine contingents representing seven countries in the Games.

The Arctic Winter Games are successful because they include a program that combines athletic competition, cultural exchange and social interaction among circumpolar participants.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is extremely proud to support our team at the Arctic Winter Games through direct financial sponsorship and a range of other programs that support athlete, coach and officials' development at the local, regional, territorial and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the many volunteers who help Team NWT, including the Sport North Federation and all of the territorial sport organizations who select and manage the team. Their contributions are significant and play an important part in promoting healthy lifestyles and vibrant communities in the Northwest Territories.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize some important volunteers and local government members from Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith who will be at the 2014 Games in Fairbanks preparing for their opportunity to bid on the 2018 Games being held in the NWT. This will be the first time in 40 years that one of our communities outside Yellowknife has hosted the Arctic Winter Games.

I know that the bidding process will be competitive and that all three communities have significant benefits to offer the games. Our best wishes go out to all of them. The Arctic Winter Games International Committee will announce the successful bid next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our athletes, coaches, volunteers and cultural delegates a fun and rewarding experience at the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES MONTH

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month we celebrate Aboriginal languages. Last year I had the pleasure of addressing the House in the Tlicho language. This year, Mr. Speaker, it will be my honour to pay tribute to the South Slavey language.

[English translation not provided]

---Applause

Thanks. There's more.

---Laughter

[English translation not provided]

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank my teacher, who is also a translator here for the House, for helping me. That's Mr. Jim Hope. Mr. Hope, mahsi.

Once again, a big thank you to the South Slavey culture for letting me share their language today. It was an honour and a lot of fun. Thank you very much.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACHIEVING DEVOLUTION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not come here today with a prepared text, so I hope that I will do this justice in the company of these folks who have been so helpful and so instrumental on the devolution file. I also wanted to pay tribute to our government. I've said it in the House a few times before, so forgive me if I'm repetitive.

I have served under the leadership of six Premiers in my almost 20 years in this Legislature. Prior to even being elected to this House, I think I was involved in every constitutional and devolution commission and committee that there was out there that tried to solicit the input of people. I will never forget the frustration as I often walked away from those meetings going, how are we going to get there? How are we going to reach our aspirations for devolution in this territory?

There are so many diverse groups, diverse regions, diverse stages of political development, settled claims, unsettled claims, very prominent governments that we associate with as Aboriginal

governments all very established with aspirations of their own in their own right.

Floyd Roland, Premier Floyd Roland at the time, with some criticism got the ball rolling. Behind him as our Government Leader came Premier Bob McLeod. I didn't know Premier McLeod very well at the time. I often say he is the most understated overachiever that I have ever met, because when you talk to him and you meet him, you're not going to get the full picture at first blush.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have accomplished a good thing here with the help of the folks who have been recognized here in our visitors gallery today. I would like to take this opportunity for all the Cabinet Ministers who have had a hand in this during this 17th Assembly and for the right combination of leadership that we found in the Premier we have now. He spoke the language of the bureaucracy, he knew that well from his many, many years of public service in our government, but he also spoke the language of the elected leaders, whether it be from the Prime Minister's office to the Aboriginal leaders.

The work is not all done, it's maybe not perfect, but it's a tremendous accomplishment and I want to take this opportunity today to thank the Cabinet and the leadership in that Cabinet, Premier Bob McLeod. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the week of March 15th to the 22nd, athletes, coaches, volunteers, youth ambassadors, cultural delegates, territorial officials and leaders as well as parents from throughout the Northwest Territories will embark on the city of Fairbanks, Alaska, and participate in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

The Arctic Winter Games is a high profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and Arctic athletes. The Games provide an opportunity to strengthen sports development in the participants' jurisdictions, to promote the benefits of sport, to build partnerships and promote culture and values. The Games provide an opportunity for developing athletes to celebrate sport and compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world, and continue to be a positive influence for athletes, their families and the communities from which they come.

The goals of the Arctic Winter Games are the spirit of fair play, competition, inclusion and development. They also enhance self-esteem and promote growth and personal outlooks, promote socialization and cultural awareness, promote

positive experiences and personal benefits. They provide health and social opportunities and promote a sense of belonging and strengthen community ties.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to wish all athletes and coaches the best of luck. Your hard work, long practices, commitment and dedication will be put to the test at the highest level from regions in the circumpolar world.

To all who are attending, I am confident that you will be excellent ambassadors and represent the Northwest Territories very well. I encourage you to try your best in your sport, but most of all, have fun.

As a past athlete and mission staff, I'd like to also thank the Sport North staff and their volunteers, and to all those that are travelling, safe travels. Along with Minister McLeod I would also like to say, Go Team NWT! Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend NWT youth, their coaches and chaperones will have packed their bags. They will gather their sports equipment and board planes to travel to Fairbanks, Alaska, for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. This event, held every two years in the circumpolar region, is the Olympics of the North and it's a big deal for NWT people.

The focus of the Arctic Winter Games is still the same today as it was in 1970 and I want to quote from the Sport North website, it is, "to involve as many athletes as possible either in the Games themselves or in the team trials, and to provide a forum of competition for those other than elite athletes with competitive opportunities in the south."

For the last several years, thousands of NWT young people have been learning new skills, training hard to get and stay in shape, and practicing their sport in preparation for next week's competitions. Involvement in sport or other recreation activities can have a profound effect on young people and it's well known that they benefit mentally, psychologically, physically and economically from being active. Youth who are physically active are far healthier than those who are not. They generally live a healthier lifestyle, are less likely to abuse alcohol or drugs and often do better in school. Life lessons are learned through competitive physical activity, lessons which have a positive impact on the developing character of a young person.

I have a love of and for sport. It's given me many opportunities I would not otherwise have had. It's enriched my life through relationships and unique experiences. The young people who have

participated in the Arctic Winter Games experience to date, through local trials and team selections, regional competitions and territorial competitions, have already benefitted from this year's Arctic Winter Games. For those who were not successful in making Team NWT this year I say, stay in shape, keep training and try again for 2016; it's only two years away.

The members of our 2014 Arctic Winter Games Team NWT are varied: athletes, coaches, cultural performers, mission staff, chaperones, parents and other supporters like parent organizers of charters. Frame Lake has great representation on the 2014 Arctic Winter Games Team and I would like to name them. I might go a little over, Mr. Speaker, if you'll give me that indulgence. Walker Adjun, Anika Allain, Simon Arlootook-Zoe, Victoria Brenton, Philip Careen, Rachel Cluderay, Earle Dakota, Michael Doyle, Justin Doyle, Torin Dowe, Gavin Dwyer, Nichole Enge, William Ewen, Mackenzie Hotte-Joyce, Madison James, Carson James, Braden Johnson, Cassandra Kaminski, Megan Lafferty, Emily Paddock, Sam Porter-Kameemalik, Annmarie Senhouse, Zachery Whalen and, last but not least, Drew Williams.

To all of you going to the Games, do your best, that's all we can ask of you. Win or lose, you will have gained tremendously and we will be proud of you. Again, Go NWT Team, Go!

---Applause

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELINE COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can literally say a new government may be born tonight. Deline may become the first community self-government ever. Deline is known as the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada, now it may also be known as the birthplace of community governance.

This agreement was negotiated by those who moved forward, so we sit on the edge of our seats to see if 18 years of hard work by so many will be recognized tonight.

Deline has a vision, a plan, backed by their elders, encouraged by all the leaders to move forward. This community of Deline, in the Sahtu, was not built by those who waited and rested and wished to look behind them. This community was inspired to move, and move they did.

It is said that all great and honourable actions are accomplished with great difficulty and both must be worked on and overcome with answerable courage.

Those who came before us made certain that our land, that our culture, our traditions will withhold the waves of changes over time, and that we, as people, will be given the right to have and choose our own government. It is up to the people in Deline to honour those before them to exercise this right, for the eyes of the North are on them today.

What a privilege for the people to make history today. I say to the people of Deline, this is your day to choose what is right for you. This is your responsibility. For many years your negotiators, leaders and elders worked for you, now it's your job to lift the last pound, walk the last mile. Only you can do this by voting today.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: Many years ago great leaders in Deline knew of this time and now we are watching as it unfolds right in front of our eyes today. A nation is ready to be born. Through our land claims we negotiated the first step. The second step of our land claims chapter was to negotiate our own government. Bring it home.

Self-government is all about honouring our ancestors and their words. Today, people in Deline, make your mark.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INVESTMENTS IN HIGHWAY NO. 7

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This six-week budget session would not be complete without me repeating my two favourite words: Highway 7.

The recent federal budget just gave this topic further mileage. The federal government has renewed funding with the new Building Canada Plan in this year's budget and the Department of Transportation's Corridors for Canada III plan is part of the new Building Canada Plan, this country's longest and largest infrastructure plan ever. The Northwest Territories will be getting a small fraction of the \$53 billion, and we need a plan to repair the fractured highways of Nahendeh and our NWT.

Highway No. 7 is a key transportation corridor to our Northwest Territories. Last June the Department of Transportation earmarked \$3 million for the rehabilitation of Highway No. 7. It's a drop in the bucket, or should I say a drop in the pothole, for a highway that was not properly designed to withstand the frequent heavy loads transported year round through the region, but it's something. We need more in the years to come.

The Prairie Creek Mine uses Highway No. 7 to access its work sites, transport personnel and

goods, and meet other industrial needs. Additional roadwork is also much needed with the chipsealing of Highway No. 1 and the repairs towards Wrigley.

Industry and our tourists are strongly urging the Northwest Territories to make major investments in Highway No. 7. Spring is coming, and this highway should be at the top of the Department of Transportation's list of priorities. Investments in Highway No. 7 are as important as any highway investment we can make, and we're smart to put our share of federal funding there.

Many Northerners agree, we need a highway all the way up the Mackenzie Valley, and Highway No. 7 would be an integral part of that road system as we move goods through northern BC. We have more resources today than ever before to design highways that need essential geometric and strength criteria. Investments we make in the existing highways through Corridors for Canada to lay the groundwork for future infrastructure and the opportunities that it will bring. No multi-billion dollar infrastructure plan in this country would be complete without Highway No. 7.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POST-SECONDARY ACHIEVEMENT AMONG ABORIGINAL YOUTH

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. To have a real shot at success in university or college, Aboriginal youth need financial aid that matches the real costs of education. They also need transitional supports because they confront barriers at every turn.

The rate of post-secondary obtained is considerably lower than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Only four in 10 Aboriginal students in the NWT complete high school. Lackluster school performance haunts them for life. For example, Aboriginal people are not fairly represented in the GNWT because they often don't have the right kind of educational credentials. There are exceptions, of course, like constituent Kathleen Graham who earned a master's degree, but as a rule Aboriginal students don't achieve on this scale.

Small community schools pose especially steep obstacles because high school diplomas don't always reach an academic level that gets students into university or college. Other barriers are more subtle, such as mistrust in mainstream institutions and reluctance to leave the home community.

As well, without strong ties in the local band, the student may not be selected for funding and band-distributed funding isn't guaranteed for the length of the program. Then there's the clean-cut relationship between parents' post-secondary attainment and their children's. Here, Aboriginal youth are at a disadvantage.

To upgrade and qualify for a post-secondary program, the standard route is the ALBE program, but ALBE students aren't eligible for student financial assistance. Admittedly, our Student Financial Assistance program is quite generous, but there is always a gap between what a student can access through financial aid and the real costs of education.

After factoring in tuition, books and living expenses, costs run upwards of \$20,000 a year. Add a child into the equation and the figure runs closer to \$30,000 a year. Most Aboriginal families don't have enough discretionary income to make up the difference. For this reason, Aboriginal students are more likely to resort to big bank loans.

Working part time is another way to close that gap. This is more bad news, Mr. Speaker. Mixing schoolwork and paid work has a clear-cut negative effect on grades. The status quo is not a recipe for success. A revamped approach is required if we're going to leverage the full potential of our youth. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONCERNS ABOUT HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There can be no doubt that the people of the Northwest Territories are concerned about fracking. Later today I will table a petition with close to 800 signatures from people in the Sahtu and people across the Northwest Territories expressing concern about fracking and insisting that this government exert its authority to refer future applications to a full environmental statement.

The stated reasons for their concerns include:

1. Horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is new to the NWT and is clearly controversial. It is banned or under moratorium in many places in the world.
2. Fracking permanently contaminates very large volumes of freshwater. This does not match the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.
3. In other places, fracking brought lots of outside workers; alcohol, illegal drugs and crime with it. We don't have a plan to deal with an increase in these social issues.
4. Fracking will require transporting toxic fracking chemicals and polluted wastewater to our communities, along our highways and on the Mackenzie River. NWT workers will also be exposed to these hazardous substances.
5. Sahtu elders tell us that water flows through the deep geology of the Sahtu and that different areas are connected in ways that science has

not documented. We also know that underground networks of fractured rock and wells will eventually leak.

6. We have to look at the bigger picture. Our land, water, wildlife, cultures, communities and economies are already under stress and will suffer from the additional stress of fracking and associated development.
7. Extracting oil and gas increases greenhouse gas emissions and makes global climate change happen faster. Greenhouse gas emissions come both directly from the fracking operation and from burning the oil and gas that is extracted.
8. The decision to allow fracking in the NWT without an environmental assessment has created tension in the Sahtu and across the Northwest Territories.

Under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, every agency of this government had the authority to refer fracking applications for environmental assessment, yet fracking has already begun in the Sahtu without an environmental assessment. The list of accidents and spills has already begun to add up. Just in the last two days, two trucks carrying fracking wastewater have rolled over, both perilously close to rivers.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: As I mentioned, both trucks carrying highly polluted and toxic water rolled over very close to rivers. Fortunately none spilled. The ConocoPhillips site has had to shut down after a worker was seriously injured, and several holding dams and tanks have failed already.

People are concerned and they have every right to be. Many people are talking about a moratorium on fracking, but at a very minimum we need to do environmental assessments on these projects to respond to people's concerns. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POWER RATES IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to use today's occasion to talk about an important issue. I want to give thanks to all those people out there that ensure the Northwest Territories and, more particularly, the city of Yellowknife is at number one.

We're number one and normally that's something to be truly proud of, but not in this particular case. Why, many ask? Well, this city of Yellowknife's

power rates continue to outshine all other cities across Canada. Believe it or not, our power bill rates are higher than Iqaluit's or even Whitehorse. So we're number one. Is that something to be proud of? I say it's something to be ashamed of.

The cost of living weighs on the shoulders of the everyday working family continues to get heavier and heavier while the McLeod government watches this happen every day. When will this McLeod government stand up and fight for the everyday family who is trying to get by?

When 5 to 10 percent of your salary is going to your power bill, a signal must eventually be sent to this government to act. It's almost impossible to have a one-income family. I barely know any that try to get by without two incomes.

The cost of living continues to be unbearable, but our Finance Minister will tell you it's the intent of this government to attract 2,000 new people to the Northwest Territories. Quite frankly, who is going to want to come here when the Economic Development Strategy points out and they recognize that power rates hold Yellowknife back? If anything, they say in their report that it's a negative, not a positive. Again, we're number one. Boy, that's scaring people.

But it gets worse. That hungry beast we know as the NWT Power Corp cannot be satisfied. Its insatiable appetite continues to grow by trying to increase our power rates. Oh, but don't worry, it's only \$10 a month. Don't worry; it will be okay. That might only add up to 3 percent of your normal bill, but you'll be fine.

When is the courage going to be built up, thrust through this government to say enough is enough? Take back these high-cost power rates; show Northerners they care. It's time to rise and show who they're standing with. Do we continue to protect the Power Corp's insatiable appetite to increase our power bills, or will they start standing up for the everyday working family who has trouble paying their power bills? It's time they do so. Where will they be on the cost of living fight? Right now, they're all silent.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to recognize all GNWT employees who worked on the devolution file that are here in the gallery. There are too many to name, but I'll ask them to stand up and be recognized and also accept our thanks. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I'd like to welcome here Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford who has held every position in this Assembly once or twice. Welcome back to the House, Tony, it's always good to have you here.

Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to endorse the Premier's recognition of these hardworking folks in the gallery today. I know there are many residents from Weledeh, but all of them have played a critical part, I know. I'd also like to recognize, of course, Tony Whitford, a constituent of Weledeh I was very proud of, as we are of all our constituents, a special guy in this House. I would also like to recognize Weledeh residents Kan Baigent and Jacob Baigent. I believe I've heard Jacob is interested in the Youth Parliament once we get around to that. Welcome to those Weledeh residents. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'd like to welcome everybody in the public gallery here today and thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Dolynny.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 272-17(5): RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day the Minister of Human Resources issued a news release announcing that the GNWT continues to develop and implement an array of recruitment and retention initiatives to strengthen the public service and create employment opportunities throughout the Northwest Territories. I fully support this approach but it will not work unless all departments are on the same page.

My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. At a time when recruitment and retention could not be more important, why is it emblazoned in red writing across the Department of Health and Social Services' career website, Practice North, that, "New applications to the DHSS recruitment and retention programs are suspended effective immediately until such time as the human resource strategic plan is complete"?

Does the Department of Health and Social Services not share the same commitment to recruitment and retention as the Minister of Human Resources? Can the Minister explain that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to developing a good, solid, quality workforce here in the Northwest Territories of health professionals and allied health professionals, but the bottom line is when I became the Minister of Health and Social Services, I did have an opportunity to meet with the division which had recently moved over to HR. There were a number of questions about the effectiveness of our program, and continuing to spend dollars for no effect did not seem like a prudent course of action, so I actually directed the department to begin the development of a comprehensive strategic plan or HR plan for the recruitment and retention of health professionals. I have committed to sharing that with my colleagues across the way. But rather than run programs that don't work and waste money, I thought it was better, and my colleagues thought it was better, to suspend the programs until such time as we could design a program that meets the needs to develop the workforce of the Department of Health and Social Services and authorities.

But as a note, regardless of our HR plan, we do continue to support interns within the department and the authorities, and we do continue to recruit qualified health professionals across the Northwest Territories.

MR. DOLYNNY: It's difficult to understand how we can recruit when we've got no program here. What recruitment and retention program specifically does this moratorium apply to? Does it include community health nurse development programs or does it include others? Can the Minister be a bit more specific?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It actually includes a number of programs. Over the years we had given out a significant number of bursaries and there is limited data as to whether we were actually getting any return of service on those bursaries and whether we were getting good value for money, so we have continued the bursaries for those individuals that are in nursing programs and other allied programs now, so those individuals that are in are covered, but we have suspended any future intake until we have an opportunity to do a comprehensive analysis to make sure that we are getting value for money.

The Community Health Nurse Development Program is a program that we're very, very committed to in the department, and it is actually fully subscribed at this point, but we have suspended any future intake until we have an opportunity to review that program to make sure that we are getting good value for money. It is a very expensive program and there may be ways we could partner with authorities to get better effect and get better value for money. We do have people in it, but we have suspended intake until we can

actually make sure this program is giving us the value for money that Members regularly ask for.

MR. DOLYNNY: Can the Minister inform us: Is the department in the habit of putting a halt on its public initiatives whenever it has to get its own homework done? How long has this moratorium been in place? How long is it going to be intended to be in effect?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It has been in effect for a couple months. I've been the Minister of Health and Social Services for four months now and it was one of the things that I looked at when I came into the department, because health human resource recruitment is one of the areas that's obviously important. I'd like to have a strong workforce here in the Northwest Territories.

However, I will check the letter I sent to committee to confirm the date that we did actually suspend these programs temporarily. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is the public, specifically people trying to seek careers in the health field, supposed to understand what programs they can apply for and when, when it's clear even the Members on this side of the House don't even understand what the heck is going on here? Can the Minister offer some clarity, not only to us but to the people out there holding resumes for the health care sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Recruitment is ongoing on a regular basis for the positions we have in the health and social services system across the Northwest Territories. Every day we're hiring nurses and other allied health professionals. The division that has suspended some programs is more in the planning area around providing incentives for Northerners to pursue careers, and we have provided significant numbers of bursaries. We have had programs like the Community Health Development Program and the intent is good, but we need to make sure that we're getting value for money. If we're spending money on bursaries and getting no return for service, we need to make sure that we look at those programs, stop spending or giving out the dollars until we can have a program that meets the needs of our residents and provides an opportunity or incentive to actually return the service that we were hoping to get. An initial review shows there is clearly some question as to whether or not we're getting value for money for those programs.

We continue to recruit daily. We continue to fill positions across the Northwest Territories. We are committed to the health and social services system and we will continue to recruit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 273-17(5):
LICENCED PRACTICAL NURSE
IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has just been over a year now since we've had commitment to get a licenced practical nurse in Tsiigehtchic. Yet, to this day, we don't have a licenced practical nurse in Tsiigehtchic.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, has there been any progress in getting an LPN in Tsiigehtchic on a full-time basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said previously in the House, I have directed the department to do a review of the ISDM to see what make-up of professionals would be appropriate in the smaller communities. I have committed to doing that. I note the department has had some discussions with the Beaufort-Delta, specifically around Tsiigehtchic and the options that have been presented by the Member, but we have not hired an LPN for Tsiigehtchic. We need to finish the other work before we figure out what would be the appropriate course of action. I'd be happy to work with the Member, happy to work with committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: I'd also like to ask the Minister if the department is making any policies to make it possible to have a full-time licenced practical nurse in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I think it's important to finish the analysis first so we can figure out what the appropriate make-up would be. It may not be an LPN, it may not be an RN. It may be, it may not be. We need to do that work and we have committed and I have committed to do that work and sharing the results with the Member, so we can have an informed discussion on how we can provide quality care for the residents of Tsiigehtchic and the other small communities in the Northwest Territories.

MR. BLAKE: I'd like to ask the Minister, when is the analysis going to be complete and when will the community have a licenced practical nurse, or a nurse, for that matter, in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I don't have a timeline, but we do plan on doing this review in the 2014-15 fiscal year. We will get to the Member before the end of that fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want this to be a drawn out process. Will this be complete within the 17th Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The review, analysis and direction will be completed within the 17th Assembly. It might take a bit of time, but I will continue to work with the Member and committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 274-17(5):
FINANCIAL IMPACT OF JUNIOR
KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to follow up on some questions that were asked earlier in the week by my colleagues from Hay River, particularly Mr. Bouchard, who spoke about some of the potential impacts on junior kindergarten, sorry, the impacts of junior kindergarten on other preschool programs. In both Hay River and Yellowknife, we have viable preschool programs and the one I want to specifically refer to is the Aboriginal Head Start program. The Junior Kindergarten Program is going to have a huge impact on Aboriginal Head Start. They've recently been advised, not in so many words, but they pretty much have understood that their program, which is for three and four-year-olds, when junior kindergarten starts is going to become a program for three-year-olds. This is a very active program. It's a very well recognized program and it's a very successful program and the department itself has told them that.

I'd like to know from the Minister, first off, why are we killing off one program for the benefit of junior kindergarten? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, junior kindergarten is optional to the parents. It's up to the parents to choose where their kids should be going. Obviously, we support the preschoolers who are out there in the communities such as Hay River, Yellowknife and other communities. We continue to support that. We provide funding through various programs we have within ECE and the Health department and other areas and we continue to sponsor those.

This is just an enhancement for the preschoolers who are out there and it is an option for the parents. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I don't believe the Aboriginal Head Start program receives any funding from the territorial government. They are a federally funded program and it doesn't cost anything for parents for their children to attend the Aboriginal Head Start program.

Maybe there's a miscommunication between what the Minister is telling Members and what the department staff are telling the Aboriginal Head Start staff, but from what the Aboriginal Head Start people are telling me, I don't understand why the two programs cannot co-exist.

Why does Aboriginal Head Start have to redesign their program for only three-year-olds? Why can they not continue to provide programming for three and four-year-olds?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When I say subsidies for the operators such as preschool, Aboriginal Head Start program is another successful program in the communities funded through the federal government. We continue to enhance those programs in the communities and develop more options. That's what our main focus is. Some of the communities do not have those options. They have the Head Start program. Some have preschool, some don't. So, junior kindergarten would allow more flexibility in the communities that do not have licenced child care programming. Those are just some of the areas that we've been discussing for a number of years now. Now it's before us and we're moving forward.

An early childhood development consultant is also working very closely with those operators, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I am not saying that junior kindergarten is not a good program and I'm not saying that it shouldn't be implemented. What I am saying is we have eight Aboriginal Head Start programs in eight communities in the NWT. The impression that is being given to both school boards and to the Aboriginal Head Start Council, from my understanding, is that junior kindergarten will be in the schools. The four-year-olds will go to school; the four-year-olds will not go to any other programming. This is not daycare, Mr. Speaker. This is a preschool play program and it is an extremely valuable program. I need to understand from the Minister when he says his department is assisting with the Aboriginal Head Start program and helping the council with their programming, what does he mean by that, because they are not feeling like they're being helped. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As you know, we haven't really rolled out the program yet. It will be this September. We're at the point where we are working with those operators such as Head Start programming and also the preschools and other licenced early childhood development programs in our communities and those communities that do not

have it. As I stated, we have an early childhood consultant who is working very closely with the communities. We want this program to be very successful. It's a three-year phased-in approach. We want this Head Start program, preschool obviously, enhanced as well. We will be working closely with them, hand-in-hand. We're not going to just ignore them. They have been very successful. We'll continue to support that as well. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a lot in there, but to the Minister, I understand that the department doesn't want to ignore the Aboriginal Head Start. I understand that the department wants to go into communities where there is nothing, but in these eight communities where Head Start is a well-established, successful, viable program, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. I want to say to the Minister that I appreciate he wants to work with Head Start, but the communication is not working.

To the Minister, I want to know, will he go back to the department and discuss with the department the communication that he's having with the Aboriginal Head Start Council? Because they certainly are not feeling they're being helped; they feel like they're being shut down. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. That's the whole idea of what we're doing in our department. I just met with my senior staff last week because we talk about the planning, the rolling out of the program of junior kindergarten and how we can work with the preschoolers, how we can work with the Head Start programming. So those are just some of the discussions we've been having.

Mr. Bromley also raised that issue last week, I believe it was. Since that time, we've been discussing this particular area, how can we improve our communication, our working dialogue with operators. So those are discussions we've been having. We're going to improve those areas for sure. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 275-17(5):
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF
ABORIGINAL YOUTH

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Northerners aspire to further their education, there becomes different trails that students take, especially in regard to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. We all want, in the North here, to ensure that we have enough doctors, lawyers, management professionals, teachers, just to name a few, so our students can aspire to those positions.

In small communities there has been a trend in terms of our schools not doing well, especially our students compared to larger centres. Four out of 10 of our Aboriginal students compared to the non-Aboriginal students don't succeed.

Recently, Education, Culture and Employment has been working on the Education Renewal. So my question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is: Will your department's Education Renewal Initiative eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students? Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The whole education renewal innovation, the whole purpose is to deal with that, the education achievement gap with the NWT students. We're responsible for all students in the Northwest Territories. So there are Aboriginal students and non-Aboriginal students, but we're responsible for all of them. So this education renewal will capture that. Those are the discussions that we've been having. Since the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, the Early Childhood Development Framework and now Education Renewal Innovation. So this is a particular area where we're focusing on small communities, why are they not succeeding in school. It is one of the pillars that we're going to be looking at formula funding, we're going to be looking at how the whole structure hasn't been succeeding in their schools, the small communities. So this is an area that will be covered and offset through education renewal. Mahsi.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for his response. They're still at the discussion stage, which is reassuring that there's time for input. However, going back to our students, again, there are always barriers in terms of some of the obstacles that our students have to go through. It's not very common that you have students that are making the choice to basically separate themselves from their social friends and then make that choice to go back to school. We need to ensure that this government has the support mechanisms in place. Aboriginal youth are more likely to delay the transition to post-secondary studies. That means they are more likely to have children, yet a student getting financial assistance isn't eligible for daycare. Why is that?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Student Financial Assistance supports the students that need financial assistance going back to university or college. There are subsidy programs through ECE, Education, Culture and Employment that do offset the cost of child care programming because we have to support those students. We want them to succeed and come back to our communities to

obviously develop professional backgrounds, so to become a professional.

It may not be covered through SFA, but there are other subsidies within ECE that will offset the cost of daycare. Mahsi.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. The Minister indicated that part of the efforts to address the need for daycare subsidies is that it's something that quite possibly could be expanded.

Why doesn't this government provide a financial aid package that matches the real costs of education? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. The SFA program that we deliver in the Northwest Territories, as I've stated so many times, this is one of the best benefit programs for student financial assistance across Canada and internationally. So, this will continue to push that forward. Those are some of the areas that may not offset the overall costs of the student achieving their tickets or their diploma, certifications or degrees. There are other subsidies, the scholarships are out there and other benefits that are out there. Some, obviously, work part time as well. There are various venues that individuals can access. So SFA, again, is one of the best programs that we deliver to students and it has been a success. Mahsi.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated that the Education Renewal Initiative is underway and primarily to try to address the achievement gap between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. That's the main purpose of the Education Renewal Initiative.

Could the Minister, by this spring's session, commit to giving an update to this House and indicate to us how and what kind of performance measures he will undertake to ensure that his department addresses that gap? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. That is part of our discussion we're having now. As I've stated in the House, an action plan will be coming by this spring, late spring and it will be delivered to the Standing Committee for their input as well. So that is the process that we're going through and yes, I will be informing the standing committee. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 276-17(5): ADDRESSING RISING ENERGY COSTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When mortgage costs are certainly eclipsing the costs of running a household when it comes to heat, power and certainly water, something has to be done. Furthermore, we have to find a way to help our

northern people because there's just, frankly, no way we're going to ever attract anybody and it's hard enough to keep the people we have here.

My first question to the Minister is: What can he do, as Power Corp Minister, to help reduce our power rates that continue to rise at the direction of the NWT Power Corp?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've committed as a government in addition to what the Power Corp's generating through rates of \$33 million to cushion the rate increase since there'd been no rate increase for five years. That's a distinct investment. As well, we are working into all sorts of areas right to alternate energies. We looked at ways to try to address some of the energy costs. Part of the hope of the grid build-out, as well, is more efficiency and economies of scales that would connect the north and southern grids. We would look to try to continue our investments in solar and those other areas combined with batteries and wind.

So, the costs of energies around the world continue to rise and we are there definitely doing our part. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister talks about all great and wonderful things in the fullness of time. Global warming is coming sooner than some of the results of these initiatives, and quite frankly, I think we should wait for global warming over those initiatives because they will solve our problem at the speed they're flowing through.

Has the NWT Power Corp ever done any type of analysis on the burden of the everyday ratepayer in comparison to other cities? So, in other words, have they taken any analysis of what the city of Yellowknife ratepayer would pay on their power bills versus their income versus other cities across Canada?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are rate increases going on across the land. Pick a province. We are all challenged with the cost of energy. We are very cognizant about the impact of the cost of energy on the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. We are designing ourselves as a corporation and a government to try to address that issue. We want to work with individuals, businesses, corporations and communities to do all the things necessary when it comes to energy efficiency, conservation, building standards, alternate energy. But there is no doubt that the cost of energy is continuing to rise, especially as we continue to rely so much on diesel.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister continues to talk about these wonderful platitude solutions. At the end of the day, they're wonderful. Yes, I agree. But,

frankly, they do nothing for the everyday taxpayer and certainly working families trying to get by. The Economic Opportunities Strategy, again, recently said that the power rates are holding Yellowknife back. It's a negative, not a positive.

What is the NWT Power Corporation doing to ensure that we can keep our power rates low, because right now, as we all know, there's a new application before the PUB to further increase them. We should be working to push these power rates down not increase them. We will never attract 2,000 people if this is the direction the Power Corp thinks is the only way to go. Can the Minister do anything to help the everyday working family?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I would suggest to the Member that if we weren't contributing the \$13.8 million that we were to cushion the rate increases over the last couple of years and the next coming years that the impact would be dramatically different, and, yes, the Rate Stabilization Fund, which hasn't had an increase in five years, requires some replenishment, once again, tied to the cost of energy. We are continuing to do all the things that we can, both as the Power Corporation and as a government, to invest millions to branch out into alternate energy, the issues I've already answered in the previous question, and these aren't platitudes. This is cold, hard cash. These are projects on the ground. These are standards that have been changed. These are projects that are meant to achieve the goals of the government and help contain the cost of energy.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister can continue to gild the lily on this problem but it's not changing the fact that the everyday ratepayer can't afford their power bills. People are leaving and there's no way we're going to attract people here to the Northwest Territories.

The last thing I'm going to say is there's the old saying, death by a thousand cuts, and I think the everyday ratepayers had 999 of them and they cannot take one more. The question to the Minister is: He talked about the Stabilization Fund, is it not time to continue to focus in on other solutions that deliver immediate respite to the everyday ratepayer who's just the simple, everyday working family trying to get by? Is it not the focus of the government to ensure that people can survive?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Given the Member's concern about gilding lilies and dealing with platitudes, I would be very interested to know what specific suggestions that he would have to provide that relief that's not already being considered or done, and we would give them very serious consideration.

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

QUESTION 277-17(5):
CONCERNS RELATED TO
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement earlier today I talked about how people in the NWT are concerned about fracking, and my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Many people are concerned and for good reasons. I would like to know: Has the Minister heard these concerns? Does he understand that people are concerned or that he least acknowledge that they might be concerned?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware that there are a wide range of views about hydraulic fracturing. I've been a recipient of some correspondence through the Council for Canadians, for example, expressing their concern. I do read the newspapers, listen to the news, and talk to people, and yes, I have heard some of those concerns and I believe I do understand them.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that understanding. The petition I'll be tabling later today, of course, signatures from at least 24 communities including all Sahtu communities and so on. The MVRMA legislation says that any agency of the territorial government can refer a proposed project to a full environmental assessment. We have literally hundreds of agencies, public health agencies, environmental protection agencies and so on, yet none of them referred the previous fracking application for environmental assessment.

Did our government issue a directive or instructions telling all agencies not to issue a referral or did each agency make that decision on their own?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: My understanding in regard to the concerns out of the Sahtu about water is the concern is specifically about the water being withdrawn from fish lakes as opposed to being withdrawn from the Mackenzie. I do believe that issue is being looked at and, hopefully, will be addressed.

In regard to was there a directive from government, no, there wasn't in regard to instructing any agency or part of government to atomically reject or not require environmental assessments of fracking.

MR. BROMLEY: I'm glad the Minister understands at least one of the eight major concerns that I read out in my earlier speaking today.

As we all know, devolution will be taking effect as of April 1st. After that date, will any agencies of the GNWT be permitted to make an independent decision on a proposed project or will all decisions be made by the Executive?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The intent is to have a made-in-the-North regulatory regime that brings together the regulatory authorities, both the oil and gas through water and minerals, lands, with ITI, ENR and the Lands department. We intend to be very thorough, very rigorous, and we want to coordinate our efforts. There is going to be responsibilities that require the various regulatory agencies and bodies to respond as regulators. There are going to be some requirements for technical responses. We are going to look very thoroughly at all of those project applications that come in and we will, in fact, provide that rigour and timeliness that we have committed to.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look forward to that on time. The MVRMA gives criteria for determining when a project should be referred for an environmental assessment. I would assume that we use the criteria listed in the legislation, and I'd be happy to give the Minister a reference to that, clause 125, section 1.

I would assume that we use the criteria listed in the legislation, but to be sure, would the Minister commit to making public the criteria this government and its agencies use when deciding whether to refer a project to environmental assessment even if it's following the legislation?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, we will provide that information to the House.

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

QUESTION 278-17(5):
RECONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY NO. 7

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to follow up with questions to the Minister of Transportation about my initial concern for my riding and the residents of Fort Liard and reconstruction of Highway No. 7. I know that in this year's federal budget they have indicated a new Building Canada Plan. It's \$53 billion. I don't know that they had time to talk with the departments, talk with their federal counterparts, and see just how much of that money will be available for our Northwest Territories government in building infrastructure for our Northwest Territories.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government, on the Building Canada Fund, has provided us an indication that they will approve \$258 million for the NWT for both transportation and community infrastructure. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: That's the exact amount of money I need to reconstruct Highway No. 7.

---Laughter

That's great news. Maybe the Minister can detail how that \$258 million will be broken up – he did indicate I think it was municipalities and transportation – maybe what kind of dialogue and is it \$258 million over 10 years. How is that \$258 million allocated for the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, it's split between the community governments and transportation infrastructure. We have not determined that, but the \$258 million has to be leveraged and they are what we refer to as 75 cent dollars so the GNWT will have to come back to the House to get our corresponding share, which would be 25 percent. It is over 10 years, so approximately \$25.8 million per year from the federal government to the GNWT. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I know that Transportation had an excellent Corridors for Canada III proposal, Building for Prosperity. That was \$600 million over a 10-year period and it addressed many of the concerns in each of our constituencies and, in fact, for the whole of the Northwest Territories.

How does that funding impact our ability to follow through with Corridors for Canada III: Building for Prosperity in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the Provincial/Territorial Infrastructure Fund request was for \$415 million and that was the initial \$600 million ask from the GNWT to the federal government. The portion that the Member speaks of where Highway No. 7 would sit was a \$415 million request and we didn't, obviously, get all of that since the entire ask to us was \$258 million, so we're discussing this between ourselves as departments, and also our infrastructure Minister McLeod has been leading some meetings to determine the split between the communities and the highways. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It certainly impacts the well-touted Corridors for Canada III plan of the Department of Transportation. I'm just wondering: What does the department have? Will the department come back for a Corridors for Canada III divided by half proposal? How is the department going to manage

all those initiatives? I know we had great discussion in committee and it seemed like a great plan, but now with the reduced amount the Minister has already said he doesn't know how much he's actually getting because there are still discussions happening.

I guess the other question, too, if I may, is there any other highway initiative funding that the federal government has that will also help us with the Corridors for Canada III plan? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is another fund. I believe its \$4 billion. It's projects of national significance and we are taking a portion of our ask and looking at it again, and we will be presenting the work that's going to be needed to build new infrastructure and the project would be the Mackenzie Valley Highway. We're going to be presenting that to the federal government before the end of this month. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 279-17(5):
DELINE COMMUNITY
SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, on the potential of Deline proving their community government initiative tonight. I want to ask the Minister, are there within the life of this government here that Deline, should they be successful – tonight we'll hear for sure – legislation in place for them to become enacted in legislation as a self-government body?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're all waiting with great anticipation for the results of the ratification vote tonight. Once we get the results, we'll proceed with the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: In the Sahtu they are really excited and they hope they will hear the news tonight.

What are the next steps should the vote be a successful vote?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: If ratified by the parties, a signing ceremony will be held possibly this summer of 2014 or maybe sooner. We see an effective date for the final agreement occurring in 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, of course the federal government will also do due diligence on this legislation. Do we have any role in regards to working with the federal government in implementing Deline's self-government agreement?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The GNWT is a signatory to these agreements and there are programs and services and assets that the Deline community will be taking over, so we will be participating in all aspects of those arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 280-17(5):
INCIDENCE OF DIABETES
AND PRE-DIABETES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services questions today, but I'll make my questions short and he can make the answers short and we can wrap this up.

I do not have before me the statistics on the incidence of diabetes and pre-diabetes in the Northwest Territories, but I'd like to ask the Minister if this condition is on the rise in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, how do our statistics on the incidence of diabetes and pre-diabetes compare to other jurisdictions in Canada? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, diabetes is, from my understanding, on the rise across Canada. We are not unique. Our rates increase by about 200 people a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Does the treatment and education of people in the Northwest Territories with diabetes and pre-diabetes include an education component? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have a variety of different programs that are trying to start with prevention, Healthy Families, Healthy Choices framework, a number of initiatives geared to educating people about food. I have directed the department to work a little bit more on trying to get some more information on sugar, as brought up earlier by Mr. Dolynny, into that advertising, that prevention works. But we also have professionals in Yellowknife and in communities throughout the Northwest Territories who actually provide services to the individuals, including education and helping people make positive food choices and help them control their diabetes.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That education that is provided to patients who are diagnosed with diabetes, I'm going to ask the

Minister if he is familiar with the concept that came out through previous reports to Health and Social Service on the concept of centres of excellence for different types of activities within the health care system.

With this increase in the incidence of diabetes, has any thought been given to a centre of excellence for the education and treatment of diabetes in the Northwest Territories and perhaps could he consider that the Hay River hospital that's going to be soon moved into a new hospital as a centre for something like that? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. We are committed to working with residents on this particular issue and we're committed to doing a number of things, including some prevention and direct supports to our residents. We have run a number of pilots in different communities on diabetes programming, but I hear the Member, it's an interesting idea. I would love to sit down with the Member and committee and get a little bit more input on specifically what they're making reference to and I would be happy to have some additional discussion on that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 281-17(5):
SAHTU LAND CLAIM AGREEMENTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask some questions to the Premier in regard to the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement. In our agreements we have institutions, we have set up institutions that would bring some decision-making authority and control within the Sahtu. Now with devolution and Mr. Bromley's questions on the environmental assessments and stuff like that, will our institutions still be restricted because of the institutions that we set up? We have set them up for a reason and for a purpose. Will these institutions still be in place or is it the GNWT's intention to take over these institutions and not follow authorities set by our land claims?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were participants in the negotiation of land claim agreements and we certainly stand by what was negotiated. The Devolution Final Agreement provides for non-abrogation of treaties or land claims. We have that language throughout the Devolution Final Agreement where there will be no negative impacts on those areas. Where or if it ever happens then what's in the land claim would trump what's in the Devolution Agreement. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Over the years of hard work that the people have set, that institutions set out our own rights within our own land claims. Now we also

have our own land in the Sahtu. Is that also in the type of response I get back from the Minister that the Sahtu people are making decisions on their own lands, through their own institutions and that's the process that will continue? Is that what I'm understanding from the Premier?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. That's the whole premise of the agreement under the Intergovernmental Council that the Aboriginal governments that have land claims, who are the largest land holders in the Northwest Territories – I think together they hold about 193,000 square kilometres of freehold land – the way we see it, the management regime is that each Aboriginal government would manage their own land that they own and we would work together to provide for best practices and some consistency across the Northwest Territories. Together we'll all manage the land in the best interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I recall from the days of negotiating we want more land, that's what we kind of negotiated with the two governments. So I want to ask the Premier within our land claims, the constitution, the protective document that sets up certainties, securities, institutions in the Sahtu, is it the intention of the territorial government to work with the Sahtu people through their institution to look at issues in a way that satisfies the people of the Sahtu, such as the operations of the oil and gas explorations, using the hydraulic fracking, that due diligence is followed and all the concerns that we have heard are followed, investigated, looked at and reported so that any application isn't taken for granted, but each application would receive a thorough body of due diligence?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. We had a meeting with our Aboriginal government leaders on March the 7th where we discussed the Intergovernmental Council and the proceedings and all of the different leaders all raised some of the issues of concern to them. Certainly, the Sahtu Secretariat leadership expressed issues that they are interested in and together we'll work to deal with these issues. I don't recall, I don't think fracking was raised, but there is a body through this government that will deal with it, as the Minister of ENR has indicated would be coming out with a document on that as well. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier, when does it become the tipping point for any region that outside influence will have an influence in the Sahtu region? If it's our decision through our institutions and our land claims that we are to make decisions based on what we have set up, when does there come a point where, okay, we need to look at other areas where people outside

the Sahtu will start to influence and start making decisions for the people in the Sahtu?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I believe we're already seeing that happen and I think that we will continue to work with the Sahtu leadership to try to work with what the people in the region want to see happen. I think that's the way we will approach and that's the way the land claims have been negotiated and settled on a regional basis. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 282-17(5):
PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM
POWER OUTAGE IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in this session I brought up the issue of unresolved property damages in Yellowknife, Behchoko and Detah in the wake of an extended power outage that took place on December 29, 2013. Mr. Speaker, I brought to the floor information regarding millions of damages, which was echoed also by the media. Unfortunately, I was trying to get some more information here for the public and I was put on notice, which means I was shut down for asking more questions. So I asked the Minister to table a written response to what happened, what was the chronology of events, which was then later tabled to the House.

So, I have questions that continue that journey with the Minister responsible for NTPC on what was tabled. Clearly, within the framework of the chronology, there was some faulty equipment in this outage and that was kind of echoed also by the Minister in other dialogue that we had during this session.

Can the Minister indicate to the House here was this equipment repaired and to what cost? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it hasn't been all done, it will be done. I haven't got the final costs yet.

MR. DOLYNNY: As we indicated a month or two ago here, well, at least six weeks ago, we had millions of dollars of damage anticipated with this. Can the Minister indicate whether his office or NTPC have performed a full cost accounting on this recent power outage to evaluate the extent of the current and potentially future damage caused to residents and businesses, and if not, why?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have looked at the impact and cost of the event, the weather event that triggered this cascading of events resulting in a power outage. We've had this

discussion in the House. We have our policies and approaches to responding to acts of God. Where there are situations where we are responsible for because of our actions or things that have happened that come back on us, we have looked at that approach, as well, but the broad-sweeping assessment that the Member has asked about hasn't been done that I've seen.

MR. DOLYNNY: This is clearly the point of my argument here. If we don't know what the damage cost us, if we don't know what the damage cost taxpayers, how do we know the severity of the situation?

Can the Minister indicate if the concept of an income-tested contingency fund for disaster relief directly associated with such things as extended power outages at extreme cold temperatures has ever been discussed by this government, and if not, why?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: No, it hasn't, and because the position of the government at this point is that what is currently in place is sufficient.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Giving the word sufficient to some of the residents of the Northwest Territories saying you're stuck with the bill, I don't think is sufficient. Given the reported damages of almost over \$2 million, and given the fact that we've heard that faulty equipment was to blame and that the equipment was not working properly, according to what was tabled in chronology, and given that the government has not performed any cost accounting with the recent disaster, how can the Minister sit here in the House and indicate very little to satisfy the public's outcry for financial help? What is this Minister prepared to do to mitigate the situation?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member makes a lot of assertions and a lot of statements that he cites as fact. There was an initial event, a weather event that initiated the cause. We've looked at that. We've set out an extensive review to make sure we improve our services and our communication, but we have existing processes in place to deal with circumstances related to those types of outages. We're going to continue to work on our quality assurance and our communications and improvement to services including a \$10 million battery that would potentially level out and give us 15 minutes time to adjust to power outages. I can stand here quite easily to discuss those types of things which are, in fact, facts and reality.

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

QUESTION 283-17(5):
RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Human Resources. I won't go on at length, but we all know about the 1,150 vacancy snapshot information provided by the Minister a few days back. We also know, and I'll remind the House, that the Finance Minister is being quoted quite eloquently about the 571 jobs they're pursuing. Mr. Dolynny put on the record today that, of course, he made note that the Department of Health and Social Services has now suspended their human resource campaign to get more people there.

My question for the Minister of Human Resources is: How will the Department of Human Resources actively be pursuing people to fill those much needed health care professional positions that we need in all our northern communities if this government is now leaving these positions at bay? How do we fill these vacant positions and what positions are they?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources continues to work with all of the departments in pursuit of filling all of the vacancies that can be filled. We are in the stage of running through various competitions. I had indicated in the House several times that at one point when this question was asked, of the 571 vacant positions that we were actively trying to fill, we had filled 165 of them. Of course, since that time there have been more vacancies since there's a turnover of about 10 percent, so there are new people coming in and people leaving this government all the time.

MR. HAWKINS: On the website it says recruitment and retention programs are being suspended effective immediately.

What is the Minister of Human Resources doing to ensure that this is not happening across the departments, across this government? Are we putting Northerners at risk? What is the Minister of Human Resources doing about this?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: There are no freezes in hiring. The government continues to hire. We continue to work with the department. The Department of Health and Social Services has a strategic health Human Resource Strategy that they are working on. That portion of the recruitment team was moved from Human Resources back to Health because they are the experts themselves in filling health human resource positions. That is not something that we are doing across the board. There are no freezes by any of the departments

right across government. We're continuing to pursue to fill vacant positions.

MR. HAWKINS: Perhaps my interpretation of suspended immediately is much different than the Minister of Human Resources. How does the Minister of Human Resources stand there and say it's business as usual if the website itself says, and it's current, that it's suspended immediately?

How is the Minister of Human Resources doing his job if he's giving us one answer one way and the facts lay before us that say they're not recruiting? Are Northerners put at risk? Will the Human Resources Minister account for that?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: If the Member is referring to a website from Health and Social Services then that's, as I indicated, a separate strategy. That doesn't mean that the other 13 departments across the GNWT have suspended recruiting. We are continuing to recruit staff using the same strategies that we have in place to continue to recruit. What the Member refuses to hear is that in the last 12 months... In a 12-month period we have about 1,600 to 1,700 staffing actions, so if we're suspending things, then how do we manage to achieve 1,700 staffing actions?

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I don't care if it's a team effort to answer the question. The point is the questions need to be answered, and the question is this: How many vacancies do we have out there that are not being filled? We've all heard this great number of 1,150 positions been vacant for various reasons, 571 actively pursuing. We have a website now that says, by the way, hiring practices are now suspended.

How many positions are out there vacant, not being pursued, and are we putting Northerners at risk whether in a big community or small community? We've got people fighting for people in their communities. Get those jobs out there. How many?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't know that we're putting any Northerners at risk. What we're doing here is we're trying to fill the jobs. I've explained in the House that there are various categories. Of the 1,150 positions effective October 31, 2013, they are in various categories. I could read off all of the various categories, but one of the categories that the Members were interested in was the 571 positions that we're actively trying to recruit. For other reasons, some vacancies are there. Some are difficult to recruit, so they are filled with a casual. There are all kinds of other reasons. Some are empty positions, some are dormant positions, some are positions filled by transfer assignments, some are positions vacated by a transfer assignment, some are filled by contractors and some are filled by contract employees. There are all

kinds of categories and I've explained that in the House. The Member refuses to hear it. Thank you.

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

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 15-17(5):

COMPLIANCE WITH
INCOME SUPPORT GUIDELINES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE):

1. What is current ECE policy regarding income support clients who fail to comply with ECE guidelines? Specifically, what is the policy around "cutting off" income support to clients as a way to enforce compliance?
2. In the last three years, how many income support clients have been cut off from income support, for how long and for what reasons?
3. In the last three years, how many income support clients who were cut off had children in their care?
4. In the last three years, how many single parents were cut off from income support for failing to take their ex-partner to court to seek child support payments?
5. For comparison, in the last three years, how many clients of income support have managed to rise far enough out of poverty that they no longer required income support for at least one year?

Mahsi.

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

WRITTEN QUESTION 16-17(5):
17TH ASSEMBLY DIRECT APPOINTMENTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier. Please provide a current list of all direct appointments from the beginning of the 17th Assembly to today's date, including the following information:

1. Cabinet approval date;
2. position;
3. department;
4. community; and
5. name of individual appointed.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Bromley.

Petitions

PETITION 3-17(5):
REFERRAL OF HYDRAULIC
FRACTURING APPLICATIONS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition with the matter of referring any further horizontal hydraulic fracturing applications to environmental assessment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 327 handwritten signatures and 463 electronic signatures, for a total of 790 of Northwest Territories residents from at least 24 communities. The petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories exert its authority from the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act to refer any further horizontal hydraulic fracturing applications in the NWT to a full environmental assessment that includes public hearings. Mahsi.

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

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 69-17(5):
LIST OF INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS
EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Section 32(1)(2) of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the following document, titled "List of Inter-Activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1 to December 31, 2013." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 70-17(5):
SCREENSHOT IMAGE FROM DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES CAREER WEBSITE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a snapshot of the Practice North Department of Health website in reference to my Member's statement and oral questions earlier today. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 71-17(5):
PETITION FOR VOTE ON FRACKING
FROM SAHTU RESIDENTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have a tabled document from the community of Tulita. It's for a

Sahtu decision on fracking. They are asking for regional Sahtu decision.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 72-17(5):
MARCH 11, 2014, LETTER FROM ITAI KATZ
OF TSIIGEHTCHIC TO PREMIER MCLEOD

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter with the express permission from the author of the letter, Itai Katz in Tsiigehtchic, NWT. It lists all the reasons that he's concerned and leaving the Northwest Territories. I think something we all want to be aware of and respond to. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Lafferty.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 24:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 25:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
EDUCATION ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 10-17(5), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider House business. Thank you.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to consider Tabled Document 4-17(5) and Bill 18. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll call the Committee of the Whole to order. We are dealing with Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. I would like to ask Member Blake if he would please like to make opening comments on this bill. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: I am pleased to provide opening comments for Bill 18 on behalf of the Legislative Assembly Board of Management. Bill 18 will amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to revise the electoral districts of the Northwest Territories. In keeping with direction provided by Committee of the Whole of this Assembly on November 5, 2013, the bill proposes changes to the electoral boundaries within the communities of Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife, and moves the areas of Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Detah and Ndilo to a new Tu Nedhe and Weledeh electoral district. The status quo is maintained in the remaining seven constituencies. Bill 18 does not propose any increase to the number of MLAs in the Legislative Assembly.

On May 29, 2013, the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2012-2013, was tabled in this House. On behalf of the Board of Management and, indeed, all Members, I would like to thank the commission, consisting of the Honourable Justice Shannon Smallwood, Mr. Charles Furlong and Mr. Ian McCrea, for their hard work and thoughtful recommendations.

Once the commission's report was tabled, the Legislative Assembly and all Members individually spent considerable time analyzing its recommendations. On November 5, 2013, a lengthy debate took place in Committee of the Whole. A motion was carried for the Board of Management to bring forward legislation to implement the 19 electoral districts recommendation of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, with an adjustment to the Kam Lake and Yellowknife South electoral district boundaries to more evenly distribute the

populations between those two districts. Bill 18 implements this direction.

That concludes my opening comments on Bill 18.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. I'd like to ask Mr. Blake if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the witnesses to the table.

Mr. Blake, I'll ask you to introduce your witness.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to introduce Mr. Ken Chutskoff, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. General comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Detail, okay. Does committee agree that we are ready for detail? We have said we are. Are we agreed that we stand down the clause and consider the schedule, page 2, Schedule A. Committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 2, Schedule A. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 42-17(5): AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX, ITEMS 11 AND 13, CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: I have a motion, Madam Chair. I move that Bill 18 be amended

- (a) in item 11 of the Appendix, by striking out the heading "TU NEDHE – WELEDEH" and substituting "TU NEDHE – WIILIDEH"; and
- (b) in item 13 of the Appendix, by striking out "the electoral district of Tu Nedhe – Weledeh" and substituting "the electoral district of Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh".

Mahsi.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): The motion is carried.

---Carried

To the schedule as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Lafferty.

COMMITTEE MOTION 42-17(5):
AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX, ITEMS 11 TO 19,
DEFEATED

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Madam Chair, I have a motion. I move that Bill 18 be amended by striking out items 11 to 19 of the Appendix and substituting items 11 to 21 as set out in the schedule to this motion.

Mr. Chair, I seek unanimous consent to have the schedule to this motion deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

---Unanimous consent granted

Schedule

11. Tu Nedhe

Premising that the 60th parallel of latitude forms the boundary between the Northwest Territories and the Province of Saskatchewan for description purposes.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the 65°30' parallel of latitude and the Nunavut-Northwest Territories boundary (Lat. 65°30' N; Long. 112°30' W); thence south along the 112°30' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 62°15' parallel of latitude; thence west along the 62°15' parallel of latitude to its intersection with the 114°31' meridian of longitude; thence south along the 114°31' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 61°20' parallel of latitude; thence southwesterly in a straight line to the intersection of the eastern bank of the Buffalo River and the southern shore of Great Slave Lake; thence southerly along the eastern bank of the Buffalo River to its intersection with the northern shore of Buffalo Lake; thence easterly and southerly along the northern shore of Buffalo Lake to its intersection with the 60°18' parallel of latitude at the 115°05' meridian of longitude, approximately; thence west along the 60°18' parallel of latitude to its intersection with the centre of the main channel of the Nyarling River, at the 114°19' meridian of longitude, approximately; thence northeasterly along the centre of the main channel of the Nyarling River to its intersection with the 60°33' parallel of latitude at the 113°40' meridian of longitude, approximately; thence southeasterly in a straight line to the point of confluence of the centre of the main channel of the Klewi River with the centre of the main channel of the Little Buffalo River; thence northeasterly in a straight line to the intersection of the 61st parallel of latitude and the 110°20' meridian of longitude; thence east along the 61st parallel of latitude to its intersection with the 109°40' meridian of longitude; thence south along the

109°40' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 60th parallel of latitude; thence east along the 60th parallel of latitude to its intersection with the Nunavut-Northwest Territories boundary (Lat. 60°00' N; Long. 102°00' W); thence north and northwesterly along that boundary to the point of commencement.

12. Wek'eezhii

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the 65th parallel of latitude and the 120th meridian of longitude; thence south along the 120th meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 62°15' parallel of latitude; thence east along the 62°15' parallel of latitude to its intersection with the 114°20' meridian of longitude; thence north along the 114°20' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the southeast corner of the boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence west, north and east along that boundary to the intersection of the 114°26' meridian of longitude and the 62°30' parallel of latitude; thence north along the 114°26' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 62°55' parallel of latitude; thence east along the 62°55' parallel of latitude to its intersection with the 112°30' meridian of longitude; thence north along the 112°30' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the Nunavut-Northwest Territories boundary; thence northwesterly along that boundary to its intersection with the 116°00' meridian of longitude at the 66°40' parallel of latitude, approximately; thence south along the 116°00' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 65th parallel of latitude; thence west along the 65th parallel of latitude to the point of commencement.

Excluding the electoral district of Behchoko.

13. Behchoko

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 and the east bank of the West Channel of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake; thence northwesterly along the east bank to the intersection with the southern shoreline of Marian Lake at 62°47'26" parallel of latitude and 116°03'12" meridian of longitude, approximately; thence in a straight line northwest to the intersection of the 62°51'32" parallel of latitude and the 116°06'30" meridian of longitude; thence in a straight line in a northeasterly direction to the intersection of the 62°53'07" parallel of latitude and the 115°56'50" meridian of longitude; thence in a straight line in a southeasterly direction to the intersection of the 62°47'13" parallel of latitude and the 115°51'59" meridian of longitude; thence southwesterly in a straight line to the intersection of

the 62°47'26" parallel of latitude and the 116°03'12" meridian of longitude; thence in a straight line in a northerly direction to the east bank of the mouth of the West Channel of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake at 62°46'39" parallel of latitude and 116°00'12" meridian of longitude; thence northwesterly along the east bank to the point of commencement.

14. Wiilideh

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the 62°55' parallel of latitude and the 114°26' meridian of longitude; thence south along the 114°26' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the most northerly northwestern corner of the boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence east along that boundary to its intersection with the centreline of the Vee Lake Road; thence southerly along the centreline of the Vee Lake Road to its intersection with the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4; thence southerly along the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4 to its intersection with the Yellowknife Yacht Club Road; thence following the centreline of the Yellowknife Yacht Club Road to the first curve; thence in a straight line in an easterly direction to the western shoreline of Back Bay at 62°29'07" parallel of latitude and 114°21'36" meridian of longitude; thence following the shoreline of Back Bay in a generally southerly direction to the eastern production of the northern boundary of Lot 863, Block 964, Plan 909; thence following that production and the northern boundary of Lot 863 to the eastern boundary of Lot 1001, Block Q85J/8, Plan 1334; thence in a generally southeasterly, southwesterly and southerly direction following that boundary to its intersection with the southern production of the eastern boundary of Lot 1001 and the centreline of Franklin (50th) Avenue; thence southwest following the centreline of Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 44th Street; thence southeast following the centreline of 44th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 52nd Avenue; thence southwest following the centreline of 52nd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 49th Street; thence southeast following the centreline of 49th Street to its intersection with the centreline of School Draw Avenue; thence southwest along the centreline of School Draw Avenue to its intersection with the boundary of Lot 5, Block 203, Plan 4297; thence in a general southerly then easterly direction following the boundary of Lot 5 to the southeastern corner of Lot 5; thence northeasterly in a straight line to its intersection with the boundary of the City of

Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order* at 62°26'42" parallel of latitude, approximately and 114°20' meridian of longitude; thence south along that boundary to the intersection with the southeast corner of that boundary; thence south along the 114°20' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 62°15' parallel of latitude; thence east along the 62°15' parallel of latitude to its intersection with the 112°30' meridian of longitude; thence north along the 112°30' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the 62°55' parallel of latitude; thence west along the 62°55' parallel of latitude to the point of commencement.

15. Niven Lake

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the most northerly northwestern corner of the boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence east along that boundary to its intersection with the centreline of the Vee Lake Road; thence southerly along the centreline of the Vee Lake Road to its intersection with the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4; thence southerly along the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4 to its intersection with the Yellowknife Yacht Club Road; thence following the centreline of the Yellowknife Yacht Club Road to the first curve; thence in a straight line in an easterly direction to the western shoreline of Back Bay at 62°29'07" parallel of latitude and 114°21'36" meridian of longitude; thence following the shoreline of Back Bay in a generally southerly direction to the eastern production of the northern boundary of Lot 863, Block 964, Plan 909; thence following that production and the northern boundary of Lot 863 to the eastern boundary of Lot 1001, Block Q85J/8, Plan 1334; thence in a generally southeasterly, southwesterly and southerly direction following that boundary to its intersection with the southern production of the eastern boundary of Lot 1001 and the centreline of Franklin (50th) Avenue; thence southwest following the centreline of Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 44th Street; thence southeast following the centreline of 44th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 52nd Avenue; thence southwest following the centreline of 52nd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 47th Street; thence northwest along the centreline of 47th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 51st Avenue; thence southwest along the centreline of 51st Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 48th Street; thence northwest along the centreline of 48th Street to its intersection with the centreline of Franklin Avenue; thence southwest along

Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the southeasterly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 2, Block 122, Plan 2015; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of Lot 2 to the northern corner of Lot 2; thence northerly and easterly along the shore of Frame Lake to its intersection with the southwestern boundary of Lot 1, Block 310, Plan 2257, said point being the causeway across Frame Lake; thence southeasterly and northeasterly along the southern boundary of Lot 1, Plan 2257 to the western corner of Lot 11, Block 49, Plan 1940; thence northeasterly along the northern boundary of Lots 11 and 12, Block 49, Plan 1940 and the easterly production of Lot 12, Block 49, Plan 1940 to the intersection with the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4; thence northerly along the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4 to its intersection with the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3; thence westerly along the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 to its intersection with the 114°26' meridian of longitude; thence north along the 114°26' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the eastern boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence north along that boundary to the point of commencement.

16. Yellowknife Centre

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the centreline of Franklin (50th) Avenue with the centreline of a lane adjacent to Lot 1, Plan 717; thence southeasterly along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of 51A Avenue; thence northeasterly along the centreline of 51A Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 56th Street; thence southeasterly along the centreline of 56th Street to its intersection with the centreline of Burwash Drive; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Burwash Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Rycon Drive; thence easterly along the centreline of Rycon Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Con Road; thence northeasterly along the centreline of Con Road to its intersection with the centreline of 53rd Avenue; thence northeasterly along the centreline of 53rd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 54th Street; thence southeast along the centreline of 54th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 53rd Avenue; thence northeasterly along the centreline of 53rd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 13, Block 48, Plan 140; thence northwest along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 27, Block 48, Plan 2158; thence

northeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of a lane adjacent to Lot 28, Block 47, Plan 3082; thence southeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 11, Block 47, Plan 140; thence northeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of 52nd Street; thence southeast along the centreline of 52nd Street to its intersection with the centreline of 54th Avenue; thence northeast along the centreline of 54th Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 49th Street; thence northwest along the centreline of 49th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 52nd Avenue; thence southeast along the centreline of 52nd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 47th Street; thence northwest along the centreline of 47th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 51st Avenue; thence southwest along the centreline of 51st Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 48th Street; thence northwest along the centreline of 48th Street to its intersection with the centreline of Franklin Avenue; thence southwest along Franklin Avenue to the point of commencement.

17. Range Lake

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the 114°26' meridian of longitude and the 62°30' parallel of latitude; thence south along the 114°26' meridian of longitude to its intersection with the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3; thence easterly along the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 to its intersection with the centreline of Old Airport Road; thence southerly to the centreline of Cemetery Road; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Cemetery Road to its intersection with the northerly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 37, Plan 1469; thence southerly in a straight line along the eastern boundaries of Lots 37 and 38, and Lots 3 to 7, Plan 515, Lots 8 and 9, Plan 1223, Lots 35 and 36, Plan 1340, Lots 11, 12 and 13, Plan 515, Lots 14-1 and 14-2, Plan 1191, Lots 15, 16 and 17, Plan 515 and Lot 42 and a northern limit of a short portion of Old Airport Road to the midpoint, said midpoint being the centreline of Old Airport Road; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Old Airport Road to its intersection with the centreline of Range Lake Road; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Range Lake Road to its intersection with the southeasterly production of the northern boundary of Lot 23, Block 560, Plan 2733; thence northeasterly along that production and the northern boundary of Lot 23 to the eastern boundary of Lot 971, Plan 1069; thence

southwesterly and northwesterly along the southwestern and northwestern boundary of Lot 971 to the western corner of Lot 971, said point also being the northern point of Lot 6, Block 550, Plan 1971; thence southwesterly and southerly along the northern and western boundary of Lot 6 to approximately 114°26'05" meridian of longitude and approximately 62°26'30.8" parallel of latitude; thence westerly in a straight line to the southwest corner of Lot 56, Block 906, Plan 4216; thence northerly along the western boundary of Lot 10, Block 906, Plan 4214 to its intersection with the southern boundary of Lot 15, Block 906, Plan 4214; thence westerly and northerly along the southern and western boundaries of Lots 15, 14 and 10 to its intersection with the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3; thence westerly along the centerline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 to its intersection with the western boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence north and east along that boundary to the point of commencement.

18. Yellowknife South

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the southwestern boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence northeast in a straight line to the west corner of Lot 63, Block 553, Plan 4089; thence in a northerly and easterly direction along the boundaries of Lots 63 to 60 to the southwestern boundary of Lot 6, Block 550, Plan 1971; thence southeasterly along the southwestern boundary of Lot 6, the southwestern and eastern boundaries of Lot 31, Block 546, Plan 1799, to the intersection of the northeasterly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 31 with the centreline of Bagon Drive; thence northerly along the centreline of Bagon Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Hordal Road; thence in a generally westerly direction along the centreline of Hordal Road to its intersection with the centreline of Lamoureux Road; thence in a northerly and northeasterly direction along the centreline of Lamoureux Road to its intersection with the centreline of Range Lake Road; thence northerly along the centreline of Range Lake Road to its intersection with the southeasterly production of the southwestern boundary of Lot 6, Block 548, Plan 1890; thence northwesterly along that production and the southwestern boundary of Lot 6 to the southeastern corner of Lot 7, Block 548, Plan 1890; thence northeasterly along the southeastern boundary of Lot 7 to the eastern corner of Lot 7, said point also being on the southern boundary of Lot 971, Plan 1069; thence northwesterly along the southwestern

boundary of Lot 971 to the western corner of Lot 971, said point also being the northern point of Lot 6, Block 550, Plan 1971; thence southwesterly and southerly along the northern and western boundary of Lot 6 to approximately 114°26'05" meridian of longitude and approximately 62°26'30.8" parallel of latitude; thence westerly in a straight line to the southwest corner of Lot 56, Block 906, Plan 4216; thence northerly along the western boundary of Lot 10, Block 906, Plan 4214 to its intersection with the southern boundary of Lot 15, Block 906, Plan 4214; thence westerly and northerly along the southern and western boundaries of Lot 15, 14 and 10 to its intersection with the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3; thence westerly along the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 to its intersection with the 114°31' meridian of longitude; thence south along the 114°31' meridian of longitude to the point of commencement.

19. Kam Lake

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the southwestern boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence northeast in a straight line to the west corner of Lot 63, Block 553, Plan 4089; thence in a northerly and easterly direction along the boundaries of Lots 63 to 60 to the southwestern boundary of Lot 6, Block 550, Plan 1971; thence southeasterly along the southwestern boundary of Lot 6, the southwestern and eastern boundaries of Lot 31, Block 546, Plan 1799, to the intersection of the northeasterly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 31 with the centreline of Bagon Drive; thence northerly along the centreline of Bagon Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Hordal Road; thence in a generally westerly direction along the centreline of Hordal Road to its intersection with the centreline of Lamoureux Road; thence in a northerly and northeasterly direction along the centreline of Lamoureux Road to its intersection with the centreline of Range Lake Road; thence northerly along the centreline of Range Lake Road to its intersection with the centreline of Williams Avenue; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Williams Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Woolgar Avenue; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Woolgar Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Kam Lake Road; thence northeasterly along the centreline of Kam Lake Road to its intersection with the centreline of Taylor Road; thence southeasterly and easterly along the centreline of Taylor Road to its intersection with the northerly production of the southwestern boundary of Lot 19, Block 133, Plan 2259; thence

southeasterly along that production and the southwestern boundary of Lots 19 and 20, Block 133, Plan 2259 to the most southern corner of Lot 20, Block 133, Plan 2259; thence southeasterly in a straight line to the southeast boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence westerly along that boundary to the point of commencement.

20. Frame Lake

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 and the centreline of Old Airport Road; thence along the centreline of Old Airport Road to its intersection with the centreline of Cemetery Road; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Cemetery Road to its intersection with the northerly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 37, Plan 1469; thence southerly in a straight line along the eastern boundaries of Lots 37 and 38, and Lots 3 to 7, Plan 515; Lots 8 and 9, Plan 1223, Lots 35 and 36, Plan 1340, Lots 11, 12 and 13, Plan 515, Lots 14-1 and 14-2, Plan 1191, Lots 15, 16 and 17, Plan 515 and Lot 42, Plan 2249, to the midpoint of the northern limit of a short portion of Old Airport Road, said midpoint being the centreline of Old Airport Road; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Old Airport Road to its intersection with the centreline of Range Lake Road; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Range Lake Road to its intersection with the southeasterly production of the northern boundary of Lot 23, Block 560, Plan 2733; thence northeasterly along that production and the northern boundary of Lot 23 to the eastern boundary of Lot 971, Plan 1069; thence southwesterly along the southwestern boundary of Lot 971 to its intersection with the northeastern corner of Lot 7, Block 548, Plan 1890; thence southerly along the eastern boundary of Lot 7 to the southwestern corner of Lot 6, Block 548, Plan 1890; thence in an easterly direction following the southern boundary of Lot 6 to the intersection of the southeasterly production of the southern boundary of Lot 6 with the centreline of Range Lake Road; thence in a southerly direction following the centreline of Range Lake Road to its intersection with the centreline of Williams Avenue; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Williams Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Woolgar Avenue; thence southeasterly along the centreline of Woolgar Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Kam Lake Road; thence northeasterly along the centreline of Kam Lake Road until it becomes Franklin (50th) Avenue; thence northeasterly along Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Forrest Drive; thence in a generally easterly direction along the centreline of Forrest Drive to its intersection with

the centreline of Forrest Drive; thence in a generally easterly direction along the centreline of Forrest Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Burwash Drive; thence in a northerly direction along the centreline of Burwash Drive to its intersection with the centreline of 56th Street; thence in a northeasterly direction along the centreline of 56th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 51A Avenue; thence southerly along the centreline of 51A Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of a lane adjacent to Lot 2, Block 132, Plan 717; thence northwesterly along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of Franklin Avenue; thence southwesterly along the centreline of Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the southeasterly production of the eastern boundary of Lot 2, Block 122, Plan 2015; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of Lot 2 to the northern corner of Lot 2; thence northerly and easterly along the shore of Frame Lake to its intersection with the southwestern boundary of Lot 1, Plan 2257, said point being the causeway across Frame Lake; thence southeasterly and northeasterly along the southern boundary of Lot 1, Plan 2257 to the western corner of Lot 11, Block 49, Plan 1940; thence northeasterly along the northern boundary of Lots 11 and 12, Block 49, Plan 1940 and the easterly production of Lot 12, Block 49, Plan 1940 to the intersection with the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4; thence northerly along the centreline of Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4 to its intersection with the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3; thence westerly along the centreline of Yellowknife Highway No. 3 to the point of commencement.

21. Great Slave

All plans referred to in this description are deposited in the Land Titles Office for the Northwest Territories Land Registration District in Yellowknife.

Consisting of all that portion of the Northwest Territories bounded as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of the boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order*; thence in a northwesterly straight line to the most southern corner of Lot 20, Block 133, Plan 2259; thence northwesterly along the southwestern boundaries of Lots 19 and 20 to its intersection with the northerly production of the southwestern boundary of Lot 19 and the centreline of Taylor Road; thence westerly and northwesterly along the centreline of Taylor Road to its intersection with the centreline of Old Airport Road and the centreline of Kam Lake Road; thence northeasterly along the centreline of Kam Lake Road until it becomes Franklin (50th) Avenue; thence northeasterly along Franklin Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of Forrest Drive; thence in a generally easterly direction along the centreline of Forrest Drive to its intersection with

the centreline of Burwash Drive; thence in a northerly direction along the centreline of Burwash Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Rycon Drive; thence easterly along the centreline of Rycon Drive to its intersection with the centreline of Con Road; thence northeasterly along the centreline of Con Road to its intersection with the centreline of 53rd Avenue; thence northeasterly along the centreline of 53rd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 54th Street; thence southeast along the centreline of 54th Street to its intersection with the centreline of 53rd Avenue; thence northeasterly along the centreline of 53rd Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 13, Block 48, Plan 140; thence northwest along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 27, Block 48, Plan 2158; thence northeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of a lane adjacent to Lot 28, Block 47, Plan 3082; thence southeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of the lane adjacent to Lot 11, Block 47, Plan 140; thence northeast along the centreline of that lane to its intersection with the centreline of 52nd Street; thence southeast along the centreline of 52nd Street to its intersection with the centreline of 54th Avenue; thence northeast along the centreline of 54th Avenue to its intersection with the centreline of 49th Street; thence southeast following the centreline of 49th Street to its intersection with the centreline of School Draw Avenue; thence southwest along the centreline of School Draw Avenue to its intersection with the boundary of Lot 5, Block 203, Plan 4297; thence in a general southerly then easterly direction following the boundary of Lot 5 to the southeastern corner of Lot 5; thence northeasterly in a straight line to its intersection with the boundary of the City of Yellowknife as described in the *City of Yellowknife Continuation Order* at 62°26'42" parallel of latitude, approximately and 114°20' meridian of longitude; thence south along that boundary to the point of commencement.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): To the motion. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. This particular motion that's before us has been debated for a number of years now.

[Translation] This bill is very important and it's been very, very... We've been talking about it since 2005 until now, and especially since I've been elected we've been in discussions about it twice. We also wanted an extra MLA for the Tlicho region. In 2013 they wanted 19, 20 and 21. They also went to Rae region to ask the people and a lot of people attended the meeting at that time. So the Tlicho citizens want an extra MLA in their region and the elders have also requested that. In the Tlicho region we have approximately 3,000 people and we

have about 35 percent. So, if you look at the numbers, it is right that we have an extra chair. We also know that Inuvik was like that, so they have received an extra and we have exceeded the population in order to have an extra seat. In our region, in the Tlicho region, we already have our own self-government, since 2005. When the commission travelled to the community all the people have talked about those issues that they were concerned about, especially about the population within the Tlicho region.

Tu Nedhe also spoke about that themselves. They have made it into one region, one electoral boundary and they wanted 19, it would have been 19 seats, but it seems that we're not in agreement. We don't live in the same way in the communities, so we ask them what they would want to do with it. I don't agree with the decision that was made.

I want to also repeat this in English, but I want to speak in my own language for my own citizens. I talked about it in the Tlicho region already. I know that this has to be portrayed in my language because a lot of elders don't speak English, but I know that a lot of elders have supported me, and because of their wishes I am speaking on behalf of them. They want an extra, so they want two MLAs; they want two chairs. That's what we wish for in our region. [Translation ends]

So, to elaborate further in another language, since I've been elected to this Assembly, back in 2005, this is the second go around for the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission process. The last one was in the 15th Assembly. In 2005 our Tlicho population was well beyond the 25 percent margin, hovering over 29 percent. At that time I also argued for an additional seat for the Monfwi riding. Today there is even more reason for this additional seat. The numbers speak for themselves.

Madam Chair, the 2013 commission final report stated that we should avoid a status quo position, present scenarios, 18, 19 and 21 seats. The commission held public engagement. The highest turnout for public consultation was in Behchoko from across the Northwest Territories. That alone should stand a point for requiring an additional seat for the Tlicho region. The public has spoken. For the last several Assemblies, the GNWT, Tlicho Government, elders, community members, have stressed the need for an additional seat in this Legislative Assembly. The current population in the four Tlicho communities is 3,183 and still growing. That is 39.5 percent, way beyond the 25 percent standard margin for an additional seat requirement. It's time that we get the additional seat that we deserve. The commission did its report strictly on numbers. Back in the 15th Assembly we were at 29 percent. Now we're at 39.5 percent plus. The next go around with the commission in the 19th

Assembly, if we do come back, it will be 50 percent plus margin, double what's required.

If you compare these numbers with two other communities, such as Hay River and Inuvik when they went through the process, which were granted an additional seat based on their 25 percent margin – the Monfwi population today is 3,183; Inuvik's population is 3,321; a difference of only 138 today – it only makes sense that the Monfwi region be granted the same consideration as Inuvik; that is an additional seat.

We need equal representation throughout the Northwest Territories. The Tlicho region regional representation is almost four times compared to the smallest region, and that also needs to be taken into consideration. The Tlicho riding is very unique compared to other jurisdictions in the Northwest Territories.

As I stated in the Tlicho language, we have Tlicho land claims and self-government, the first of its kind in the North. Part of the commission's consideration was to highlight lands, resources and self-government agreement, including language and culture preservation, transportation- communication within different areas. All of these elements have to be taken into consideration. We have to keep in mind that we are far beyond the 25 percent seat margin; in fact, 14.5 percent plus and growing.

All four Tlicho communities are asking for this additional seat due to our ever increasing population in our region. There may be 3,183 in the Tlicho population today, but we also represent Tlicho populations living outside the Monfwi riding. Tlicho constituents living in Yellowknife feel comfortable accessing myself as Monfwi MLA because I speak their language and they feel comfortable speaking their language to me.

The opportunity now is to accept the 21 seats for our 18th Assembly coming. It will mean an additional seat for the Tlicho region and, yes, another seat for the Yellowknife riding, just the way it has been in the past, which in turn will balance the remaining numbers in the Northwest Territories.

At the same time, Madam Chair, the Tu Nedhe riding should stay the same representing Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e. I do not support amalgamating Tu Nedhe with YK Dene. There are various reasons for it: different language groups, different claimant groups, which the 19 seat status quo would do. We heard it loud and clear from the general public: this will divide the nation, the language, cultural way of life. We cannot and should not force this on to them. They're two different, distinct nations. Forcing on to them is the old system of doing business and it would simply not work.

The electoral boundary was debated in the 15th Assembly. Now we're the 17th Assembly today with

the Tlicho margin at 39.5 percent above and beyond the 25 percent. We need to move forward and grant the additional seat in my riding. I certainly hope that we don't have to come back to the same debate in the 19th Assembly for the Tlicho region's additional seat, at which time we will be a 50 percent plus margin, double the standard rate. My recommendation is that we have two additional seats added, one for the Tlicho and one for Yellowknife and that Tu Nedhe remains as is. I think the numbers speak for themselves. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. [Translation] We, the elected leaders here sitting in here, the people that I represent, the real people that I represent, the way they're looking at us. The need to do electoral boundary seats that they're going to put in there can't be done that way. The people here, the real people, there used to be a lot of people before and we used to reside all over the place, here in Yellowknife, also some people lived in Hay River, some of our people lived in Fort Smith, and we were separated all over the place. Some of us lived around the great lake. There wasn't much work, so the Lutselk'e people and the people from Fort Resolution had to seek work outside of the community, and the people didn't have the right kind of work we wanted. In here, at least, I have been pleading for people to get some monies for them so they can employ some of the people in the communities, and that's the way it is in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. Everybody sitting here knows how it is in the small communities. The Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e, they are the real Chipewyan people. The people from Yellowknife speak Dogrib also. All the people that come together here in Yellowknife, even though they think they are from the Great Slave Lake area, they joined the people here in Yellowknife. The people that are residing here are saying our land is outside of our area even though our land is here, even though the people that were here before the Yellowknife existence, they were always here before. A long time ago they lived here, even before the real people, the first white man came up, we were still residing here. In case they think that we want to be placed with the Lutselk'e people, that's not the way it is. We, the people in the Northwest Territories, were the original people here, the first residents of the Territories.

In here, if we have 19 seats here, it wouldn't be the people that are going to be sitting here to replace us. It's not good for the future. All the people that are sitting here should be all sitting in here, all of mixed races. The Dogrib people are sitting here, the Inuit people are sitting here and all the real people. We have the Slavey sitting here. This is the kind of place that it's supposed to be. These 19 seats that they're talking about, it's going to

eliminate some of the people. Madam Speaker, Mahsi. [Translation ends]

[English translation not provided]

...people of Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. In the way that we're moving, and we're trying to move to 19 seats to save a few hundred dollars, we are going to eliminate a nation of people in this House because someone thinks that two MLAs cost too much. It will cost too much if it's at the expense of the Chipewyan people being represented in this House.

I went to a dinner at Christmastime and I didn't even realize that they were not speaking English until I came home. When I told my spouse the story about what happened to me at a Christmas dinner in Lutselk'e, it was the only time I realized that no one was speaking English in there. If I couldn't speak Chipewyan and if I couldn't be a representative that spoke Chipewyan, I would have either been sitting there and have no idea what was being said or I wouldn't have even been invited if I couldn't speak the language. I spoke of that, how these elders sitting next to me were talking about people putting jam on their plates, cranberry sauce, so they spoke in Chipewyan. I grabbed the raspberry jam and handed it to her and she said, no, I prefer this one here. They took bannock and they spread the cranberry sauce on their bannock and ate. But that entire lunch that we had, I sat there with 26 elders in Lutselk'e; none of them spoke English.

When I go to Lutselk'e, nobody talks English to me. There are young people that speak to me, when I sit down in the band office, speak English, some of them. But, for the most part, I visit the elders. When I go for an election, I visit with the elders. I ask the elders to sign my nomination papers because they speak the language, they understand and they know what it's like to be a Denesoline person or a Dene Tetlin person in Fort Resolution. I go around and I speak to the elders. An elder in Fort Resolution named Margaret, who went to residential school and can speak English but has difficulty with English, said to me, I learned how to speak English when I was nine years old. This is all in Chipewyan. She said it's a beautiful thing to be able to sit here with a representative from the Legislative Assembly that can speak the language, because you know exactly what it is that we want. There's no doubt in my mind when I speak to you in my language and you speak to me in my language that you understand 100 percent what it is that I have an issue with. When a Member comes in here and can't speak my language, I don't waste my time talking to them because everything's always lost through interpretation.

I sit here and I say why in the world would we want to eliminate a language from the Legislative Assembly, and that's what 19 seats does. Maybe

not the next election but eventually we will eliminate the Chipewyan language from this Legislative Assembly. That's not right, and that's why I will not support the 19 seats, and I would support what we need to do is the 21 seats. I also feel that it will go to 21 seats anyway, but somebody else is going to make that decision. Somebody else is going to say through the courts, the Friends of Democracy. Those guys are going to go to the courts and say you're going to have to put more seats in Yellowknife, which I agree with. One more seat will go into Yellowknife and one more seat will probably go into Monfwi through the courts. That will leave only one seat under-represented and that will be the Sahtu, and eight years from now when we find out how the resource play, the oil play in the Sahtu is and see how that region expands, we'll then have an opportunity to address that issue, but today, what we're doing today and what we're trying to do today going to 19 seats is eliminating the Chipewyan people from this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, before I speak to the motion, this is obviously a pretty complex amendment that is being proposed. I have not seen it before. It greatly, obviously, impacts my riding. I wonder if we might take a few minutes break so I could explore what, in fact, the boundaries are that are being proposed. As you can see from the fine print and the legal jargon, I have no way of knowing where the boundaries are that we're debating here, and that would certainly help me be able to speak to the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Bromley is proposing we take a break. Let's do that. Let's say let's take 10 or 15 minutes and we'll reconvene then. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We were dealing with a motion that had been put on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate my colleagues bringing this motion forward and I will be speaking in support of the motion. Unfortunately, the option for 19 does not resolve the issues that I think we're trying to deal with regarding the redefinition of boundaries.

Certainly, Monfwi is been left grossly under-represented and that gets converted to overrepresented, which is probably not appropriate for a few years. It is one of our fastest growing ridings and obviously they have been in an under-represented state for some time now.

I would say the same about my riding, Madam Chair. Weledeh, as everybody knows, is the largest

riding currently, 42 percent greater than the average. It is a very large riding and definitely I recognize that some changes are needed to provide people with fairer representation. They've been grossly under-represented. Now again, unfortunately, even with the current 19 redefinitions, Weledeh is already, since the Boundaries Commission came out and we made our recommendations, over the 25 percent guideline.

My point is that the issue is not being resolved with a little bit of dallying such as 19 representatives. This motion, in contrast, tries to take a firmer hand and do things which will actually last a little bit longer than a month, 28 people for the Weledeh riding. I think it's the same under the redefined Kam Lake situation. I suspect they will very quickly be over the 25 percent guideline.

That is no kind of resolution to the issues that I think we are trying to fix, whereas this motion does make some solid strides. You can look, for example, at the number of districts or ridings that are over and under 25 percent. It drops to four according to the paper, estimates for the option being recommended in this motion, as opposed to seven in the 19. It hardly resolves any of the issues of under and overrepresentation at all. Again, I appreciate that my colleagues are attempting to deal with the real issues here.

Certainly, when we look at a more democratic or political stance, the people of Weledeh did not want the people of Ndilo and Detah to leave the Yellowknife riding umbrella in which they currently fit. There's a strong relationship between Ndilo, Detah and Yellowknife. Their MLA, that would be me, does not want that to happen. I look at Tu Nedhe where they would be shifted too. People of Tu Nedhe are not excited about that idea. I look at the representative, Mr. Beaulieu, for that riding. He, again, opposes this. I say to the House, how is this any kind of a justice or resolution to the issues?

Finally, and equally vital, I would say, is the problem of the seven Yellowknife ridings which, as I said, some of them already are under-represented again even should these boundaries be in place today. That means by the time this all happens, many of them, perhaps most, will likely be over the 25 percent guideline unless people will be grossly under-represented as in Monfwi currently. Again, a gross injustice in a democratic system.

If you look at the numbers, Yellowknife currently is under-represented by two Members. That is what it would take to really provide any kind of a cushion within the 25 percent guidelines that would last more than a few weeks. All Yellowknife ridings are essentially bumping up against the 25 percent. Again, I don't think people are pushing for two people for Yellowknife, but obviously to delay this longer and longer, there needs to be some recognition. I think I see the way Yellowknife

Members were here. Generally, they are strong at seeking solutions and political support that will benefit all residents of the Northwest Territories. I think Yellowknife representatives typically recognize that extra support is required, deserved and to be provided. I think the information shows that that's provided by the Yellowknife MLAs for the small communities.

Yellowknife's biggest growth factor is in fact Aboriginal residents moving here from other parts of the Northwest Territories. That's the biggest source of growth for the City of Yellowknife. I think it's something that theoretically could be supported by everybody, recognizing that their residents need fair representation, as well, even when they move into the centre of Yellowknife. Again, there are many reasons. I think Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. Lafferty provided other reasons as well. My main concern is that right now there really is gross under-representation in some ridings. It's being perpetuated in Yellowknife. It even extends into the 21 Member option but less so, and gives a bit of a buffer for time, so there are plenty of reasons to support this motion and I will be supporting it and hoping that we can, again, respond to the concerns of the people in Ndilo/Detah as well as the Tu Nedhe riding and be fair to all, and certainly to Monfwi which is very under-represented right now. I think that wraps it up for me, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Next I have Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. We had an extensive debate about this in November. We had the bill brought forward that reflected the outcome of that debate. As we now look at the bill, the issue that we have avoided – and I've said this at every Boundaries Commission that I've talked to and every time we've debated this in the House – is how much government do we need? How many MLAs do we need for 42,000 people? I know some people will say there should be no price on democracy, we should keep adding MLAs. We have the smallest constituencies, next to Nunavut and the Yukon, in the free world.

We are at a time in the next 18 months or a year that we're going to be cutting \$30 million out of the budget, which is going to affect programs and services. At the same time, we're suggesting through this amendment that we add more MLAs into this House.

Like we tend to do in government, rather than look at cuts, it's easier to look at adding on, and we consistently grow the size of the Assembly. It started out with 15, now we're up to 19. In my mind, this 19, this bill that's before this House, is not perfect but it gets us to the next requirement for a

Boundaries Commission where maybe at that time we'll in fact address that fundamental issue. We talk about it with everything else. We talk about it with how much growth do we need, how much development do we need, and we keep getting pressured to deal with those issues, yet when it comes to minding our business in this House, it's one that we studiously avoid because it's easier to spend money and add seats to the point where it's hard to reconcile the size of these constituencies with any other area.

In all my travels, I have yet to hear people say, give me more MLAs. Don't pave my streets, let's not do the nursing station or let's not add money for a house, first we need more MLAs. I have yet to hear that and I've been here 19 years.

To me the issue is going to be go with the compromise, 19, and maybe next time we'll have the hard discussion. There is going to come a day when we have to look, that we can't avoid it. I'm going to vote for the bill that's before the House based on the debate last November, in the hopes that next time we'll reach that point where we have that tough discussion, the same way as we're going to have the tough discussion with how do we adjust and take \$30 million out of government. We can't avoid it much longer, but this will get us to that next time, so I won't be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Madam Chair. I, too, want to thank the mover and the seconder for bringing this motion forward. Like Minister Miltenberger, I felt we had a very vigorous and very long debate last fall and it was one of the best debates I think I've ever heard since I've been here.

I stated then that the status quo was not an option for me. What we have basically in front of us in terms of Bill 18 is status quo and I can't support the status quo. For me there are probably three main reasons why.

The riding of Monfwi is grossly under-represented and we've known that for quite some time and the bill as presented does not address that. The amendment does address that, so I support the amendment in that regard.

The riding of Tu Nedhe is a really difficult issue, but we as a territory have stated, and it was part of the directions to the commission when they went out to do their work, that they were to consider the geography of our territory, they were to consider the cultural aspects of our territory, and I consider language to be part of the cultural aspects that they were to consider. I don't believe that the bill addressed those adequately.

Yes, it keeps us to 19 but, you know, in the bill, the proposed Tu Nedhe-Willideh riding leaves two

reasonably distinct groups extremely unhappy. Some people would say, yeah, well, get it over it; you know, just deal with it, but there's no other riding, except for the ridings in Yellowknife, who would be that diverse. Every other riding in the NWT would be somewhat homogenous and yet we're saying it's okay to have one riding where we have two cultural groups which are not, so I have a problem with that.

The third issue for me, and it's been mentioned already, but the ridings in Yellowknife, every riding in Yellowknife currently is very close to the 25 percent plus or minus level that has been set based on a court decision some time ago whenever that was. The amendment allows for some growth in Yellowknife. The bill as proposed does not allow for growth in Yellowknife and I suspect that the current Weledeh riding is probably over the 25 percent margin as we speak.

It's been mentioned that Yellowknife is growing and the communities are not, and I agree with that. I think that Yellowknife, although it's not growing by leaps and bounds, Yellowknife is growing. The need for the amendment, to me, says it gives the Yellowknife ridings a bit of space to grow in terms of population and the bill does not allow that for me.

One other thing that I want to mention is that the court decision in 1999 stated that overrepresentation is better than underrepresentation. Basically they said it's okay to be overrepresented and if we go to the 21 we will have one riding that's, I would say, grossly overrepresented, but for linguistic purposes I can accept that and cultural purposes I can accept that. But underrepresentation is not okay and that was what came out in the court decision. The amendment addresses the under-representation, not fully, but far better than what the proposed bill does, in my mind.

So for those reasons, Madam Chair, I do support the amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will not be supporting the amendment to go to 21. We had this debate last year and I have basically talked to a lot of constituents, and most constituents don't see wanting to add more MLAs. I think I indicated in November, we travelled around Canada and we talked to other MLAs and they represent 40,000, 50,000, 70,000 people. We're representing, the highest number is just over 3,200. That's the highest. The lowest is 797 people. I mean, I know some of those communities are remote and it's difficult and they have large issues. I don't disagree with that. But I'm just saying to add more MLAs... Even the 21 option leaves another jurisdiction in the Sahtu over our limit again, so do we add to 23? Should there not be a motion on 22? Then when we

add 22, does it put somebody else over and where do you stop? I mean, where do we stop the MLAs?

Mr. Miltenberger talked about maybe we talk about the other side, about how big we get. Maybe we should be looking at, in the next go around, the options of how do we get bigger. Like, how do we have people represent 3,500 people on an average? I know Hay River and Inuvik used to only have one MLA. We're almost going in a downward spiral. We should be trying to look upwards and trying to keep it at a higher number than a lower number.

I guess I just can't support that. I mean, basically, because my constituents don't support the concept of adding two MLAs. But, I mean, we have decisions on an ongoing basis about whether it's a legal issue or not. We get legal advice. But we're often challenged. We're often challenged all the time about decisions we make and that they become court issues or somebody's willing to challenge it. I mean, that's the world we live in. But one of the reasons that we're doing this and the adjustment is that Weledeh is well under-represented. They're at 42 percent right now, 42.6 percent. We're trying to fix one of those situations. Yes, Monfwi will be the next one that has an issue and we're going to have to deal with that, but, I mean, I can't support it because my constituents don't support going to adding two more MLAs as well as the numbers, how many people we have. Like I said, when we fix this with 21, there's another solution right behind it that needs 22 and probably 23 behind that, so where do we stop the bleeding and stop the additional MLAs? I mean, we know that a situation that the territory is getting more and more centralized. We're going to end up having to add some of our communities together because the size of Yellowknife is centralizing. That's what we're trying to fight here but it's happening. For right now, I think 19 we're proposing is one of the remedies. It's not a status quo because we're actually changing and we're fixing a Weledeh situation with an overrepresentation area. I mean, some of the Members are not pleased with this, and I respect them. I really do respect those individuals and those cultures, but I mean, we make some difficult decisions here and this is just basically what I see as a solution.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. To the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I thought we had dealt with this or the House had dealt with this before and the results were clear; the majority did not support 21 seats, and here we are debating it again and all for the same reasons.

I just want to say that I continue to be consistent that I don't support 21 Members. We have a 19 MLA solution. It's not the perfect solution, but it's a

solution now. I think this can be revisited in the 18th Assembly. Some Members spoke about Yellowknife close to but at the upper limit, but they're not over at this point. I believe that it can be revisited in the 18th Assembly, and I will not be supporting the motion for two more MLAs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Next I have Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I, too, when this last came up, voted on the 19 MLAs, keeping things status quo with the changes that were brought forward by the commission. I think it addresses a number of the issues that we're dealing with. I know there are concerns of conflict between two Aboriginal groups, but I represent two ridings such as that with the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in. Two different groups but we work together. I represent both groups. Any concerns that come up, you deal with it and work together, and that's the way things should operate. I don't think that in the long run we'll learn to... I've seen it in the Dene Nation, for example. All the groups work together when there are issues that come up, and as we move forward with the 19 Members, I think things will work out. There are concerns of under-representation with the Monfwi riding, and I stated, again, when we last debated this, I beg to differ, because the Tlicho people are a self-governing nation. They are well represented. I've seen how the Tlicho conduct themselves and I have all the confidence in the riding, so I don't feel that they're under-represented. As we move forward, I will be voting against this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. As Mr. Menicoche indicated, we had a pretty lively debate the last time we talked about this, and I still consistently state my position that here we're having the recommendations looking at the forced marriages. Nobody wants to get married in this forced marriage, you know, Weledeh and Tu Nedhe. You put them together. They don't want to be together. This is what we're looking at, and I've always said that we're talking about something very special and unique in the Northwest Territories. We're talking about a culture and a nation of people that's very special. If it was different, if we were somewhere maybe, but here in the Northwest Territories we are talking about this special relationship we have in the North. The culture and the nation of a people come from this land in that area and they have their own way. Sometimes that trumps the cost of living here in the North, the economic cost factors to that.

For me, I see this as a means not to disrespect the nation of people, the culture, and to honour and respect that. Otherwise, what could be said about

other regions and cultures in the North? We don't hold them to the degree that we think they should be held. The Tlicho have stated clearly, as it shows in the books, they need an additional MLA, so for me, it needs to be, I guess, respected and listen to what the people and what their elders are saying. At first I really didn't think that we needed 21, but when I looked at the 19 and I looked at some of the issues, then I said, no, we've got to go to 21. I'm going to support the motion because I think that's the right way to go based on what I've been reading, reviewing and what I've been hearing that anytime we try to look at a nation of people or culture with some significance to it, we need to be very careful how we deal with these types of issues. I'm going to be supporting the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the amendment. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understood that this process was completed in our last session and a decision was made. Unfortunately, we're talking about this again, so I won't be supporting the motion. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. A lot of the Members are indicating that this was already dealt with. Obviously, it's not already dealt with; that's why it's back here. I think everybody knows that we have to go through three readings in order to make a decision on these things.

I like what Member Bisaro had to say about the consideration of what the Electoral Boundaries Commission had to say on culture and language. That's what my whole point is, that that was not considered. I think what should have happened is that should have been a paramount issue. You should not eliminate a language, one of our official languages, and you don't make decisions that will eliminate one of the official languages or cultures of this House, of this Legislative Assembly.

People seem to be confused as to how many MLAs can represent the NWT. It's in the legislation. There's a maximum amount. It sounds like people in here think that it just goes on forever and that the number will never stop. It stops at 24. That's the maximum in the legislation that you can have. So that's the most you can have. We're nowhere near that. We're at 19 now and moving to 21. Individuals are saying that's \$2 million, which it's not, but that's \$2 million to add two MLAs. Again, that would be the cost of having every nation represented in here, people that represent every official language in the Legislative Assembly. That would be the cost of that.

The Member for Thebacha has said nobody has ever come up to him and said, don't pave my street, get a new MLA. Of course no one says that. Who

would say that, right? Why would anybody ever dream to go up to an MLA and say, don't pave my street, get another MLA. That's ridiculous.

The point is we have to make the decision here to make that decision. I know we have to cut \$30 million out of the budget. That is something we will work on. We would put this into the framework. We seem to be able to find ways to pay for a lot of things in this House, but when it comes to paying what I am asking for, pay a little money to keep a nation in this building, all of a sudden the cost is too high. We can't possibly do this.

This is what I have a real issue with. I cannot for the life of me understand how Members of the Legislative Assembly can vote to eliminate a language and a culture that is official in the Northwest Territories. I can't for the life of me understand that and I would like to ask for a recorded vote.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion. Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. This has been a discussion that was had in the 15th and was had again in this Assembly. It's a good discussion and I don't think it's a matter of picking one group over another. I think the Electoral Boundaries Commission had done a fairly good job in going out there with the terms of reference respecting different areas and cultures of the Northwest Territories. That's why we see such a discrepancy in the numbers today.

I, along with Mr. Blake and Mr. Moses, represent communities that have a fairly large Gwich'in/Inuvialuit population. Neither of us speaks either of the languages, but we manage to work with them well, thus we get elected. So I believe we speak for all the people.

If we had asked the Electoral Boundaries Commission to go out across the Northwest Territories and base their decisions just on numbers alone, then we'd see our territory carved up where maybe a community like Colville Lake will be part of the Mackenzie Delta. We'd have to move a lot of areas around with different groups, but we'd all be one people.

So I think they've done a really good job in trying to address some of our concerns. No disrespect to my two colleagues. I respect the fact that they are able to bring this motion forward. I respect both of them and the people they represent, but as in the 15th Assembly, I believe that 19 is a workable number. I think one of the Members said we have some of the smallest ridings in Canada. I truly believe that. I think that I've got 1,700. It might go to 1,900 if it changes. I should know every one of them by their first names. We are always fairly easy to get hold of.

I think the NWT is well represented in the Northwest Territories, not just based on numbers but based on the people that are in here. Needless to say, I will not be supporting the amendment to the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. As others have alluded to, we have debated this previously. It is back here again for debate. Today, I just want to start off with saying I do have a great deal of respect for both Members that have brought forward this motion, the Member for Tu Nedhe, the Member for Monfwi as well as the Member for Weledeh. This is a difficult situation to be in. Any time we look at adding seats to this Legislative Assembly, we run into some firm opposition. There are some out there that think adding seats, whether they are outside of Yellowknife or in Yellowknife, is a good thing, but the majority of people that I've spoken to here in Yellowknife, I would have to say that most people do not want to see more politicians. For that reason, my decision remains to support the 19 Members. I will not be able to support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. Can we have a recorded vote? All those in favour of the amendment to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Dolynny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Beaulieu.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Moses, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Blake, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): The results of the vote are in favour of the motion, 6; opposed, 11. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

To the schedule as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Now we return to page 1, Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does the committee agree that Bill 18 is ready for third reading as amended?

---Bill 18 as amended approved for third reading

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 18 is now ready for third reading as amended. One other matter, does committee agree that consideration of Tabled Document 4-17(5), Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Mr. Blake and your witness. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witness from the Chamber.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Good evening, colleagues. Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, and Tabled Document 4-17(5), Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted and that Bill 18 is now ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, 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 to the motion? Mr. Blake.

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 4: HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 4, Health Information Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 4, Health Information Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 10:

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANDS ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 10, Northwest Territories Lands Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 10, Northwest Territories Lands Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 11:

PETROLEUM RESOURCES ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Kam Lake, that Bill 11, Petroleum Resources Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 11, Petroleum Resources Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 13:

DEVOLUTION MEASURES ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 13, Devolution Measures Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 13, Devolution Measures Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 14:

WATERS ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for

Thebacha, that Bill 14, Waters Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 14, Waters Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 15:

OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Kam Lake, that Bill 15, Oil and Gas Operations Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 15, Oil and Gas Operations Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 16:

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON
LANDS AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 16, Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 16, Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

BILL 17:

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES
REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Great Slave, that Bill 17, Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resources Revenue

Sharing Agreement Act, be read for the third time.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 17, Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resources Revenue Sharing Agreement Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 14th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, March 13, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 18-17(5), Extended Adjournment of the House to May 28, 2014
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
 - Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
23. Orders of the Day

