



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

5th Session

Day 83

17th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Pages 6419 – 6480

The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Jackie Jacobson

(Nunakput)

Hon. Glen Abernethy

(Great Slave)

Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister responsible for

Persons with Disabilities

Minister responsible for Seniors

Hon. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe)

Minister of Human Resources

Minister of Transportation

Minister of Public Works and Services

Ms. Wendy Bisaro

(Frame Lake)

Mr. Frederick Blake

(Mackenzie Delta)

Mr. Robert Bouchard

(Hay River North)

Mr. Bob Bromley

(Weledeh)

Mr. Daryl Dolynny

(Range Lake)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

Mr. Robert Hawkins

(Yellowknife Centre)

Hon. Jackson Lafferty

(Monfwi)

Deputy Premier

Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment

Minister responsible for the Workers'

Safety and Compensation

Commission

Hon. Bob McLeod

(Yellowknife South)

Premier

Minister of Executive

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and

Intergovernmental Relations

Minister responsible for Women

Hon. Robert C. McLeod

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Minister of Municipal and

Community Affairs

Minister of Lands

Minister responsible for the

NWT Housing Corporation

Minister responsible for Youth

Mr. Kevin Menicoche

(Nahendeh)

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)

Government House Leader

Minister of Finance

Minister of Environment and Natural

Resources

Minister responsible for the

NWT Power Corporation

Mr. Alfred Moses

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

Mr. Michael Nadli

(Deh Cho)

Hon. David Ramsay

(Kam Lake)

Minister of Justice

Minister of Industry, Tourism

and Investment

Minister responsible for the

Public Utilities Board

Mr. Norman Yakeleya

(Sahtu)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Principal Clerk,
Committees and
Public Affairs**

Mr. Michael Ball

**Principal Clerk,
Corporate and
Interparliamentary Affairs**

Ms. Gail Bennett

**Committee Clerk
Trainee**

Mrs. Danielle Mager

Law Clerks

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Ms. Malinda Kellett

Mr. Glen Rutland

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	6419
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	6419
216-17(5) – GNWT Response to the 2014 NWT Energy Charrette Report (B. McLeod)	6419
217-17(5) – Great Slave Lake Fishing Industry (Ramsay)	6420
218-17(5) – Pharmaceutical Action Plan (Abernethy)	6421
219-17(5) – Improvements to the Student Financial Assistance Program (Lafferty)	6422
220-17(5) – Community Justice and Policing Conference – Together We're Better (Ramsay)	6422
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	6423
Yellowknife Motocross Association Land Lease (Bisaro)	6423
2014 Fire Season Report (Dolynny)	6424
Tribute to Retiring Teachers Bella Kaye and Shane Brewster (Moses)	6424
Provision of Health Care in Nahendeh (Menicoche)	6425
Increased RCMP Presence in Tsiigehtchic (Blake)	6425
Expanded Seniors Care Facility (Bromley)	6426
Financial Literacy (Yakeleya)	6426
Fort Providence Health Centre (Nadli)	6427
Summer Safety Issues (Bouchard)	6427
Environmental Stewardship Awards (Hawkins)	6427
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	6428
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	6438, 6477
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6438
ORAL QUESTIONS	6439
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	6449
MOTIONS	6450
Motion 44-17(5) – Comprehensive Public Review of Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing (Bromley)	6450
Motion 45-17(5) – Plebiscite on Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northwest Territories (Hawkins)	6460
Motion 46 -17(5) – Appointment of Members to the Honours Advisory Council (Bouchard)	6467
Motion 47-17(5) – Extended Adjournment of the House to September 29, 2015 (Yakeleya)	6467
SECOND READING OF BILLS	6467
Bill 59 – Estate Administration Law Amendment Act	6467

Bill 60 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, No. 2	6468
Bill 61 – An Act to Amend the Public Airports Act	6468
Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Coroners Act.....	6468
Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act	6469
Bill 64 – An Act to Amend the Co-operative Associations Act.....	6469
Bill 65 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act	6469
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	6469
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	6477
THIRD READING OF BILLS	6477
Bill 47 – An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act	6477
Bill 66 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act	6477
ORDERS OF THE DAY	6478

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 4, 2015****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, 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 1:33 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Before we start today, I'd like to send my condolences to my communities. It is with sincere thoughts and prayers I send my condolences to my home community of Tuktoyaktuk and Anna Cockney, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and to Annie Emaghok, condolences to her husband, Adam, and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. To Ulukhaktok to Dillon Alanak, condolences to his mom, Judy, and his brothers and sisters.

Also, I'd like to send condolences to David Nasogaluak's family, his sons and daughters and his grandchildren. He will be sadly missed. David was one of my good friends.

David Isaac Amagana Nasogaluak was born in Avvaq in 1933. He was the eldest of 11 children to Joe and Susie Nasogaluak.

His parents moved the family to Tuktuuyaqtuuq in 1941, where David began his lifelong passion of hunting and trapping, to help provide for his family and community.

In 1956 David and Agnes married then travelled to Sachs Harbour in 1960 by the schooner, North Star. They adopted Beverly, Darren and Iona, and had a son together, David Jr. He trapped white fox and spent many years on Banks Island. They raised a family and worked hard to make a good living.

After leaving Sachs Harbour in the late 1980s, David returned to Tuktuuyaqtuuq to work for Canadian Reindeer. There he met Roxanne Raddy and had three beautiful children together: Bo, Dakota and Devaughn.

David was a people person. He had many friends of all ages and welcomed everyone he met. He was an adventurous person who had many stories to tell and you couldn't leave his house without eating, or having a cup of King Cole tea. He often said that he knew how it was when there was not much to eat and didn't want anyone to be hungry.

David was always getting ready for the next trip out on the land, whether it was to go hunting, fishing, or spending time with family and friends. He was forever on the go and never gave up on anything he was doing. He had a true zest for life.

On behalf of the family of David Amagana Nasogaluak, I would like to say Quyanainniqpaaluk to his many friends for being a part of his life. I'm sure you have many memories and teachings by him to carry you throughout your life. God bless you all. Thank you.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 216-17(5):
GNWT RESPONSE TO THE 2014
NWT ENERGY CHARRETTE REPORT**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices. Having an affordable, reliable and secure energy system that takes into account economic development and impacts to the environment is central to this goal.

In 2014 the Government of the Northwest Territories hosted its second Energy Charrette in response to concerns about increasing costs of energy, the low water level at the Snare hydroelectricity site, and the estimated costs to connect the North and South Slave transmission systems to the North American grid.

The 2014 Energy Charrette brought together the public, community representatives, stakeholders and experts to discuss what the Government of the Northwest Territories should do to reduce energy costs, increase energy security and reduce the environmental impacts of our energy system. Over 200 people attended the public event, and over 100 people attended the invitational stakeholder event. The charrette featured 20 different speakers and presenters.

We heard that we should be more aggressive on energy efficiency and conservation, plan for

increased development of small-scale community-based renewable energy projects, and continue to build biomass projects. Mr. Speaker, the government has prepared its response to the 2014 NWT Energy Charrette Final Report, which I will be tabling later today, at the appropriate time.

In this GNWT Response to the 2014 NWT Energy Charrette Report we have addressed what we heard during the charrette process. We are refocusing our short-term plans for this third year of the 2013 Energy Action Plan.

In the short-term we will focus on energy efficiency and conservation, both through the Arctic Energy Alliance and in government buildings. We will look at ways to improve the resilience of the North Slave hydro grid.

New community scale alternatives and renewable energy sources include:

- the Colville Lake solar-battery-diesel project;
- Wind feasibility studies in Inuvik and Yellowknife;
- Potential solar projects on government buildings in Dehcho and Beaufort-Delta communities;
- Biomass boilers in schools; and
- the potential for natural gas generation in thermal communities.

Our long-term goals will focus on transformational energy projects for communities and for potential new markets, which will require significant government investments and will be presented for the consideration of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

This energy charrette process has been very successful and participants were very appreciative of having the opportunity to learn and voice their opinions on the future of the energy system in the Northwest Territories. I would like to personally thank everyone involved.

Mr. Speaker, our vision has always been strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. Having a sustainable energy system in the Northwest Territories, which takes into account affordability, the economy, energy security and the environment, is part of this vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 217-17(5):
GREAT SLAVE LAKE FISHING INDUSTRY

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, NWT's commercial fishery has been hit hard over the past

decade by a number of circumstances well beyond its influence or control.

Hardest hit have been commercial fishers in the NWT who have been powerless to respond to a rise in the Canadian dollar, border closures and weakening US and global markets. Our fleets and fishers are aging considerably. The volumes and participation in our fishery have declined.

What has not decreased, Mr. Speaker, is the number of fish in the lake or the proven markets with which we can rebuild our fishery. The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy has highlighted both of these as opportunities to restore and revitalize an industry that, I believe, remains important and vital to our economy and to our territory.

Last year we committed to developing a business plan to make this happen. Today I would like to highlight to Members the steps that we are taking to put this plan in place.

Our plan sees the current governance model on the lake changing dramatically.

It will see the responsibility of ownership, operation and replacement of a processing plant transferred from the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to the local private sector.

It will transform our fishery from a whole fish fishery to one that supplies domestic, commercial and export markets with value-added fish products in both fresh and frozen form.

A private sector single desk selling function, profit driven, not legislatively driven, will work to ensure all orders are competitively served.

We will extend the NWT market for Great Slave Lake fish north and south, from Banks Island to Fort Smith.

Current suppliers of domestic markets will be offered resources to address the capital requirements they need to serve their markets efficiently and effectively. These men and women are long-standing partners in our work to grow and develop local markets and we will ensure they thrive with our industry.

Our plan calls for investment to ensure our producers can be mobile around the lake, not locked into the areas around Yellowknife and Hay River.

Through a transitional contractual agreement with the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, we aim to market and sell fish from Great Slave Lake into abandoned markets in Alberta.

We are investing in a training program, with a focus on young fishers, aimed at increasing the number of Northerners on the lake.

We propose to encourage new fishers from outside the NWT, mainly from Alberta, to relocate their now defunct operations to Great Slave Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of our plan can and will be realized all around. Much like the model that we recognize in devolution, producers will see the benefits of having a direct say, and even ownership, in our industry.

Within five years we aim to see the economic impact of this fishery increasing tenfold and returns to producers increasing by at least 50 percent at dockside. For the NWT economy, it will mean new investment in capital, a thriving fishery and over 200 jobs and income opportunities.

Rebuilding our commercial fishery will take some time, and it will require some investment. We estimate almost \$5 million will be needed to build an export-grade fish plant and see our plan realized. At least three-quarters of this investment will need to come from federal and territorial levels of government. It will be an investment in the economic potential of an industry that, I believe, is both overdue and reasonable.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has already committed \$1.5 million this year to ensuring that we can move our business plan forward, and we are hoping to work with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, despite obstacles and challenges, there remains a bright future for our fishery and I would like to assure Members of this Assembly that we are making every effort to realize it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 218-17(5):
PHARMACEUTICAL ACTION PLAN

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, an equitable and sustainable health care system is one of the priorities of the 17th Assembly. One way we can support this priority is by improving the management of pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Speaker, to date, provincial and territorial governments have each made significant efforts to address the challenges and manage pharmaceuticals in a way that maximizes patient health outcomes while contributing to system sustainability.

Under the leadership of Canada's Premiers, provincial and territorial governments have demonstrated their commitment to working together to produce significant results that benefit patients and the health care system. In particular, the establishment of the Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical

Alliance has already resulted in lower prices on over 40 brand name drugs.

While pharmaceuticals are not a significant cost to the NWT health system compared to other jurisdictions in Canada, we recognize the ongoing importance of this issue and the Department of Health and Social Services continues to pursue opportunities to improve the management of pharmaceuticals.

The department is finalizing a draft NWT Pharmaceutical Action Plan to address our management of pharmaceuticals using an integrated and collaborative approach. The challenges and opportunities that we face relate to three key areas: access, sustainability, and safety and appropriate use.

Elements of the action plan will include a shared procurement model for prescription drugs for all authorities, expansion of the scope of practice for pharmacists, and updating an agreement with the NWT Pharmaceutical Association relating to pharmaceuticals dispensed for individuals registered on GNWT programs such as Extended Health Benefits and Metis Health Benefits.

Mr. Speaker, for NWT residents, access to pharmaceuticals is not necessarily by need or ability to pay. Coverage for necessary pharmaceuticals outside of a hospital setting is currently determined by age, ethnicity, income, specified disease conditions or whether an employer provides supplementary drug benefits. In some cases, individuals have chosen to purchase private insurance to ensure they have coverage.

Shared procurement of drugs through the services of a national drug group purchasing organization by most of the health and social services authorities has lowered drug costs for our system. Procurement can be further improved and coordinated through the establishment of an integrated territorial health and social services authority.

The Department of Finance's Program Review Office is completing a review of pharmaceutical management to assess the current state of pharmaceutical products of purchasing, coverage, and regulation in the NWT, and provide comparisons to other jurisdictions and best practices across Canada.

The department is also working with the NWT Pharmaceutical Association to decrease harm from controlled drugs and substances. A Controlled Substance Steering Committee, which includes representation from the RCMP, the NWT Pharmaceutical Association, clinicians and a member of the public, was established last year.

Prescription drug monitoring is an important component of decreasing the harm caused by controlled substances and will help to identify

unusual patterns and provide peer-based educational opportunities. Recent changes to the Pharmacy Act set the stage for developing a prescription drug monitoring program, and the Department is beginning that work.

In addition, the department established a steering committee, in consultation with the NWT Pharmaceutical Association, to explore expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health continue the dialogue about how to improve pharmaceutical coverage while controlling costs. Next week I will attend a National Pharmacare Round Table convened by the Ontario Health Minister. The round table will bring together leading health care experts and decision-makers from across Canada. We can benefit from their advice and better understand the research, options, costs and benefits underpinning potential national Pharmacare models.

All of these initiatives will support the development of our Pharmaceutical Action Plan. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with standing committee as we move toward the finalization and implementation of a Pharmaceutical Action Plan that will benefit all residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 219-17(5):
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STUDENT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is focused on ensuring opportunities, education and training are available to all residents of the Northwest Territories. As our labour market needs to expand, so do the opportunities. The GNWT Population Growth Strategy has a target to bring 2000 people to the territory in the next four years, and ECE is doing its part to contribute to that strategy through one of our most valuable resources: our students. The department supports NWT post-secondary students to obtain the skills and education they need to contribute to a prosperous northern economy.

Mr. Speaker, in support of the GNWT Population Growth Strategy, the department will be making the following significant improvements to SFA for the 2015-16 academic year:

- increasing loan remission rates, so students have their debt forgiven faster while residing in the NWT;

- implementing a \$2,000 northern bonus for both NWT and southern students who reside in the NWT to be applied to their student loan debt;
- introducing a zero percent interest rate for students who return to live in the NWT after completing their studies;
- increasing funding for tuition and books; and
- removing the 20 semester funding limit and reintroducing a revolving loan limit, so students who pay down their loan can access additional funding.

I am also pleased to announce that we launched an SFA online application on June 1st. The online application will simplify the application process, increase online presence and make the SFA program more accessible to NWT residents.

Mr. Speaker, the SFA application forms have also changed so that students can easily give their consent for ECE to connect them with all NWT employers to facilitate employment opportunities. Connecting students and employers will help ensure that our students return to the NWT and help meet the needs of the labour market.

Furthering the GNWT Growth Strategy, we are not only engaging with our northern students but also encouraging southern students to take advantage of the opportunities of living in the North.

Mr. Speaker, I have said before that our people are our territory's greatest resource. Having more educated NWT residents entering the workforce will strengthen our economy and create opportunities across the territory for both Northerners and potential residents looking to make the North their home. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 220-17(5):
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND POLICING
CONFERENCE – TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, earlier this spring the Department of Justice hosted Together We're Better, a conference on community safety planning, networking and building partnerships. Eighty people from across the Northwest Territories attended the two-day conference in Yellowknife. The focus was on small communities and included elders, chiefs, mayors and senior community officials as well as community justice workers, Aboriginal court workers, corrections staff, Health and Social Services staff and representatives from NGOs. The knowledge and experience that participants brought to the conference proved to be a key factor in its success.

The conference built on the work that the department has been doing in partnership with community justice committees and others to share

information and develop strong individualized safety plans in our communities. These partnerships have been vital to the crime prevention successes we have had over the past few years with our Community Justice, Court Worker and Victim Services programs as well as the Pan-Territorial Research Project on crime prevention.

The conference Together We're Better highlighted the many Justice programs and supports available to all communities in the NWT. This information was particularly directed at representatives from smaller communities who might not have been aware of the services available and do not have the capacity to deliver these programs themselves.

The conference was funded by our federal partners at the National Crime Prevention Centre and the Aboriginal justice directorate at Public Safety Canada. Our own community justice and policing division also provided support.

The conference was timely, as many of our smaller communities will be visited this year by staff from community justice and policing and the RCMP to help them refine their policing priority action plans. We recognize that by talking together we can all help make residents safer using local resources as well as those available through the RCMP, Department of Justice and other organizations.

It is clear from the feedback we received that the conference was a tremendous success. It not only allowed community leaders to interact with front-line workers but it also encouraged collaboration, networking and partnership building amongst government departments and non-government agencies. Attendees told conference organizers that the chance to meet people from a range of communities and organizations and to exchange and discuss ideas about safety planning was a valuable experience.

Mr. Speaker, for the past four years, Members of this Assembly have been hearing about a change in the way we do business with communities to address their policing needs. I am pleased with the substantial progress we have made in focusing on safe communities with strong people who are able to be independent and healthy.

Today many communities are actively involved in discussions with the RCMP aimed at identifying local policing priorities. Some communities have also taken the next step to develop policing action plans to better target resources. As we continue with this coordinated approach to community safety planning, I am confident that it will continue to produce solutions that are effective because they reflect and support community needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE MOTOCROSS ASSOCIATION LAND LEASE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about a land situation. We all have people in our communities who want the best for the community and its residents and they work very hard to improve where they live. The benefits of their efforts accrue not only to them but to the community as a whole.

Yellowknife is fortunate to have a group of dedicated, enthusiastic motocross riders. They enjoy their sport and they want others to as well. They want to dedicate a space to practice and teach their hobby.

The Yellowknife Motocross Association has been working for several years to revive the now defunct stock car racetrack out on Highway No. 4 and are ready to begin the physical work, remediation and cleaning up of the site, but they've been stymied by bureaucracy. An application for a land lease has been denied.

Most Members will remember the controversy last year over cabins and squatters using the lakes of Highway No. 4 close to Yellowknife. Now there's a moratorium in effect on recreational land leases throughout the area while the Lands department develops a recreational land lease policy to bring some order to cabin use on these lakes.

The moratorium, unfortunately, includes both sides of the highway. It encompasses the very lakeless area of the old stock car track. The Motocross Association has been told they cannot apply for a lease for at least another year, with access to the land likely two years away. That's just not on.

The premise of the moratorium on recreational land leases was to halt new leases for cabins, hunting and fishing leases. The Motocross Association has no intention of building a permanent structure, certainly not a cabin, with no lake anywhere in sight. The proposed use for the land they seek is clearly not a cabin. I believe their request should be considered outside of the moratorium.

The site right now is an eyesore and an environmental mess. It was abandoned 25 years ago, with cars and oil drums on the site left to rust and fall apart. By cleaning up the site, this group would be doing a huge favour, both to the environment and the GNWT. One less site for ENR to have to clean up, yet the Minister of Lands can't see his way to make an exception and grant this group a lease.

The Yellowknife Motocross Association has done their homework. They have the support of businesses in the community. They've spent

months planning their project, talking to Lands staff, arranging insurance and so on. This will be a new outdoor activity opportunity for Yellowknife.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: This will be a new outdoor activity opportunity for Yellowknife residents and visitors both. It's a potential tourism draw. The revenue from that would be a benefit to local businesses and to the Northwest Territories as a whole. The Minister can make this happen. He can allow this lease application and get the process started.

I will have questions for the Minister later, and my first one will be: Why won't he do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2014 FIRE SEASON REPORT

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent release of the long-awaited ENR 2014 Fire Season Review Report, had, as the Minister put it, girding their loins in preparation for this upcoming fire season. Now, although the use of cute biblical sarcasm is always welcome for the academics that pay attention, it unfortunately doesn't offer much in the way of sustenance to what the people are expecting from spending over \$56.1 million of their money.

Now, again for the record, we applaud that there was no loss of life or serious injury last year; and yes, the promise for better communication is nice to hear; and yes, the perception that there was meaningful consultation is welcome. However, the Members of this House and the public were promised, by its Minister, a document that was to have every i dotted and every t crossed, and for eight months we waited for a report that unfortunately fell bureaucratically short of expectation. In fact, where is the full cost accounting of the 56.1 million tax dollars that were spent? The Minister's review report breaks down only three simple numbers and figures: aircraft, \$24 million; personnel, \$6.8 million; and other operational costs of \$25.3 million. Well, very impressive, very transparent. Way to go Minister.

So, where is the breakdown of the personnel cost, both in-house and contracted services and within our MARS Agreement program? Where is the breakdown of money spent on our own air fleet, our visiting fleet through the MARS Agreement, and our contracted services of Buffalo Air fleet that spent the majority of early June 2014 sitting on the tarmac? Does the Minister not think we could see these planes from the road, sitting idle while NWT burned? Where's the analysis of the efficiency of

the aviation strategy of 2014? What worked? What didn't work? Why did our air attack officers clock out at 5:00 p.m. on a Friday when homesteads burned on a Saturday? Did the Minister think MLAs wouldn't find out?

We know we have issues and limitations with their Prometheus fire growth modelling program and that our science officers are working with outdated technology and, as I quote, "ENR recognizes it needs to develop better fire behaviour prediction tools."

Okay, so where is the investment? Where is the budget? Where is the action plan?

We now have a public 2014 Fire Season Review Report with no specific investment, no timelines for significant changes, no true measurement tools and no real reporting mechanisms.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. DOLYNNY: This is a report made by bureaucrats for bureaucrats and celebrated by bureaucrats. The public, on the other hand, you know, the ones that foot the bill around here and pay taxes, have been shortchanged by this Minister once again. In fact, the only public use of this review report should be restricted to the public washroom of the forest management division. At least there it would have a physical purpose. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO RETIRING TEACHERS BELLA KAYE AND SHANE BREWSTER

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you begin a career, you never know what to expect, where it's going to take you, the people that you're going to meet, or the impact that you will have on other people's lives. Today I'd like to speak about two very important individuals from Inuvik who are retiring from the education system after this academic school year.

First, Ms. Bella Kaye has worked in both Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and East Three Elementary School for over 37 years. Before that, she was an assistant for over a total of over 44 years. She was a role model for her nieces and her nephews as well as many other youth across the Beaufort-Delta. She has been a kindergarten teacher and a Gwich'in language instructor over those years and has been an integral part of the development of our children. She is also very involved in the community. Not only has she been successful in the education field but also with her

family, making it a priority and promoting the Gwich'in language, culture and education.

Even more remarkable, this was started in a time when our people were still in the grips of the residential school system. She served as a model for those seeking a better and sober life.

When speaking with Ms. Kaye, she says, "When you start something, you always finish it. Even though you struggle, you keep trying and you learn from your mistakes."

I would also like to thank the elders who have helped along the way in positive ways. Mr. Brewster was also my kindergarten teacher growing up.

The other recognition that I'd like to share today is Mr. Shane Brewster, who has taught elementary phys. ed. at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and East Three Elementary for over 31 years. Not only is he a teacher but a mentor to other teachers over that time. He has taught teachers from the South the traditional way of life of people living in the North. He has also been an integral part of the staff and students over 31 years in his positions. He's coached for many years and taught the basics of movement and sport and has developed many athletes at a very young age. He's a community leader and a role model to many in the community of Inuvik and throughout the North.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MOSES: I did speak to Mr. Brewster, and he just wanted to acknowledge that Inuvik and the Northwest Territories has been his home for the past 31 years and still is. When people ask where he's from, Inuvik is what he answers, not Nova Scotia. I think that Mr. Brewster might have only put me in the corner just once in his whole time teaching.

I would like to wish both Ms. Kaye and Mr. Brewster and their families the best of luck on their retirement and that they will truly be missed at East Three Elementary by students and staff. Combined, the two have been providing guidance, leadership, developing values and positive interactions with children, staff and community members for over 72 years in the school system. Thank you for making a difference, Ms. Kaye and Mr. Brewster. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The next time you have a long statement like that, I'll put you in the corner.

---Laughter

It's a good day today. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE IN NAHENDEH

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll be extending my statement.

---Laughter

Between May 5th and May 8th, I accompanied the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs on a tour of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. I would like to thank the Ministers for their attention to issues in the Nahendeh region.

Residents of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte talked quite a bit about their desire for an agreement with BC Health. There are several reasons. For one thing, some of my constituents have lost confidence in the NWT health system, so much so that they would rather incur their own costs of travelling across the border.

Unless our health system improves its capacity to provide services and timely diagnosis for patients, these residents will continue to put their trust in BC Health, and that's a shame.

Another reason is the practical matter of distance. It's just a two-hour drive from Fort Liard to Fort Nelson, while the drive from Fort Liard to Fort Simpson is about three hours, and I want to say it is on Highway No. 7.

Other factors include convenience and costs. It is not uncommon for Fort Liard residents to be flown 800 kilometres all the way to Yellowknife, but this is an inconvenience to the patient and expensive when the same services can be provided in Fort Nelson.

This is the third time since 2013 that I have stood in this Legislative Assembly to ask for an agreement with BC Health. I believe it would help Nahendeh residents and probably lower the overall cost of health care in my region.

At the appropriate time I will ask questions of the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASED RCMP PRESENCE IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been over a year and a half since the commitment to have RCMP overnight in Tsiigehtchic, and to this day not once has the RCMP spent the night in the community.

People in the community would like to see a better presence from the RCMP. This has been an

ongoing issue. When are we going to see positive changes from the department and the RCMP?

I'll have questions for the Minister later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXPANDED SENIORS CARE FACILITY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to recent reports, the crisis regarding available facilities and beds for our growing populations of elders is coming fast. While we dither, the lineup for seniors care beds and services in Yellowknife and across the NWT is growing rapidly. While we claim that decisions must go through a long capital process, the situation worsens, forcing seniors to leave their northern homes or face the consequences. While we delay, our elder's population grows by 6 or 7 percent a year.

The Department of Health and Social Services and Avens - A Community for Seniors hired Dr. Hollander to forecast needs for seniors facilities. The study confirmed that the number of seniors in Yellowknife is expected to grow by almost 200 percent in the next 16 years, 125 percent across the NWT. The number of residential care beds needed in Yellowknife will soar by 250 percent and exceed 229 beds. The equivalent for the NWT beds will be a rise of 100 percent, or 400 beds.

Given the lead times required for determining facility locations, designs and program development, securing financing, contracting, staffing and construction, such increases will challenge the continuing care system. Meanwhile, though hospital staff do what they can in cramped quarters and difficult conditions to make space for families in need, we do not have a single palliative care facility in the NWT. This apparent disregard for the well-being of our elders is unacceptable.

The recent plight of 99-year-old Albert Bohnet profiled in the media indicates that we are failing our elders now, and immediate action is required. We need to shift the emphasis from funding big industry, with little return, to paying serious attention to people, particularly our elders. They built this territory and it's time to show we value their efforts and sacrifices on our behalf. Putting facilities in place to assure their comfort and safety as they age would be a darn good start.

With further procrastination, I'm concerned that the likelihood of a catastrophic lack of facilities and tragic consequences will rise. I'm sure we all agree that our elders deserve much better. With half the territory's residents, there are only 29 care beds for seniors in the capital. A proven body of expertise and resources stands at the ready here to

complement any indication that government has the will and commitment to move.

As capital planning season approaches, I urge immediate government action to put a renewed and expanded seniors care facility in place in Yellowknife to meet this desperate need.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Financial literacy is not something on the radar for most of our young people. The basis of financial literacy includes identifying the role of money in everyday life, using credit responsibly, managing a personal bank account, being wary of credit cards being pushed on consumers, knowing the pitfalls of consumer debt and learning about investment options.

In the NWT schools, there is a mandatory Grade 11 course about personal financial management, but this topic should be addressed even earlier. To illustrate the need for financial literacy, here is a familiar money story.

A young man enters the job market. He earns \$50,000 a year. Thinking his future is set, he buys a brand new truck and heads south for a vacation. Meanwhile, credit card companies bombard him with enticing offers, and before he knows it he has racked up \$50,000 in consumer debt. He'll probably spend years paying off his credit cards. In fact, he may never climb out of debt.

I believe a new action is required in the approach to retirement planning. For one thing, medical advances are extending the average person's lifespan. Decades ago when the Canadian Pension Plan and the Old Age Security were developed, it was normal for a person to retire at 65 and die by the age of 75. But these days, young people can expect to spend a quarter of a century in retirement, or even longer. A second factor is that by 2050, the pension plans will probably no longer be in existence.

I'd like to see the NWT schools partner with the organizations like Junior Achievement, which has an impressive track record. Junior Achievement staff and volunteers assist young people with financial literacy and job readiness. Courses are available for all group ages. Unfortunately, Junior Achievement has not made regular inroads to the NWT schools. I know at least one experienced financial planner, John Henderson, who is willing to serve as a Junior Achievement volunteer.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: We're not putting enough emphasis on financial literacy and this is a great disservice to our young people.

I'll have questions later for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT PROVIDENCE HEALTH CENTRE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On April 27th the keys to the new Fort Providence Health Centre were handed over to the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority. The facility cost around \$11 million to build and is quite a bit larger than the old health centre. Work on the building has been underway since 2013, so I'm really excited to see it finally open to the public. On June 16, a grand opening ceremony will be held to mark the completion of the work. I'm told it will reflect Aboriginal culture and tradition, so I'm very pleased about that too.

I'd like to ask my constituents to claim a sense of ownership at the new health centre. I'd also like to see the government working collaboratively with Deh Cho residents to bring in the types of programs and services that they would like to see and benefit from. I think it would be an improvement to include an assessment of the programs and services likely being offered and what new ones might be suitable.

For example, will the new facility be a space that integrates the physical, mental, spiritual and cultural needs of the residents? What attention will be given to the management of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer? Will there be workshops to get people getting better and getting more exercise? Will there be space set aside for the 12-step meetings and other activities to assist people who are struggling with addictions? Will a registered nurse be based in the health centre to lead the expansion of home care services? Will an accurate needs assessment be completed for all the elders who currently or will soon need home care and assisted living services? What efforts will be made to fill the vacant and hard to fill positions in the Deh Cho region?

Surely a brand new health centre will make the region more attractive for health care providers.

Later I will pose some of these questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMER SAFETY ISSUES

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we finish this session, I'd like to wish you and my

colleagues a good summer break. I know we're continuing to do a bunch of work. I know some of those programs in both EDI committees are out on the road.

As we look forward to the summer, I know that Northerners will be out on the land. I just want to urge them to be safe out there. I know over the last three or four years we've had eight fatalities on the highways; we've had 13 fatalities on the water. So we need people to make sure that they're being careful out there, making sure they're protecting each other.

We need to also ensure that we don't drink and drive. We need to eliminate drinking and driving and make sure that if you're drinking, not to be driving. Let's be safe out there this summer.

Obviously, we know of our fire situation. We need to make sure that everybody takes precautions in the fire area. We need to make sure that campfires are out and make sure that there's no smoking in very tinder dry areas. We just need to make sure we're really safe out there. Thanks.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we had the honour of hearing from our Premier through the Premier's Awards. Last week we had seen and heard very well about the great work through the Education Awards. Recently, many of us attended the Sport North Awards to recognize sport, and often we hear about the great volunteer awards, literacy awards, fire service awards, and the list continues on.

A noticeable absent group to recognize is environment awards. Why are there no environment stewardship awards? Let us use this opportunity with what better way to recognize their leadership and commitment many Northerners dedicate themselves day to day to improve our lives.

This government could use the occasion to say to Northerners, "You matter. The work that you do matters." It could look at many wonderful categories, such as recognizing children in the schools. There's not a day that goes by when I visit schools in my riding, such as J.H. Sissons or Mildred Hall, that I see the kids running around, making sure that there is a tomorrow through the work that they do. They collect the pop cans and bottles and they do everything and are committed to it in a manner that says they care about tomorrow and care about the world they live in.

There are community groups, and certainly community superstars. You need to look no further than the late Doug Ritchie who was a great

community champion for the environment, or even local guys such as Kevin O'Reilly, whose heart is dedicated to such passion about tomorrow and making sure our environment is here.

You have great groups such as Ecology North and Diavik. Ecology North, I need not spend a lot of time but to say that we know the great work they do. Diavik might be a business in business, but when they installed the wind farm it wasn't just about the bottom line, it's about tomorrow; and they never miss an opportunity on their own time to go out and tell people about what a great project it is, and how they can conserve.

What you're hearing here is a chance to reaffirm the great work people do. But it's not just outside of government, it's inside government too.

An annual environment award could recognize the stewardship that we do internally through good public policy in many departments such as our Giant Mine folks, who are out there saying, "We can do a better job for tomorrow, and we're going to make sure it's healthy tomorrow because of the work we do."

Finally, I want to finish off with a saying, it's referred to as the unsung hero. It's a simple phrase but it describes the person who makes a substantial difference to the world and to many but goes unrecognized. Let's not let that work go unrecognized. Let us consider this opportunity and we can make a better tomorrow through this type of leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Dolyunny.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 19-17(5): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2015 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA ON CORRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. DOLYUNNY: Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its report on the review of the 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations ("the standing committee") is pleased to report on its review of the 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories.

Background

The 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 3, 2015. The Standing Committee on Government Operations held its public review of this performance audit report on May 20 to 21, 2014.

Members thank Auditor General Mr. Michael Ferguson, assistant auditor general Mr. Jerome Berthelette, principal Mr. Glenn Wheeler, and lead auditor Ms. Erin Jellinek for preparing the report and assisting the committee during the public review. The committee also thanks the deputy minister of Justice, Ms. Sylvia Haener; assistant deputy minister/Solicitor General, Ms. Shirley Kemeys-Jones; and director of corrections, Mr. Monty Bourke, for appearing as witnesses at the review.

Role of the Auditor General of Canada in the Northwest Territories

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) conducts financial and performance audits in all three northern territories. Financial audits tell the Legislative Assembly and the public whether the government is keeping proper records and presenting its financial information fairly. Performance audits consider whether programs are being run according to the department's own legislation, regulations, directives and policies, and with due regard for economy, efficiency, effectiveness and environmental impacts. Since 2006 the Auditor General has completed nine performance audits in the Northwest Territories and issued one status report evaluating progress on the recommendations of previous audits.

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations is mandated to review the reports of the Auditor General and make recommendations to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Members look for efficiencies, best practices and gaps, with the intent of improving services to residents. The Auditor General's reports play a crucial role in Members' scrutiny of government spending and performance.

Role of the Department of Justice in the Delivery of the Corrections Service

Under the Minister, the Department of Justice is responsible for corrections services in the Northwest Territories, as outlined in the Corrections Act and the Corrections Service Regulations. Within the department, the corrections service is responsible for probation, parole, after-care and adult institutional services. It is also responsible for the custodial detention of youth as well as their supervision in the community under the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act and the territorial Youth Justice Act. The mission of the corrections service is to manage offenders in the least restrictive

manner possible and to provide opportunities for their rehabilitation and reintegration through holistic and culturally relevant approaches for the common good of society.

The director of corrections is obligated under the act to administer the affairs of the corrections service and develop and supervise correctional programs. The managers of correctional facilities are responsible for assisting the director in fulfilling these obligations. The department is responsible for the administration of correctional facilities in accordance with the Corrections Act, regulations and directives, including their safe, secure and efficient operation.

There are four adult facilities and one youth facility in the Northwest Territories: the North Slave Correctional Centre, the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (male and female units) and the North Slave Young Offender Facility.

These units house inmates on remand, who have been ordered by a court to be detained in custody while awaiting trial, and those who have been sentenced to terms of incarceration shorter than two years. These facilities also house some federal offenders with terms of incarceration are longer than two years and some offenders from Nunavut due to overcrowded facilities there.

The department is responsible for ensuring that mental health services are provided to inmates, just as they are to residents of the Northwest Territories under the territorial Mental Health Act.

Operating Environment and Current Challenges

Corrections is a significant issue in the Northwest Territories. The NWT crime rate was the highest in the country in 2013, according to Statistics Canada. The NWT violent crime rate is also among the highest in the country. A variety of demographic and social realities in the Northwest Territories contribute to the higher crime rate. These include an inmate population that is disproportionately Aboriginal and a relatively young population with low educational attainment. Also noted is the widespread misuse of drugs and alcohol often related to the traumatic impact of residential schools. In this context, the Department of Justice faces several challenges, including managing facilities in which the majority of admissions are for violent offences and substance abuse. Anger management and mental health issues are significant concerns. In addition, according to the department, many inmates are affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, although few are medically diagnosed.

Data from the Department of Justice shows that there were 692 adult male admissions to correctional facilities in the 2013-14 fiscal year, including 653 at the North Slave Correctional

Centre and 14 at the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (male unit). The figures include both remanded and sentenced offenders admitted directly to facilities but do not include those transferred between facilities.

In 2013-14 approximately \$38 million was allocated to the corrections service. This represents about 32 percent of the department's operations and expenditures budget and includes almost \$29 million for adult and youth facilities. During this same time period, the department spent about \$14 million to operate the North Slave Correctional Centre and \$6 million to operate the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (male and female units). There are 267 funded positions in the corrections services with about 100 at the North Slave Facility and 21 at the Fort Smith male facility.

Across the NWT, particularly outside of Yellowknife, there are significant gaps in programs and services in communities, including for offenders. For this reason it is especially important that inmates receive access to rehabilitation programs and services while in custody to support their reintegration back into the community and help to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. However, some inmates spend only a few months in custody, which poses challenges for the department with respect to adapting the type and frequency of programs and services to meet inmates' needs.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, through you, I'd like to turn this over to my colleague Mr. Yakeleya.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Dolynny.

About the Audit

The Auditor General's performance audit covered the period between April 1, 2012, and September 1, 2014. The audit focused on two key aspects of correctional services: the management of selected facilities and the management of inmates within these facilities.

The audit examined whether the Department of Justice was meeting its key responsibilities for inmates and whether the department adequately managed inmates in compliance with key rehabilitation and reintegration requirements. The audit also looked at whether the department adequately planned for and operated facilities to house inmates.

The audit included the analysis of documentation provided by the department, and facilities and interviews with senior officials, managers and correctional staff from the department, and with key stakeholders in the area of corrections. The auditor met with wardens, deputy wardens, managers, correctional officers and other correctional staff at

the North Slave Correctional Centre and the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (male unit).

To assess whether the department had adequately managed inmates in compliance with the Corrections Act, regulations, directives and policies, the auditors selected and tested a random sample of 48 male inmates serving sentences at the North Slave Correctional Centre and the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (male unit). The North Slave Correctional Centre was chosen because it is the largest facility in the NWT and houses the most inmates. The Fort Smith (male unit) facility was chosen because of its mandate to provide services to higher-needs inmates.

To assess whether the Department of Justice adequately plans for and operates its facilities, the audit looked at the department's planning for all of its facilities, including male, female and youth facilities.

The audit did not examine the following: court services, sentencing decisions, community corrections, community justice programs, or inmate case management for youth or women in custody.

The OAG used the following criteria to determine if the Department of Justice has met key responsibilities for inmates in the correctional system. These criteria were based on requirements under the Corrections Act, regulations and directives, and for the purposes of facility planning on the GNWT's Capital Planning Process and the Project Management Institute's 2008 Project Management Body of Knowledge.

The Department of Justice:

- develops plans to identify and address current and future facility needs;
- monitors whether key requirements are met for the security of inmates and staff in its facilities;
- ensures it has staff to fill key responsibilities within facilities;
- monitors and manages overtime use;
- ensures staff get key training;
- ensures fire and health inspections are done by authorities, recommendations for improvement are addressed, and fire/evacuation drills are conducted as required;
- manages inmates consistent with policies and procedures by identifying their needs and risks and providing them with access to programs and services to address their needs and risks.

Conclusion of the Auditor General:

The Department of Justice has not met its key responsibilities for inmates within the correctional system. The Department of Justice adequately planned for its facilities; however, the department

did not adequately operate facilities to house inmates in compliance with key rehabilitation and reintegration requirements.

In this report the OAG made six recommendations related to inmate case management and eight recommendations related to facility management. The standing committee endorses all these recommendations and recommends that the department ensures that they're implemented in a timely manner.

This is particularly the case where the OAG recommends remedial measures to address deficiencies at the Fort Smith Correctional Complex (female unit) in advance to construction of a new facility.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations endorses the 14 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General in its report. The standing committee recommends that the Department of Justice take the steps necessary to ensure that all recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

Standing Committee's Overall Observations and Recommendations

The standing committee is troubled by the Auditor General's findings and deeply concerned by the length of time that some of the deficiencies identified by the OAG have persisted.

Although it is not customary for the Minister to be present at the standing committee's public hearing, the standing committee did note its dissatisfaction with the Minister's observation when the report was tabled, that if the "audit were completed today, the results would have been different." [Hansard, March 10, Return to Oral Question 742-17(5)]. This assertion was repeated at the public hearing by the deputy minister, prompting the standing committee to question the truth of this statement, hearing it is a hollow response to some very serious findings by the Auditor General.

The deputy minister, Ms. Sylvia Haener, replied that "substantial progress" has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Auditor General, while maintaining core services. Ms. Haener noted that they are building a fence at the North Slave Correctional Facility and that the RCMP drug dog is being used on a random basis to sweep facilities and that both of these efforts will aid in contraband interdiction. It was also noted that the necessary health and safety inspections have been completed at all facilities and that the department is assessing the need for cameras and additional security monitoring in facility blind spots. Finally, while admitting that the department's process for monitoring "hasn't been up to snuff," Ms. Haener noted that recent department audits of

sentenced adult case files show 93 percent overall compliance.

While this may be the case, the committee noted that this does not account for the more than 50 percent of case files, for inmates with sentences less than 120 days, for which the Auditor General found that no monitoring of inmate progress had been done (Exhibit 2, page 7). The standing committee also observed that there are still some very worrisome deficiencies, such as the lack of space for medical screening at the Fort Smith women's facility, where there do not appear to be any plans for remediation or where the plans require study and analysis before actions are to be taken. In fact, the committee feels the department's response begs the question, "If things were so easily fixed, why did it take a report of the Auditor General to bring these problems to light?"

The standing committee supports the department's efforts to improve the corrections system, but wishes to underscore the very serious deficiencies revealed by the audit and to emphasize its concern that some of these problems have persisted for a very long time. These problems will require innovation and dedication by the department if they are to be overcome.

Department of Justice Response and Action

The Department of Justice worked closely with the Office of the Auditor General throughout the audit process. Management in the Department of Justice reviewed and accepted the suitability of the criteria used in the audit and were given the opportunity to confirm that the findings reported by the Auditor General are based in fact.

The department's responses to the OAG's findings are contained in the report. The department accepted all the recommendations made by the OAG and, in its response, indicated how it intends to implement the OAG's recommendations.

This commitment was followed up by the delivery of the Department of Justice's Corrections Action Plan, dated April 2015, and received by the standing committee on May 14, 2015.

The department's action plan groups the recommendations of the OAG into four themes: offender reintegration and rehabilitation; operations management; performance assurance and accountability; and staff training and development. Under these four themes, the department identifies priority actions and progress being made or anticipated completion dates for those actions.

Standing Committee's Overall Observations and Recommendations

While the standing committee had very little time to review the department's action plan before the start of the public hearing, an effort was made by

Members to familiarize themselves with the priority actions identified in the plan.

Generally, the standing committee was concerned with the number of actions identified for completion by November 2015. The standing committee recognizes that there is a significant amount of work associated with reviewing the recommendations of the OAG and developing and implementing the necessary plans to put those recommendations into action. The standing committee additionally recognizes that this work will take place alongside day-to-day operations of the department.

The action plan identifies 105 actions to be completed in response to the OAG's report. Of these, only six actions are scheduled to be completed after 2015. The standing committee cautions the department to be realistic about how much remedial action can be taken in the course of one fiscal year.

The standing committee is also concerned that the department is not being as strategic as it might be in its choice of actions to implement. In discussing the audit findings with the Auditor General, the standing committee heard that the department, for the most part, had the appropriate directives and rules in place to allow for sufficient facility and case management but that the department was failing to adequately implement those rules.

With this in mind, the standing committee is concerned about the number of items identified in the action plan that require the review and revision of existing directives or research into best corrections practices in other jurisdictions. While some directives have been singled out as being inadequate and needing improvement, as an example, the lack of direction on dynamic supervision and the directives ensuring that case managers have sufficient guidance for inmate release planning, the OAG seemed largely satisfied with the directives, standing orders and other policies that the department has in place.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice adjust the action plan to focus on procedural changes that will enable more effective implementation of existing directives, standing orders and policies, rather than the review and revision of these rules, which may take place over the longer term.

Mr. Speaker, I will now turn the report over to Mr. Moses.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya.

The standing committee found that the data presented in the Auditor General's report painted a compelling picture to substantiate the report's findings and recommendations and provides an excellent baseline against which to measure future progress. This includes the data on facility occupancy and capacity presented in Exhibit 1 of the OAG's report (page 6), the data on case management presented in Exhibit 2 (page 7), the data presented on segregation requirements in Exhibit 7 (page 25), and the data on safety requirements in Exhibit 8 (page 29).

The standing committee recommends that the department continue to track this data and that the revised data be used in future reports on the department's progress in implementing the recommendations of the Auditor General. The standing committee also recommends that this data be used by the department as performance measures in future business plans, starting with the 2016-17 Business Plan.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice include the performance measures from the Auditor General's report in future reports on the department's progress in implementing the Auditor General's recommendations and in future departmental business plans.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations looks forward to receiving periodic updates from the Department of Justice as it works to implement the recommendations contained in the OAG's report.

Recommendation 4

The standing committee recommends that the Department of Justice provide a status report to the committee at least once before the end of the 17th Assembly, and then annually during the 18th Assembly, outlining actions taken in response to the Auditor General's report.

Inmate Case Management

Key Findings of the Auditor General

The Auditor General's key findings can be summarized as follows:

Overall Finding

- Serious case management deficiencies limit Justice's efforts to rehabilitate inmates.
- Key case management requirements are not being met and there are serious deficiencies for case management for inmates at the North Slave and Fort Smith (male unit) correctional facilities. These limit the department's efforts to rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for release back into the community.

- Case management assessments are not being done for inmates with sentences of less than 120 days.
- Inmates with shorter sentences make up half the inmate population. Justice has not assessed reasons for their criminal behavior, literacy levels, or intellectual functioning. Without this information, the department cannot assess whether the programs it offers are meeting inmates' needs or assisting in their rehabilitation.
- For those with longer sentences, Justice identified rehabilitation programs to address their criminal behavior, but did not adequately deliver these programs (Examples: inmates needing long-term, individual support to cope with drug or alcohol dependency received only weekly group AA meetings; inmates received no programming because it was not offered during their incarceration).
- Inmates at the North Slave and Fort Smith (male unit) facilities had limited access to mental health services. Screening tools were limited to identifying suicide risk or urgent mental health concerns only. Because people with mental health concerns are overrepresented in the correctional system, these deficiencies are significant and can negatively impact rehabilitation.

Key Recommendations of the Auditor General

With respect to inmate case management, the Auditor General made the following recommendations (note that the numbers in brackets signify the paragraph number of the recommendation in the OAG's report):

1. (Paragraph 31) The Department of Justice should ensure that case plans to guide inmate rehabilitation are developed for inmates, as required by the corrections Services directives and supporting guidance. The department should ensure that each plan includes key information and recommendations to address an inmate's needs and includes a release plan to help prepare an inmate for return to the community. Progress against the plans should be monitored and documented, and adjustments should be made as necessary.
2. 3. (Paragraph 42) The Department of Justice should identify the needs and risks of its inmate population and assess its rehabilitation programs. It should also ensure that inmates have access to rehabilitation programs that reflect their needs and risks.
3. (Paragraph 42) The Department of Justice should review and, where required, increase its capacity to identify inmates' mental health concerns and ensure that inmates requiring mental health services are provided with access

to sufficient counselling and psychological support.

4. Paragraph (52) The Department of Justice should examine the corrections services directives to ensure that case managers are provided with sufficient guidance for inmate release planning and to ensure that it is providing inmates with the support they need to help them reintegrated into the community.
5. Paragraph (54) The Department of Justice should ensure that it continues to develop and implement a performance assurance framework focused on improving compliance with case management requirements and improving inmates' access to rehabilitation programs.

Standing Committee's Observations and Recommendations

With respect to the OAG's findings and recommendations on inmate case management, the standing committee focused on four areas. These are: 100 percent case management assessments for inmates, access to programs, Mental Health First Aid, and reintegration coordination.

100 Percent Case Management Assessments for Inmates

The OAG's findings suggest that the Department of Justice has made a policy decision not to conduct case management assessments for inmates with sentences of less than 120 days.

As observed by the Auditor General, this has left over half the inmate population without case management assessments, a situation exacerbated by the fact that inmates can spend months and, in some cases, more than a year in a facility on remand before being sentenced and, therefore, assessed. Without case management assessments, it is impossible for corrections officials to understand an inmate's reasons for criminal behaviour, or to properly plan for their rehabilitation.

The standing committee finds this policy unacceptable and calls for the department to take immediate steps to ensure that all inmates are properly assessed upon their entry to a correctional facility.

The standing committee heard from the deputy minister that part of the rationale for the decision not to assess inmates with shorter sentences is because the level of service/case management inventory (LS/CMI) assessment tool involves a lengthy process which is not conducive to assessing inmates with shorter sentences. The standing committee is not persuaded by this rationale and encourages the department to adapt the tool or look to other jurisdictions (for example,

Nunavut) to see how they are working with assessment tools.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice take immediate steps to ensure that all inmates undergo case management assessments regardless of the length of their sentences.

Access to Programs

One of the most troubling aspects of the OAG's report were the findings related to inmate access to rehabilitation programs. The Auditor General found that for inmates with sentences less than 120 days, only 36 percent had access to general rehabilitation programs and none had access to offence-specific programs. For inmates with sentences longer than 120 days, 87 percent had access to general rehabilitation programs, but only 63 percent had access to offence-specific programs.

For a department charged with the responsibility for rehabilitating offenders, these are very poor results. As the Auditor General observed:

"These deficiencies limit the department's efforts to rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for release back to the community. For those inmates with shorter sentences – who make up about half of the inmate population – the department had not assessed the reasons for their criminal behaviour, nor had it assessed their literacy levels or intellectual functioning to develop plans for their rehabilitation. Without this information, the department cannot assess whether the programs it offers meet the needs of inmates. For the half of the inmate population with longer sentences, while the department identified rehabilitation programs to help address their criminal behaviour, it did not adequately deliver these programs." (paragraph 12, page 4)

During the public hearing, the standing committee heard from the director of corrections about the number and variety of programs offered not only at the North Slave Correctional Centre and the Fort Smith Correctional Complex, which were the subject of the audit, but at other facilities across the Northwest Territories. While the standing committee was impressed with the array of programs offered, it wishes to stress to the department that these offerings, no matter how impressive, will not assist inmates with their rehabilitation if the inmates cannot access them or if their participation is not being tracked to ensure that the inmate is getting the right programs to meet his or her rehabilitation needs.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice find innovative ways to increase inmate access to rehabilitation programs and to ensure that all inmates have access to the programs they most need to meet their rehabilitation goals.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of the report now over to my colleague Ms. Bisaro.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Moses.

Mental Health First Aid

The standing committee is very concerned about the impacts that inmate mental health problems pose with respect to the safety and well-being of both staff and inmates in correctional facilities. If inmates are not adequately assessed in a timely manner by qualified staff, they may be at risk to harm themselves and others. Mental health problems, left untreated, may also negatively impact an inmate's chances for successful rehabilitation.

The standing committee questioned the deputy minister about the challenges posed by dealing with inmates' mental health issues. The deputy minister pointed out that ideally an inmate's mental health problems should be addressed by the health and social services system and that appropriate referrals depend on being able to assess an inmate's mental health. For this reason, the department's action plan focuses on providing Mental Health First Aid training to corrections staff. In addition to Mental Health First Aid training, the majority of the actions planned by the department involve establishing a mental health services working group tasked with conducting a review of the department's capacity to assess the mental health needs of inmates.

Given the number of inmates with potential mental health issues and the relative scarcity of trained psychologists and mental health practitioners, the standing committee is concerned that the department may be relying too heavily on Mental Health First Aid as the primary means for assessing an inmate's need for mental health services. There are obvious risks associated with relying on laypersons to conduct Mental Health First Aid assessments, which include the risk that inmates who are in urgent need of care may be overlooked or under-evaluated.

The department does not anticipate completing an assessment of its needs for additional psychologists and other trained practitioners until fall 2015. The standing committee encourages the

department to fast track its assessment and seek additional resources from the Legislative Assembly if they are required.

Reintegration Coordination

The standing committee is concerned by how little the department is doing to prepare inmates for their release and transition back into the communities. As the OAG's report reveals, the gaps in this area are significant, with some inmates receiving only appropriate clothing and transportation back to their place of residence or conviction.

The standing committee acknowledges the extra care taken by some case managers to provide additional assistance to help inmates with their release, but agrees with the Auditor General's observation that in the absence of sufficient guidance to support release planning for inmates, the extent of release planning depends on the individual case manager.

In addition to the actions identified in the department's action plan regarding inmate release planning, the standing committee encourages the department to consider establishing a position within the corrections service tasked specifically with coordinating inmate releases. This would help to ensure that inmates are given the greatest possible assistance in successfully returning to their communities.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice develop better plans for inmate release and reintegration, including examining the merits of having a dedicated reintegration coordinator.

Facility Management

Key Findings of the Auditor General

The Auditor General's key findings can be summarized as follows:

Overall Finding:

The Department of Justice has not adequately met key requirements for its management of correctional facilities.

Although the department has developed plans to meet current and future needs in facilities, which include replacing the Fort Smith Correction Complex (female unit) in 2017-18, it does not have sufficient plans in place to mitigate some significant safety and security concerns at this facility where female inmates will continue to be housed in the meantime.

Concerns include lack of space for medical clearance of inmates and the housing of inmates in a facility with doors that do not lock.

The department did not adequately monitor whether management at the North Slave and Fort Smith (male unit) facilities were complying with selected safety and security requirements in areas such as managing inmates in segregation, controlling contraband and conducting fire and health inspections to ensure that facilities are safe.

In many cases, management did not follow requirements in these areas, which are intended to ensure that inmates are housed in a safe and secure environment. For example, some inmates were held in segregation without the required approvals by wardens.

Required daily and weekly reviews to determine whether it is appropriate for inmates to remain in segregation were not always done.

Key Recommendations of the Auditor General

With respect to facility management, the Auditor General made the following recommendations. (Note that the numbers in brackets signify the paragraph number of the recommendation in the OAG's report.):

1. (Paragraph 78) The Department of Justice should:
 - a. undertake an assessment of actions to mitigate risks resulting from each of the critical deficiencies in the current Fort Smith Correctional Complex (female unit) to ensure all safety risks are sufficiently mitigated; and
 - b. establish a regular monitoring regime and report on safety risks and efforts undertaken by facility management to mitigate these risks to ensure the safety and security of inmates and staff until the new facility becomes operational.
2. (Paragraph 88) The Department of Justice should:
 - a. develop guidance on dynamic supervision for all correctional staff; and
 - b. actively and systematically monitor risks associated with housing inmates of varying security levels together, including remanded and sentenced inmates, to assess whether it is ensuring inmates' safety and security under the Corrections Act.
3. (Paragraph 99) The Department of Justice should analyze trends related to contraband, including types of contraband and how it enters the facilities.
4. (Paragraph 100) The Department of Justice should exercise oversight of facility management to ensure compliance with its policies, directives and operating procedures for inmate surveillance and segregation, searches

of inmates and visitors, and searches of cells and common areas.

5. (Paragraph 110) The Department of Justice should ensure that fire inspections are conducted annually and that emergency evacuation drills are conducted quarterly, as required. It should document these drills and take any corrective actions necessary.
6. (Paragraph 121) The Department of Justice should evaluate its current staffing approach for correctional facilities to ensure it has the number and types of staff needed to meet its core obligations under the Corrections Act.
7. (Paragraph 129) The Department of Justice should determine an acceptable level of overtime for its facilities and establish a mechanism to regularly monitor overtime usage in correctional facilities. It should also use the information it gathers to better manage overtime to help achieve acceptable overtime levels.
8. (Paragraph 132) The Department of Justice should develop and use an effective tracking system to ensure that all correctional staff members receive the required training.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the reading of the report to my colleague Mr. Nadli.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Standing Committee's Observations and Recommendations

With respect to facility management, the standing committee acknowledges the Auditor General's finding that the department has assessed current and future needs and developed plans to meet them. The standing committee recognizes this achievement as a bright spot in an otherwise damning report and recognizes the department's achievement in this regard.

The standing committee focused on five areas related to facility management: Dynamic supervision; contraband; overtime; segregation; and, overall facility management.

Dynamic Supervision

The department advised the OAG that the practice of mixing inmates of varying security levels together, as well as the practice of mixing sentenced and remanded inmates was intentional and integral to its approach to inmate management. The standing committee is very concerned by this.

The standing committee recognizes that space constraints limit the degree to which inmates of differing security levels can be separated, however, the committee is not persuaded that the principle of dynamic supervision mitigates the risks of combining these inmates. Although paragraph 120 in the Auditor General's report is specific to

concerns regarding the inadequacy of staffing, it describes a situation in which dynamic supervision was not able to prevent inmates from becoming violent with one another.

Dynamic supervision calls for regular interaction between inmates and correctional officers in order to monitor inmate behaviour and ensure their safety. The OAG found that correctional officers lacked formal guidance on the requirements of dynamic supervision and that, because training had not been adequately tracked, the department lacked assurance that all staff received adequate training.

The standing committee is not concerned with the principle of dynamic supervision, per se. However, the standing committee objects to the department's characterization of this principle as a deliberate defence of the decision to mix inmates of varying sentences and security levels. Dynamic supervision does not require the mixing of inmates of varying sentences and security levels, nor does it adequately mitigate against the risks of doing so.

Contraband

As the OAG's report indicates, contraband is an ongoing challenge at all correctional facilities. The OAG found that searches of the cells and common areas were not being done at the required daily frequency at either the North Slave or Fort Smith (male unit) facilities. This is a cause for concern.

In discussing the challenges around contraband, the deputy minister indicated that approximately 85 percent of contraband consists of unauthorized items such as food, pillows and magazines. She suggested that the department needs to do a better job of distinguishing true contraband (ie. intoxicants, weapons – items that pose a risk) from other unauthorized items. The standing committee was reminded by the Auditor General's staff that even less risky contraband items can be used as "currency" to trade for true contraband.

The standing committee supports the OAG's recommendations with respect to tracking and analyzing contraband, and encourages the department to take the necessary steps to ensure that all searches for contraband are conducted with the required frequency.

Overtime

The OAG's report indicated that overtime costs at the North Slave facility increased by 59 percent from 2012-13 to 2013-14, from \$950,000 to \$1.5 million. This took place despite the fact that in 2010 the department requested and received \$1.2 million to fund 12 correctional officer positions to reduce overtime at the facility. The report also revealed that in 2013-14 approximately one-third of staff at this facility worked more than 200 overtime hours (an average of 7.7 hours or one full working day per pay period).

As the OAG's report suggests, overtime affects sick leave, absenteeism, staff fatigue, productivity and morale. As well, the costs associated with overtime may result in decreased availability of resources in other areas.

The standing committee supports the recommendations of the OAG with respect to overtime and encourages the department to determine an acceptable level of overtime in a correctional context and to monitor and manage overtime use in all of its correctional facilities.

Segregation

The standing committee is particularly concerned with the OAG's findings on the use of administrative segregation. Disciplinary segregation is used when an offender is found guilty of violating the offender code of conduct. In such instances, segregation only takes place when it is ordered by a disciplinary board, once an offender's case has been examined. In administrative segregation, no such examination or review takes place and the manager of a facility alone may make the decision to place an offender in segregation.

The standing committee observed that administrative segregation increases the risk that an inmate's human rights might be violated. For this reason, it is especially concerning that the OAG found the North Slave Correctional Centre was not keeping adequate records of inmates in segregation.

The standing committee encourages the department to ensure that all correctional facilities in the Northwest Territories keep adequate records of inmates in segregation.

Overall Facility Management

The standing committee noted a common theme in the OAG's findings with respect to almost all of the issues raised regarding facility management: problems arise or are made worse by of a lack of management oversight of staff. Failure to monitor employees to ensure that they understand the rules and are acting accordingly is a factor that has contributed to problems with dynamic supervision, contraband, overtime and segregation.

Recommendation 8

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Justice develop the processes and safeguards necessary to ensure that staff are knowledgeable about the rules they are required to enforce and that they have the training necessary to do their jobs effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to now pass the floor over to my colleague Mr. Daryl Dolynny.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Nadli and all the colleagues on the standing committee.

Conclusion

According to the Auditor General, the Department of Justice has not met its key responsibilities for inmates in the correctional system as required under the Corrections Act. The department adequately planned for its facilities, but did not adequately operate facilities to house inmates and did not manage inmates in compliance with key rehabilitation and reintegration requirements.

The committee is encouraged that the Minister accepted the Auditor General's recommendations and has developed an action plan to implement them. At the same time, Members are concerned with the apparent efforts of the Minister and department to minimize the significance of the Auditor General's findings.

The standing committee strongly encourages the department to reassess its action plan with a view to implementing effective procedural changes now that will address some of the key deficiencies identified in the report of the OAG.

The standing committee will be monitoring the department's progress and looks forward to receiving substantive progress reports.

Recommendation 9

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government provide a response to this report within 120 days.

MOTION TO RECEIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT 19-17(5)
AND MOVE INTO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

That concludes the presentation of our report. Therefore I, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, move that Committee Report 19-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 19-17(5) is received and moved into Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 100(4) and have Committee Report 19-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories, moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

COMMITTEE REPORT 20-17(5):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF
DRAFT HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
FILING REGULATIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I begin, our report is much more succinct with only one page. Your Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is pleased to provide its report on the review of draft hydraulic fracturing regulations and commends it to the House.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recognizes that the issue of hydraulic fracturing is one of great public importance and interest across the Northwest Territories. Throughout the 17th Assembly, members of the standing committee have invested a great deal of time and research into furthering their understanding of hydraulic fracturing, in keeping with their role within the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The proposed hydraulic fracturing filing regulations were released for 90 days of public review on March 31, 2015. Recently, that engagement period has been extended to at least the end of August 2015. Members of the committee commend the government for recognizing the people of the Northwest Territories call for additional time and consultation. While the committee does not typically review regulations, legislation inherited at devolution has afforded it the opportunity. Members accept this great responsibility, both to our fellow Members and to the people of the Northwest Territories.

At this time the committee has not adopted a position respecting the proposed regulations. Members continue to recognize the vital need for a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and an environment that will sustain present and future generations as set out in the goals of this 17th Legislative Assembly. Further, Members recognize the significance of the Government of the Northwest Territories asserting itself as a northern regulator following devolution and the importance of

incorporating northern realities into any regulatory framework.

The committee's research compares the proposed regulations and the federal requirements, which were in place prior to devolution. Many sections of the proposed regulations mirror the federal requirements, though there are also variations, including new provisions as well as items that were not mirrored.

The committee's research also provides background information, considering past activity within the Northwest Territories and recognizing keen public interest in items respecting water security, environmental assessment, northern operating conditions, ongoing research and waste management.

Members are eager to continue their participation throughout the remainder of the engagement period. In contribution to that discussion, the committee will table its research today at the appropriate time.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT
COMMITTEE REPORT 20-17(5),
CARRIED**

That concludes the presentation of our report. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Committee Report 20-17(5), Report on the Review of Hydraulic Fracturing Filing Regulations, be received and adopted by this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 20-17(5) is received by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Hawkins.

Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Dolynny.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I'd like to introduce a number of the students we had here earlier when we were reading our committee report. We may have scared them away. A fine group of Grade 6 students from Range Lake North School, and I think it's important that I recognize their names so they're in our Hansard: Alvin Kotchilea, Bhaven Chotalia, Caitlyn Beck, Caleb Francis, Carson Formaniuk, Ethan Hunter, Hannah Cote, Isabelle Corothers, Jacob Hildebrandt, Jordan Schmidt, Karolann Duhamel, Mason Pond, Nathan Cluff, Oliver Lovely, Sara

Stride, Tyson Black, William Cote, Yash Shrestha, and their teacher was Mr. Jeff McConomy. Again, it's a great pleasure to have another Grade 6 class come and join us here during the session.

I also want to recognize two residents who were with us here. We had Mr. Dave Wasylciw here. He just left us recently. I have in the gallery – I'm going to play a little bit of my dad card here and I know he's going to be pretty humble up there, but I have my oldest son here today who has joined us – he has just returned from university – Mr. Tanner Dolynny. Again, as I said, as his dad I'm going to boast a bit. One of the good products of our swim program here in the Northwest Territories, ranked the best in Canada. He's going to Olympic trials one day, one day.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Mr. Jeff Corradetti for joining us here today and my constituency assistant, Mr. Grant Pryznyk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome a constituent from Frame Lake, Mr. Jeff Corradetti, president of the YK Motocross Association, listening intently today. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize two of our hardworking Pages who are from the Inuvik Boot Lake riding: Mr. Tanner Gillis and Ms. Kristen Harder. They're not in the House at the moment, but I know they've been doing a lot of great work over the week, and I hope they really enjoyed their experience here at the Legislative Assembly. To all other Pages, as Members, we really appreciate the work that you did for us over the last couple of weeks.

I'd also like to recognize Ms. Lillian Elias, who has been interpreting this past week. Good job. I know she's getting out the message to our residents who speak Inuvialuit in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 7, acknowledgements. Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 21-17(5):
MR. DANNY GAUDET –
HONOURARY DOCTORAL LAW DEGREE

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to honour Mr. Danny Leonard Gaudet.

Today I want to state a fact. Today the University of Alberta will be honouring Mr. Danny Gaudet with an honorary Doctoral Law Degree.

The honorary degree demonstrates that hard work, a sense of purpose, doing more than you're paid for and helping others is the first lesson taught to him by his elders. He says he owes so much to these highly prized teachers in life.

Mr. Speaker, let us today in this Assembly congratulate Mr. Danny Gaudet on his Doctoral Degree in Law. On behalf of the Sahtu and those who know Dr. Gaudet now, please join me in congratulating him. Mahsi.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 22-17(5):
MS. MARIE WILSON – TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, today I want to acknowledge the profound service to the people of the Northwest Territories and Canada by Weledeh constituent Marie Wilson, through her hard work on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Her effort towards healing for people affected by residential school experience is one of the most important and challenging tasks anyone could take on. Considerable healing was achieved through simply hearing people's stories, a deceptively simple act that alone required extraordinary dedication and personal cost to her and her colleagues. The efforts by Ms. Wilson included contributions to a landmark report on this dark time in our country's history.

I would like to offer my deepest appreciation to Ms. Wilson, and also recognize her family for their support, tolerance and sacrifices to enable her critical work on the commission. I invite all Members to join me in acknowledging her for this outstanding service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 8, oral questions. Ms. Bisaro.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 865-17(5):
YELLOWKNIFE MOTOCROSS
ASSOCIATION LAND LEASE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Lands. As I indicated in my statement, I'd like to follow up on a number of things. But firstly, as I mentioned in my statement, the first question I have for the Minister is, and just a reminder, the YK Motocross Association has had a lease application denied.

I would like to ask the Minister, why won't he allow the YK Motocross Association their lease application? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Lands, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That area is within the withdrawal area that we're doing all the work on; therefore, I think we've made it quite clear that we're not taking any applications for any areas within the interim withdrawal. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I'm not sure I want to thank the Minister because that was an answer that I didn't want to hear. However, the moratorium was established for a reason. My understanding is the rationale for the moratorium was it was spurred by many new leases in the areas in the lakes around Yellowknife which have been issued by the federal government and there was an increase in squatters on the lakes. There was a large concern of the people who already had leases on these lakes that the lakes were going to be subject to overuse, and that was what prompted the current moratorium.

My question to the Minister is: What was the rationale for the moratorium that is currently in effect? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The rationale for the moratorium was to allow us time to do a proper density study and environmental studies of all the areas within the focus area. We had done some work previous to devolution, but with devolution we had a larger area that came over to the territorial government, so we expanded our time and we expanded the work that we had to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: So, a density study. I take the meaning of the Minister to mean a density study of lakes, because I'm pretty sure that that was the rationale for the moratorium.

I'd like to ask the Minister another question with regards to requests for land leases. They certainly can be for different reasons.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can please advise me of all the reasons that the Lands department has had for lease applications. Has it ever been for anything other than a cabin or a fishing and a hunting lease? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not sure if the Member is asking during the time the moratorium was in effect. If that is her question, then I would commit to her that I will follow up with the department to see the number of applications we may have had and for what particular reason. I will share it with the Members in this Assembly. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister: My question was not about during the moratorium period, but at any time.

What are the reasons that people are asking for leases for land within the moratorium area? My understanding is it is only ever for a cabin or hunting and fishing leases.

So, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could explain to me why he will not recognize, as I mentioned in my statement, that this is a significantly different request for a land lease. This is not a cabin or a hunting and fishing lease.

Why will he not help a motivated, ready-to-go-to-work organization and people get started on their project by approving this lease as an exception to the current moratorium? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I've had the opportunity to meet with this group and I saw first-hand their commitment and their passion. However, this area is within the focus area and I do not wish to consider making an exception to one group. If I do that, then I may have a number of applications coming forward saying, "You make an exception for one group or organization or person, you can make an exception for me." What that would do is open the door and that will go against all the work we are trying to do.

So again, I saw their commitment and passion first-hand and I commend them for that, but this is work that we anticipate to have done by mid-2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 866-17(5):
FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Is the Minister aware of the wide range of financial literacy courses available through the Junior Achievement Program?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We do provide financial literacy programs through our high school programming. Part of that is Grade 10 in career and life management studies and grades 10 to 12 financial management, career and technology studies. These are just some of the areas that we are currently delivering in our high schools.

Not only that but we've reached out to community learning centres, as well, across the Northwest Territories to deliver financial literacy, and also through different departments, such as career

development officers, client service officers and probation officers. Those are some of the case officers that also went through the process and delivered the financial literacy courses in the regions and all the communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'm going to ask the Minister again, is he aware of the wide range of financial literacy available through the Junior Achievement Program? Is the Minister willing to support a pilot project in the upcoming school year where the Junior Achievement volunteers – not paid, volunteers – offer courses to elementary or high school students? Because the Sahtu Educational Board wants this program to know what the Minister is talking. We want a Grade 8 program. Is the Minister willing to look at that?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I wasn't aware of the new program that's out there. If the Member is willing to share that information, by all means, we can certainly look at it. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: At one time this Junior Achievement Program did operate in the Northwest Territories and they stopped. Now the president of the program from northern Alberta NWT chapter of Junior Achievement has confirmed they are not currently, but they want to be, involved again in the Northwest Territories. So I'm glad that the Minister has indicated...

Will he direct his staff to contact the Northern Alberta and NWT Chapter of Junior Achievement and start kicking up the dust so that we can have a pilot project in the Northwest Territories? We have a volunteer here in the Northwest Territories willing to do that type of work. Will the Minister commit to this House that this will be done and prepared to look at it for the fall session of school for the kids?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We went through all the options that we have: career and life management studies, financial management, career technology course studies that we currently deliver to top it off with other programming. So we have to weigh our options, what's the best way to deliver those financial literacy courses into communities, into regions. So by all means, if that information is shared with us, we can seriously look at it and see what options we can work with. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, our children today are challenged with financial literacy. There's money coming out. It's going to be a bigger issue for them if they do not have the financial literacy. I think it's key in today's world that we give the children the opportunity to learn how to work with money, otherwise we'll continue to have poverty in the Northwest Territories. We have to do this for our children.

I want to ask the Minister again, you know, in regards to the financial literacy by this junior program. Is he going to be pushing strong, this department, this government, to look at volunteers – not paid, volunteers – to come into our schools and provide this free of charge in light of the financial restraint that our Finance Minister is telling us of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When it comes to financial literacy, the courses that are being delivered in high school, the purpose of financial modules is to provide our residents with the knowledge, skills and abilities required to manage their finances from young adults right through retirement. Where Members were referring to providing tools to these individuals, we are currently providing those modules in our schools. There are 11 different modules, such as managing debt, mortgages, retirement, bank accounts, banking and credit. So these are some of the core courses we are currently delivering. At the same time, if there are other programming or courses that are available, such as Junior Achievement, we can look at it, as well, as part of our literacy course options into our school system.

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

QUESTION 867-17(5):
PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE
IN NAHENDEH

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement talking about getting agreement with the BC health authorities to benefit the residents of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. I'm recalling a similar discussion with the former Minister of Health and Social Services and I would like to ask questions of the current Minister of Health and Social Services.

Will the Minister commit to making an invoicing agreement with the BC Health Authority? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Canadian citizens, residents of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte have the ability to receive medically necessary services anywhere in the country that they wish. The NWT actually has a reciprocal billing arrangement with all the provinces and territories throughout the country under our obligations under the Canada Health Act. These agreements ensure that residents obtain medically necessary physician and hospital services when they are temporarily outside of the Northwest Territories without having to pay up front. This is true everywhere, with the exception of Quebec who will likely bill up front and then, through our

reciprocal billing, we will reimburse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I think the Minister's talking about someone who wanted to privately do it, but what we're talking about is residents not having any confidence of using our health care in those smaller communities and it's sad to say that, standing up here today. But the residents want to have an arrangement with BC Health and I think one of the barriers was the electronic medical records, so we've got that now.

I was wondering if the Minister can move forward with making an arrangement where residents of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte can go to Fort Nelson for their health care needs. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: First and foremost we should be working with the residents of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte to restore their confidence in the health care system. We are moving forward to make significant changes in how we provide services. I did have an opportunity to visit Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte and I have been working closely with the public administrator and CEO, trying to find ways to restore that confidence.

If somebody is sick, they should use the health centre. But as a resident of Canada, they do have the right to go wherever they chose and we do have reciprocal billing agreements.

Our challenge isn't with our ability to ensure that those medically necessary services are paid for, because we have agreements in place. Our challenge is if an individual chooses, under their own choice, to go to, say, Fort Nelson for a doctor's appointment and then that doctor in turn refers that person to home care or some other diagnostic process, they will often refer within their own system for which we don't have reciprocal billing agreements. If somebody wants to receive home care and it's ordered in BC but they want it delivered in Fort Providence, we actually have no records of that order actually taking place, which is, I think, the point the Member is trying to get to.

We need to make an arrangement with BC. But before we do that, we're actually working on refreshing our agreements with Alberta and Nunavut and that's going to help inform the discussions with BC, should we choose to go in that direction.

I've asked the department to complete a bit of a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether it's actually going to be feasible to establish this specific service agreement for residents of the Deh Cho between the NWT and BC and that will also help inform the discussions. But in the meantime, somebody who wishes to go to BC will not be billed for medically necessary services.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I think the Minister touched briefly about one of the core issues. The core issue

is that they're being turned away from the health centres. They are being given aspirins and they don't have the confidence to say... In fact, in a couple of cases – the Minister was there – we heard residents just say, "Okay, fine. I've got a sick child. I'm going to Fort Nelson to get my sick child's needs taken care of." That shouldn't be, Mr. Speaker. Our health care system should pay attention to all of our constituents who are out there, take care of their needs, identify what exactly is the problem and that's what I'm getting at. I'm talking about that they should be getting referred over to Fort Nelson for quicker attention and for their health needs. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I did visit Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte with the Member and we did actually have this conversation and we want to have the best health care possible here in the Northwest Territories. We want to make sure that when an individual goes into that Fort Liard Health Centre, they're getting proper treatment and diagnosis and referral as appropriate. Currently, it's a referral within the Northwest Territories or to Alberta, and as I indicated, we're going to finish our work with Alberta and Nunavut which will help form future discussions with BC.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, when we were in Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte, I asked those residents who were expressing their concerns to work with us. We have a quality assurance professional in each of the authorities who can help us make improvements within the local delivery systems and address those concerns that have been raised.

I strongly encourage residents who are having issues to please get in touch with the quality assurance staff in the Dehcho authority so we can look into the issues that the residents are bringing forth so we can fix them and work with the communities to restore the confidence in the system.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The residents, when I go there, speak loud and clear. In Slavey they say...[English translation not provided.]...and also they say...[English translation not provided.]...which means they're not helping us and they're not caring about us. That's why they go into Fort Nelson.

If I can ask the Minister one last question, Mr. Speaker, can our health care care for these people in the smaller communities? There's got to be a core issue there. Can we find out what that is? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: All health and social services are available to all residents of the Northwest Territories. They don't always occur in

the community where somebody lives, but we have mechanisms to bring people to care or provide care by individuals coming in from time to time. We can meet the needs of our residents.

I recognize there are some challenges, but I would once again say, work with us. Get the members who are having their concerns talk to the quality assurance so that we can investigate the individual issues to identify the root causes for some of these problems and work with the communities.

I'm committed to working with the communities to help restore confidence and bring back some confidence in the system for those communities where they're struggling. I've made that commitment in Fort Liard. I made that commitment in Nahanni Butte. I've made the commitment to the Member. I've talked to the public administrator. We all want what's best for the people of the Northwest Territories. We want best health, best care, for the best future here.

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

QUESTION 868-17(5):
RCMP PRESENCE IN TSIIGHEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: In follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Justice. I'd like to ask the Minister, what is the holdup on having the RCMP spend the weekend in the community of Tsiigehtchic?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Initially, there were some concerns about the accommodation. I am happy to say today in the House that we have worked with the NWT Housing Corporation. We're in the process of installing a two-bedroom portable unit that will allow the RCMP to use it overnight for accommodations for its members who are on patrol in the community of Tsiigehtchic. We expect the installation to be complete and members able to overnight in the community this coming fall.

MR. BLAKE: By the fall, I believe, is too late because by then we'll have freeze-up. Just this week the ferry just went in in the community.

Why can't we have this portable trailer in the community starting this summer?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We will do our best to ensure that that accommodation unit is in Tsiigehtchic at the earliest possible time. We're looking at the fall. But if we can speed that up, we will do that. The RCMP made 21 patrols to Tsiigehtchic between January 1, 2015, and the end of April, and there were 14 calls for service in the community during that time.

MR. BLAKE: We also have issues of nursing, and the department has been working with the community. Every fall and spring they send a nurse into the community to spend – whether it's breakup or freeze-up – with the community.

Will the Minister work with that department to set up some sort of arrangement like that?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We can certainly have that discussion with the Department of Health and Social Services on coordinating times those services are provided in the community.

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

QUESTION 869-17(5):
ELECTRICITY RATE STRUCTURE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the press release issued recently by Northland Utilities, it identifies a number of government policies as a reason for the rate disparities in communities, particularly in Hay River and Fort Smith. It also states its willingness to meet with this government, NTPC and First Nation groups to discuss and fix these policies. Is the Premier prepared to do this?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we're always prepared to meet with anybody who wants to meet with us.

MR. DOLYNNY: Can the Premier explain why NTPC has been knowingly overcharging customers in Hay River power since 2008, and actually, looking at the records, overcharging them roughly \$6 million in the last six years alone? Can the Premier explain that?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm not sure where he's getting his numbers from but my understanding is it's only a difference of one or two cents.

MR. DOLYNNY: Everything is public record. The Minister of NTPC and the Premier have said many times during the session that the government has no intention to expropriate Northland Utilities from the NWT. It's hard for me to believe that when this government has introduced government policy after government policy and has penalized Northland Utilities' customers just because of who serves them. For example, when this government eliminated community-based rates and moved to seven rate zones in 2010, this government allowed NTPC to inappropriately transfer \$4 million of its costs to Northland Utilities' customers without any cause or reason.

Is the Premier ready to accept responsibility for Northland Utilities' customers who are being overcharged on their power bills?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm not aware of these numbers that the Member is putting forward. I don't know who's feeding him this information, but if he sends it to us we will deal with it.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, public record. A number of government policies obviously exist to penalize Northland Utilities' customers throughout the NWT. There seems to be very little action on the part of this government to do anything to fix these NTPC overcharges and disparities, given its recent directive to the PUB to not allow these disparities to be corrected.

Will this Premier meet with Northland Utilities and First Nation groups before the territorial election in November to speak about these specific policies and to work together to address them?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: All of the rates that are approved have to go through the PUB process.

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

QUESTION 870-17(5):
MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR RESIDENTS
TRAVELLING OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister responsible for Seniors. I know we talked about seniors quite a bit in the House here. One of the questions that has been coming up through Regular Members is the issue with snowbirds and the time that they are allowed to stay away from the Northwest Territories. I know the Minister has talked about this in the House before. I'm wondering where this currently sits in relation to other jurisdictions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, residents of the Northwest Territories need to be in the territory for six months plus a day, which works out to about 183 days. But over the last number of years, a large number of jurisdictions within Canada have been decreasing that time period to about 153 days, so they only have to be in their province for 153 days to be eligible for a health care card. Those jurisdictions are British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario.

We have done some analysis based on questions that have been asked in this House and questions that have been asked by seniors, and as a result, I have actually directed the department to follow suit. To that end, the department is actually preparing some revised guidelines that will change the requirement for people to be present in the

Northwest Territories for 153 rather than 183 days to be eligible for the NWT health care card.

MR. BOUCHARD: My next question is obviously the Minister has indicated he has given some direction. When does he anticipate that some of these guidelines and the increased amount of time to be away from the Northwest Territories for these seniors will be available?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: At this point, I am hoping to have the changes done by the fall.

MR. BOUCHARD: Can the Minister indicate to me how these changes will be implemented? Is it through a change in legislation? He indicated guidelines, but will those be before this House so that we can show to the general public that the issues that they have been bringing up are being dealt with?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We will be making this information public. We will be sharing the new guidelines when they come out. A couple things around that: There is still going to be a requirement for individuals who are going to be away from the Northwest Territories for extended periods of time to let the health services office know, and I would still strongly encourage residents who are travelling outside of the Northwest Territories to get medical travel insurance to cover any extra costs while they're in the United States or other parts of the world as well as in the southern parts of Canada.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: I'm just wondering why it took the department so long to do this. I'm wondering what the concern has been. These people typically, like the Minister indicated, have insurance on their own, so why has it been an issue for us to take so long to deal with this issue?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I guess it depends on how you define long. It first came to my attention about a year ago. I had the department do some research and analysis into what other jurisdictions are doing. We got some information back. I was satisfied that what the other jurisdictions were doing was reasonable and I have given the department direction to move. They need a bit of time to develop, sort of, the awareness campaign and to change our regulations and our guidelines to make sure that we can actually accommodate this and ensure that those residents who are going to be gone from the Northwest Territories are up to or within the Northwest Territories for 153 days can still get health care cards and still be covered by the health care system because they are residents of the Northwest Territories. So it has been fairly quick.

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

QUESTION 871-17(5):
FORT PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Can the Minister describe the measures being taken to ensure the new health care facility in Fort Providence is a culturally appropriate space and that the cultural needs of residents will be given due care and attention? Mahsi.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the public administrator and the CEO of the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority have been working with the community, trying to make sure that those types of things are incorporated. Now that the legislation has been approved to move to one authority, I also am moving to re-establish wellness camps in the Deh Cho so we can continue to get input from the residents of the communities in a more effective manner. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Will a registered nurse be based in the new health care centre to lead the expansion of home care services, and will an adequate needs assessment be completed for all our elders who currently or will soon need home care and assisted living services? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We do have Our Elders, Our Communities, which is our strategy for our seniors here in the Northwest Territories with a focus on helping residents age in place, where appropriate, and then moved to other facilities as needed. We are providing training to different people throughout the Northwest Territories in the areas of palliative care and others and then home care support, to ensure that we have people available. I can't actually recall, off the top of my head, the specifics that are being done in the Deh Cho, but I will commit to getting that information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. Can the Minister assure me and my constituents that the new space in Fort Providence will be ultimately used to address key health issues? As an example, strategies to promote aging in place and to tackle chronic diseases such as diabetes and cancer. Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is the intent of the health care system, and in that clinic you'll see well man, well woman, well baby clinics, as well as other information being shared with our residents. The facility has a huge opportunity to continue to provide the quality services that are being delivered in the community now, but over time, there's also some space for growth and some change of programs. So, as I said to Mr. Menicoche earlier, we're committed to the health and well-being of all

of our residents and we will work with the communities. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has stated that a wellness council will be established to ensure that the community has input into the department in terms of those regional operations.

What kinds of improvements can the community expect in terms of the community to regional reporting relationship in light of the move to centralized regional boards? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Currently within our structure, there's actually no board in the Deh Cho. We have a public administrator. The board was dismantled some time ago. With the move to single authority here in the Northwest Territories, we wanted to ensure that it was essential, or actually we feel it was essential, that we continue to get a regional voice and community voice to help us customize and enhance programs at the community level so that the regions and communities also have a voice at a territorial level.

As I've committed to this House before, now that the legislation has passed I want to move forward and put in some interim wellness councils to start providing some guidance and advice as we move forward with the implementation of this one authority. When the authority goes live on April 1, 2016, that interim advisory council would become the official wellness council, and we will be working with the region and the communities to help us identify who should be on those councils, who can help us make the system the best it can be. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 872-17(5):
STATUS ON CANTUNG MINE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Lands, and I'd like to start by asking about recent news stories which have talked about layoffs at Cantung Mine. Cantung has recently cut their operating expenses and are considered by some to be in marginal operation at best. So I'm wondering if the Minister can give me a general update on the current status and fiscal viability of Cantung Mine. Mahsi.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for the fiscal viability, I'm in no position to answer that. That would be a question that they would have to answer. I do know that they do have an application before the ENR, a water licence

application for the ENR Minister and I can find out the update and status of where that's at. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I'd say it would be important for this Minister to be on top of the viability of these mines because, of course, they're the ones responsible for their cleanup and this Minister is responsible for ensuring that the liabilities are covered.

As we all know, mines failing and leaving huge environmental liabilities and costs to taxpayers behind are nothing new.

So my question is: What is the current status of Cantung's security deposit for environmental liability?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I know that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, I think, had set their security at \$30 million, and that was, I think, \$27 million and \$30 million was to be paid 90 days after the granting of the water licence. My understanding is, I think, the water licence is still in the process and I will find out as to the status of that from my counterpart over at ENR. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Of course, we do have an entire division within the Department of Lands that is supposedly on top of liabilities.

In our fall session I was shocked to hear that the total shortfall of security deposits held by this government on behalf of mining interests was \$176 million.

Can the Minister give me an update on the status of security deposits that are currently being held and what shortfalls there are now? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I believe I said in the fall that we had over \$500 million that we are holding in security. As far as the shortfall, again, I will get that number and relay it to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I'll look forward to that. Despite NEB's rejection of surety bonds as acceptable surety against environmental liabilities, instead requiring irrevocable letters of credit, this government allows this form of security for mining operations after devolution.

What are the government's plans for the form of financial instruments acceptable for risky environmental liabilities in the new fracking regulations? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Surety bonds are an accepted form of security for many projects that are going on. Again, I think in the short time that we've had this responsibility we've done some work. The Member is correct; we do have a division that's

dedicated to this, and we will continue to do our due process and make sure that any work that does go on is adequately covered and that way we have the opportunity to do the remediation if need be. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 873-17(5):
ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to use my questions today to follow up on my Member's statement, which was when I talked about the idea and certainly the issue of the establishment of an environment award.

As I said just briefly in my Member's statement, we have great awards such as the Premier's Awards, Education Hall of Fame Awards, Sport North, volunteer, and the list certainly goes on in many deserving areas that need to be recognized.

Not to take away but to add to this opportunity, I'm going to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, would he believe that there would be great merit, and certainly opportunity, in the establishment of its own set of awards for environment? Would he be willing to do that? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member would have the time to put his fingers to the keyboard and send me an outline and I'll listen to the discussion and I'm interested to have further discussions about that. But for greater clarity, he could give us how clear it is on this issue in terms of key points that he'd like to see environmental awards, and we will definitely give it serious consideration. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, he took my second question away from me and I didn't even have a question three or four. Maybe I can just ask if the Minister is interested in this kind of concept for stand-alone environment awards, recognizing the issues I talked about, recognizing children, recognizing schools, community heroes, community groups and even government employees who provide stewardship of public policy. I just want to be very clear.

Is the Minister supportive of the concept? I heard him say he'll take a look at it, but is he individually supportive of the concept? Because it's important to know he leads the department. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The role of the environment and the importance of the environment to this Legislature, to the government and the

people of the Northwest Territories is second to none in terms of priorities. So, yes, when it comes to doing the right thing with environment, including recognizing those folks who have spent their life doing good work as it pertains to the environment, we are interested. I am interested. If the Member will send me that information, I will give it my serious consideration and will put it on my ongoing list I have for discussion with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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

QUESTION 874-17(5):
TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PRIORITIES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Transportation tabled in this House the 2015-2040 Transportation Strategy, which also includes four-year action plans along the way.

Going through the priorities, and we're also looking at maximizing opportunities and creating new infrastructure, can I ask the Minister, in terms of priorities, where does the aging and underdeveloped system that we have throughout the Northwest Territories right now sit on that priority? Is it the number one priority that we have within this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Strengthening our connections is one of the objectives of the Transportation Strategy for the next 25 years. We would be paying equal attention to all three strategies. That is one of the strategies, is to improve the current infrastructure that we have. In fact, we have been working with the federal government and improving our current infrastructure for the past seven years with the Building Canada Fund and our funding, and we're hoping to continue that work for the next 10 years as we get the bundles in the current Building Canada Fund approved. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: The Minister alluded to the Building Canada Plan and the fund that he's looking at in terms of building some of these new infrastructures but also putting money towards our existing infrastructure.

Can I ask the Minister for an update on where this government is in negotiations about the Building Canada Fund that's going to improve our highway systems and also start building on these new infrastructure projects? Can I get an update on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As Members know, it's a \$292 million proposal that we've submitted from Transportation to the Building Canada Fund. Right now we had separated them into three bundles of a little over \$95 million. The first bundle received the

approval through the Treasury Board. That's one of the steps that it goes through: Infrastructure Canada to the Treasury Board and then back to us. The first bundle received approval today from the Treasury Board. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I was hoping for more of a timeline when we can expect answers. I know there are a lot of companies out there that are really eager to get started on some of this work. With the time frame that we have in the Northwest Territories because of the extreme weather conditions, I think people like to get ready for that type of work...(inaudible)...time.

One of the sections in the strategy discusses incomplete highway infrastructure to maximize opportunities. One of the priorities in the 17th Legislative Assembly was the Mackenzie Valley Highway up the valley from Wrigley to the Dempster. In our discussions with the Mining Association of Canada during NWT Days, they said it was very important to have that infrastructure in place to move resources out of the territory, which we get a little bit of possible royalties off of that.

Can I ask the Minister, in terms of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, how long are we in terms of getting that project up and started up through the valley? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As far as the timelines for the Building Canada Fund, we have pre-tendered a lot of the work and we're waiting for approval so we can award the tenders to the various companies.

As far as the Mackenzie Valley Highway goes, we have submitted all of the information that the federal government has requested. The last one was a business case that was a little over 300 pages long. That is currently with the federal government. The federal government is looking at that proposal under the National Infrastructure Fund, which is a \$4 billion fund that is to be spread across the country.

Also, we're looking at maybe how we could phase the proposal. But at this time we have the \$700 million proposal in with the federal government. Their request for information has been provided and we're waiting for them to approve. We're anticipating, if approval is received, it would take about seven years of construction to build the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I attended a strategy meeting up in the Beaufort-Delta and it was a really good presentation; however, what it lacked was what other big projects are going throughout the Northwest Territories. It just focused on the Inuvik region, specifically the Inuvik Tuk Highway, and that's great.

On page 55 of this new strategy, there's a big blue arrow up there on the map. It's the all-weather road to the Slave Geological Corridor. Things like that could have been presented to the community of Inuvik, Sahtu, the Deh Cho.

Knowing that this is going to become a priority of government but was not a big priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly when we sat down when we began this whole process of looking at what our priorities were, can I ask the Minister, at what point did the all-weather road into the Slave Geological Corridor become a priority of this government, or will it be in the transition document for the 18th or the 19th Assemblies? Can I ask the Minister if that's something that this government is going to invest in before the end of this term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The road into the Slave Geological Province has been contemplated and has been a priority of government for over 20 years. We must recognize that with new devolution, a lot of our resource revenues are coming from the diamond industry. What we need to do is we're trying to find a quicker or more efficient way for them to get their freight and fuel into the Slave Geological. We are contemplating building some of the current winter road into an all-season road to make it more feasible for the diamond mines to extend their life and to continue to provide resource revenues to this government and to the federal government.

It hasn't been something where we said, "We're going to look at that and we're not going to look at another major project." We have put in for the Mackenzie Valley under one proposal. We're talking with industry. We're talking with Nunavut about extending the road into the Slave Geological. So there are a few of the projects at play here, including the road into the Tlicho region. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 875-17(5): 2015 NGO STABILIZATION FUNDING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I would like to ask him questions about the 2015 NGO stabilization funding. The Non-Government Organization Stabilization Fund was established, I think, about two or three years ago now, three years, I think, and it's been quite successful. When it was initially established there were some fairly large growing pains. Organizations had a tough time getting information. They had a very tough time in getting the money in a timely manner. Over the years, when it was with the Department of the Executive, things improved greatly.

As Members know, this was transferred to the Department of MACA in this fiscal year and I've learned just recently that the call has gone out. It was received on June 2nd by the non-government organizations and the turnaround time is just over two weeks.

So, Mr. Speaker, my first question in looking at the policy that sits on MACA's website, it's under Applications, number 4. It states: "A call for applications will be issued yearly. The call will be issued before May 31st each year. The application period will be at least three weeks and no more than five weeks long."

So I'd like to ask the Minister how it is that the information on the 2015 fund went out on June 2nd and how the turnaround period is less than three weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Lands, Mr. McLeod.

MR. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to the Member that I will follow up on that. I appreciate her bringing it to my attention. The fact that she's able to do that proves that we're very capable of working together quite closely. So I will follow up on that and share it with the Member. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the commitment; however, it doesn't really tell me much.

Is the Minister going to correct the time period for applications? Right now it's less than three weeks. NGOs have a very difficult time putting things together. They're not usually full-time people working with the organization, so I'm asking the Minister, in looking into it, will he commit to extend it to the three-week time period which is set in his policy? Thank you.

MR. ROBERT MCLEOD: If it's set in a policy, and there was a bit of confusion there, once I review that and the policy says it's supposed to be a certain time period, I will correct it. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I'd like to thank the Minister. I think the NGOs would certainly look forward to that correction. So I would just ask the Minister, will he advise Members as well as NGOs when he makes that decision? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This is a bit of a learning curve for our folks over at the department, too, because NGOs we just received, I think, on April 1st of this year, so we're just learning this as we go along. So, I will commit to the Member that I will inform everyone involved when the decision is made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Hay River South, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 876-17(5):
TERRITORIAL ELECTRICITY RATE
EQUALIZATION FUND

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for Minister Miltenberger. Can the Minister describe to me what the GNWT rate equalization program is?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That fund is a Government of the Northwest Territories fund that is set up to subsidize the power rates in the NUL thermal communities, of which there are four, to subsidize those rates down to the NTPC thermal community rate and that subsidization is about half a million dollars a year of government money into the NUL subsidy of their rates. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Can the Minister clarify which groups and which corporations are paid this subsidy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are four thermal communities where the distributor of power is Northland Utilities, ATCO, and in those four communities there's a subsidy program that is funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories to make sure that the NUL rate that the customers pay is the same as the NTPC thermal rate. So, you have the two distributors and the government subsidizes to make sure that people across the Northwest Territories are treated equally when it comes to buying power in their communities, and that requires a subsidy, in this case, of half a million dollars a year.

MR. BOUCHARD: I'll ask the Minister how he could describe this. Why do we do it this way as opposed to just letting the rate be in those areas and we just pay through the Territorial Power Subsidy Program?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Territorial Power Support Program is geared more for residential tenants. This is a special arrangement between the two distributors and, in fact, in Hay River it is in addition to this subsidy program through the thermal communities, Hay River as well, because their rates are 30 percent higher than their neighbours. They get about \$360,000 a year subsidy, as well, to be paid by the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wondering if I can get clarification. So, the GNWT provides half a million dollars to NUL to operate in the communities, not in Hay River or

Yellowknife, in the other communities where it's too costly to operate right now.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Where the distributor is ATCO, and that's four communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 271-17(5):
GNWT RESPONSE TO THE 2014
NWT ENERGY CHARRETTE REPORT,
JUNE 2015

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following document, entitled "GNWT Response to the 2014 NWT Energy Charrette Report, June 2015." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 272-17(5):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2014, TO MARCH 31, 2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 273-17(5):
PROGRAM REVIEW OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT, JUNE 2014

TABLED DOCUMENT 274-17(5):
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PROGRAM REVIEW
OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents, entitled "Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015," "Program Review Office Annual Report, June 2014" and "Executive Summary: Program Review Office Annual Report 2014." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 275-17(5):
PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES
ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS
ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Public Works and Services Energy Conservation Projects Annual Report 2014-2015." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 276-17(5):
FEASIBILITY STUDY OF
UNIVERSAL AFFORDABLE DAYCARE
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Feasibility Study of Universal Affordable Daycare in the Northwest Territories." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 277-17(5):
RESEARCH SUMMARY: DRAFT HYDRAULIC
FRACTURING FILING REGULATIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure continues its review of the proposed hydraulic fracturing filing regulations. I am pleased to table its Research Summary: Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Filing Regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 278-17(5):
ARTICLE FROM RAPPAPORT, FEBRUARY 13,
2009: DIAMOND MINING IMPACT ON PEOPLE,
WILDLIFE IN NWT OF CANADA

TABLED DOCUMENT 279-17(5):
ANNUAL GENERAL SAHTU SECRETARIAT
RESOLUTION NO. 4 REGARDING FRACKING

TABLED DOCUMENT 280-17(5):
ARTICLE FROM DEH CHO DRUM, MAY 7, 2015:
NORTH IS RIPE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

MR. YAKELEYA: I have three documents to table. The first one is on the Diamond Mining Impact on People, Wildlife in Northwest Territories of Canada. Another document tabled is Resolution No. 4 regarding fracking from the Sahtu Secretariat Annual General Meeting, August of 2014. I have a third document to table, it's from the Northern News web poll in the Deh Cho, Thursday May 7, 2015, with the question: Do you support fracking in the Northwest Territories? With 60 percent saying yes, 40 percent saying no.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Colleagues, we're going to call a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I'll call the House back to order. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Bromley.

Motions

MOTION 44-17(5):

COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC REVIEW OF HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, DEFEATED

MR. BROMLEY: WHEREAS many people in the NWT are greatly concerned about serious and lasting impacts of horizontal hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on their health, water, air, climate, fish, wildlife, land and communities;

AND WHEREAS water is one of our most precious resources and the foundation of our ecosystem, and the majority of water contaminated with hydraulic fracturing chemicals is poisoned forever and must ultimately be stored underground with unknown future risk;

AND WHEREAS scientists have determined that 80 percent of currently known unrecovered reserves of fossil fuels, including those in the NWT, must remain in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change and associated risks to human civilization;

AND WHEREAS regional and community Aboriginal government motions calling for a hold, a moratorium or a ban on fracking until a comprehensive public review of the practice can be conducted have been passed by the Sahtu Secretariat Inc., the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Dehcho First Nations, the Akaitcho Government, the Dene Nation, and the Liidlii Kue First Nation;

AND WHEREAS a petition containing 1,142 signatures was tabled on June 2, 2015, urging GNWT to put a moratorium on fracking permits until a comprehensive, transparent and public review of the cumulative environmental, social and economic risks and benefits of the process is completed and the NWT public clearly indicates whether the risks and benefits are acceptable or not;

AND WHEREAS on May 8, 2014, the NWT Elders Parliament unanimously supported a motion calling for a moratorium on fracking in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS on March 12, 2014, a petition was presented in this House that was signed by 796 people from at least 24 NWT communities insisting that the GNWT exercise its authority under the MVRMA to refer future fracking applications to a full environmental assessment that includes public hearings was presented in this House;

AND WHEREAS recent public engagements on proposed fracking regulations have heard from people throughout the Northwest Territories, some of whom called for a moratorium and public consideration of the question of whether we want to pursue fracking in the Northwest Territories or not;

AND WHEREAS the Council of Canadian Academies released a report in April 2014, titled

“Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada” that looked at horizontal fracking for both gas and oil, and recommends a cautious approach to fracking and says more research and information is needed on its impacts;

AND WHEREAS many jurisdictions around the globe, including the Canadian jurisdictions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick, have imposed moratoria or bans on fracking, at least until further research and review;

AND WHEREAS our neighbouring Legislature in Yukon conducted a comprehensive and public review of fracking over two years and was unable to come to agreement on whether the risks of fracking are acceptable;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of horizontal hydraulic fracturing are wide-ranging and not well understood, especially in the North with the added complications of permafrost;

AND WHEREAS community members of all ages wish to be fully informed, consulted and involved in discussions around fracking and the risks and benefits in their regions;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories needs more baseline information and better monitoring plans that involve elders, the community and traditional knowledge;

AND WHEREAS fracking operations in one region of the NWT will have impacts on every other region of the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the oil and gas industry has indicated that given current and forecast economic conditions, they are unlikely to be active with fracking operations in the NWT for a number of years;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing within our jurisdiction;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the government immediately establish a moratorium on horizontal hydraulic fracturing activity for at least two years, or until the completion of a comprehensive, transparent and public review of the cumulative environmental, social and economic risks and benefits of the process. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion. I would like to welcome into the House former Speaker in Nunavut, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

---Applause

It's always good to have my relatives come in. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, this motion is a reflection of the voice of the people of the

Northwest Territories. They have written a petition, phoned, e-mailed, demonstrated, spoken at engagement sessions and petitioned, again, all without a single nod from either the Premier or the Minister of Industry to indicate that their voices have been heard.

The whereases of this motion speak clearly to those broad and deeply felt concerns about fracking, perspectives that have been clearly expressed by all of our regional Aboriginal governments and by all of those jurisdictions that have instituted bands and moratoria on fracking.

Concern for water is one of the first and most fervent ones I hear about from our residents. People consider water our most precious resource, our most precious and life-sustaining resource. They tell me that permanently contaminating great volumes of it with hydraulic fracturing chemicals and ultimately storing it in this state under unknown security forever is against their values, disrespectful and against the laws of nature. Many are knowledgeable about the science behind the impacts of fracking and point out the commonality between their concerns about water, their values and the concerns being expressed in scientific studies.

People are also not convinced that the NWT regulator is able to regulate fracking safely when so many people have expressed concerns; when the Canadian Council of Academies study, commissioned by Environment Canada, underscores the unknown risks involved; and where there are incidences of such failures to successfully manage risks, failures that resulted in human illness and health impacts, polluted service and potable underground water bodies, toxic air emissions and soaring greenhouse gas emissions. People know of the hordes of non-disclosure agreements that attempt to, and often do, obscure the facts.

I appreciate the Minister's and regulator's apparent confidence as he promotes this form of exploitation, but I cannot help but see the people's point that he has no experience on which to base this dangerously naive endorsement of such a controversial practice.

Our public has watched our neighbour, the Yukon Legislature, conduct a comprehensive, transparent, thorough and public review of fracking and come to the conclusion, similar to the Canadian Council of Academies, that they could not agree that it was safe and the risks manageable. All of this over a two-year period, while our residents passed a blanket of regional government resolutions and territory-wide petitions with record numbers of signatures in repeated but unsuccessful efforts to get GNWT to recognize the degree of concern that people have.

At the same time, people were calling for participation in an environmental review of

ConocoPhillips' proposed fracking projects. Despite the opportunity to hear the people's voice and despite having the power to support the public's call, the ConocoPhillips project went ahead without this review, "partly," our government said, "to demonstrate how fracking can be done safely." Where are the evaluation projects residents were led to expect?

People have heard about the many close calls, the jackknifed trucks of produced water, the onsite incidents and accidents with the water and sewage spills. They know that there were months of gas flaring, but they are told the types and amounts of emissions are proprietary for now.

People are clearly calling for a discussion of what the science says about the risks of the fracking, what elders' traditional knowledge says about fracking, and what the concerns of our youth are, as our youth are the ones most affected by our decisions today.

Our people have questions, opinions, thoughts, insights, and values that they want to present and have considered. They are saying they aren't being heard and that this is unacceptable.

The Premier says we worked so hard for devolution of authority over our land and resources in order to give the people of the North a voice and bring governance home to reside with the people. Well, we have devolved, but this government chooses not to hear the people despite the clear and persistent communications through all the channels available to them. For shame. For shame.

You will hear about balance and how we must weigh the health of our planet against the jobs in energy our people need. Yet again, people and scientists tell me we have balanced ourselves into a place where our addiction to oil is now threatening human civilization's very survival. Balance has brought us worldwide and extreme water woes and species extinctions unseen since the last big planetary catastrophe, and disastrous weather patterns, all of which cumulatively dwarf the benefits of any last gasp attempts to exploit remote, extremely expensive and barely accessible fossil fuels. If this is balance, people want none of it here in the Northwest Territories.

People want a thorough discussion about fracking, but they are not opposed to truly sustainable development. They have many perspectives to share on how to pursue those opportunities, but this is beyond the scope of this motion. The motion today reflects their call for a minimum two-year moratorium on fracking, or until a comprehensive public review of the risks of fracking is completed and the public indicates whether those risks are acceptable or not.

There is an old Navajo proverb that you can't wake up a person who is pretending to be asleep. I

sincerely hope there are exceptions to this observation and that this Minister, this regulator, and this Premier will stop pretending to be deaf to the people's voice. Wake up and show it with their support for this motion.

I thank my seconder, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, and my colleagues for their support in bringing this motion forward, and I look forward to further discussion.

I will be calling for a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll allow the seconder to the motion, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm privileged to second this motion here today. I know my views have changed over the last year and a half here, but there's a lot of concern out there, especially in my riding. All the water in this territory comes to the Mackenzie Delta. It comes right down the Mackenzie River from the Sahtu. My constituents are very concerned about what kinds of pollutants will come down in the future. They're not thinking about today.

We may make a few million in this territory over the next couple of years, but what is that going to cost in the future, to have our waterways polluted? Our wildlife depends on our water and our environment. That is what my constituents are thinking about at this time.

Our future generations, what are they going to have? Are they going to have clean water like we have here today? You could go to almost any creek and in the mountains and drink that water, but what about the future? That's what my constituents are thinking about right now.

They're looking down the road 15, 20 years. What is this territory going to look like at that time? I know there are a lot of people out there right now who want us to okay fracking so that we can make a couple hundred million dollars. My constituents have said that our water and our environment is priceless and they want to ensure that if this moves forward, that we see what happens to the Sahtu in the next 10 to 15 years.

This moratorium just asks for a hold for the next couple of years so that we can ensure that we give out more education on fracking. Even to this territory, it's very new to us. We've only been speaking about this for the last two to three years here. For that reason, I am seconding this motion.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to quickly say I am going to support this particular motion. I do have a fair bit of comments, but I think what I would be doing is duplicating my statement today, because I have a fair bit to add

and speak on the plebiscite motion, which is almost, in some ways, the similar theme.

That said, to save my good colleagues from hearing them twice, I'll just say I'll be supporting the motion, and I'll say, "Look forward to my comments," my good colleagues. "I have some great, passionate statements to make in a few minutes on the plebiscite motion."

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in support of this motion. I've spoken for probably a year now about the need for us to have a conversation on fracking, a public conversation on fracking, and to engage our residents, to help them learn more, to help them ask the questions that they want asked so they can get the information that they are seeking. I spoke last week in my statement and said that we need to have a conversation on fracking. It has yet to happen, and the answers from the Minister to my questions indicates that this government is not prepared to stop looking at regulations and have the conversation about if we should frack.

I also spoke on Tuesday and said the same thing, that we need to have a conversation on fracking. This motion will help us to do that. As Mr. Bromley said, the whereases in the motion speak for themselves. The public has asked for a conversation. They've asked for a review. They've asked for something similar to what the Yukon did and over a two-year period. We have the time. We know that there is not going to be development in the Sahtu over the next at least year, two years, even longer I gather, is what the industry is saying.

It is a perfect time, in my mind, for us to stop, do the consultation and the total review on the merits and benefits of fracking. I believe that's the wording in the motion. It's badly needed, and I wish, as Mr. Bromley said, that the government would start listening to what the people are asking for.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the mover and the seconder of this motion. I think a lot of the information that's in this motion is true. I think we do need to get more information out to the public, but at this current time I don't think it's an appropriate time to have this motion. I think it's too early in the process. Our government is currently looking at all the regulations and discussing this.

The Member has indicated that there is no indication that there is any discussion about discussing hydraulic fracturing anymore. The Ministers in this House indicated that we're going to take our time. We know there's a natural moratorium. All the industry companies have told us that they're not going to be here for another two

years at least, so this motion to have a moratorium is moot. It doesn't do anything, because we already have a natural moratorium happening.

Our committee, the Economic Development and Infrastructure committee, the mover and seconder are on it. They know that we are putting that information out to the public, getting the public informed. I think most of the concerns that I've been hearing are people want to know more information before they make a decision, so we need to do that. I agree that this government has maybe failed in the fact that maybe we should have brought out a whole discussion.

Some of the other Members have talked about the Yukon. The Yukon spent two years going through the process, and I do believe the Yukon is going ahead. They're going to want to talk about regulation. They're going to want to make sure that is great for the Yukon, great for the Northwest Territories regulations, making this jurisdiction the toughest in the world to do hydraulic fracturing, to protect the land and the water.

I do believe that a lot of the information is there, but I don't think we need to stop this process right now. I think we need to carry on. We need to keep the pressure on the government, to make sure that regulations are done correctly and our public is informed on hydraulic fracturing. We're doing that. We have a press release out right now. We have all kinds of information. Our research has been spending tons of time. EDI has been looking at this for over two years. We need to get that information out to the public and let the public decide that decision after a process, not to take a knee-jerk reaction and say, "Let's have a moratorium."

A motion to say moratorium says, "Industry, we're shut down for business. We don't want the business here for at least two years." Well, we know that the diamond mines are getting to their shelf life on some of them. Where is the next opportunity in 10 years from now? If we shut down now for two years, are we shutting down for 25 years? Who knows? We know that anytime there's a holdup in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, any kind of holdup could have an effect for 20 years from now.

I think this motion is a little bit premature. I think maybe even in the fall we could have this motion and have a more serious discussion, once the public has had an opportunity. Now that the regulations have been out and it's a keen topic in the public, once they have that information, then they can make that decision. The problem that I have is some of the people who I've been getting e-mails from are dead set against fracking. It's not even calling for a moratorium; it's just saying no. "Say no."

I don't think a lot of our public believe that or have educated themselves to that point to say,

"Absolutely no." I think the majority of our public is saying, "You guys are doing regulations already and we're not up to speed. We haven't been given all the information on that." I agree; we need to give them that information. Let's do that. Let's not put a moratorium on it at this time. Let's get the information out to the public. Let's keep the discussion going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the mover and the seconder for bringing this motion forward. Obviously, it has been a big issue, and we did have a little bit of a theme day on this during this sitting.

On April 9th, during my Member's statement that I made in the House on the community engagement that I attended in Inuvik, I mentioned there was a lot of participation. There were over 30, as I mentioned. But we also had a lot of leaders from the communities come and show their concerns. A lot of it, as you heard from my colleague Mr. Blake, was concern over downstream, should there be spillage or something happen that these fracking chemicals get into the water and eventually come down to our neck of the woods and possibly cause some serious damage.

I also wanted to discuss some of these transboundary water agreements and how much water is being used to do this hydraulic fracturing in Alberta and BC and how it's affecting our water levels. If we do go ahead and do this hydraulic fracturing, how much of the water is going to be taken away from our water resources? That will impact our water levels throughout the North at the same time.

However, we're debating this motion in the House right now and there's no activity going on. There's no fracking going on. I believe, and I said in committee this morning, that it's premature to call for such a motion while the government is in the middle of doing a public consultation and public engagement. It criticizes government before for not consulting on various subjects and various matters, and now they're going out and doing their due diligence and we're trying to put a motion in this House and pit Members against Members and put a Member's decision-making forward or not and using it as a piece of an election topic.

Let's have that discussion when election time comes. However, there's nothing going on right now. We're debating a motion on a moratorium of an activity that's not even taking place, you know? Let's wait and see if the department can come up with this comprehensive, transparent public review of the cumulative, environmental, social and economic risks and benefits of this process.

All these big companies that come through the Sahtu said they're not going to be looking at doing any work until 2016-17. If we put this moratorium in place for the two years that they're expecting, well, what we're doing is tying the hands of the 18th Legislative Assembly on the tail end of what we think is important. And it is important. I agree on that. But we're making a decision for Members coming in who would have to make the big decisions, looking at our debt, looking at our programs and services and looking at how we do business for residents of the Northwest Territories.

When is the economy going to pick up? Who knows? Yet we're going to be tying the hands of the decision-makers in the next government on a process that's not even happening right now.

I understand the case. Let's wait to see if the government can give us those reports. Once we get them, then we'll have this debate, then let's make this decision. And if what we get from them we don't agree with, then let's put this moratorium in place. But right now I think we're debating a motion on something that's not even happening and it's putting us in a very awkward position to discuss something that's not even happening in the Northwest Territories right now. It might not even happen in the 18th Assembly. So let's look at it in that sense.

These public engagements are going to put a moratorium in place. You'll hear it from my constituents and hear it from people across the North. Sure, there are a lot of people who are uneducated on hydraulic fracturing. These public engagements can actually educate our residents and tell them the process of what's actually happening. In these public engagements, and as I mentioned during my Member's statement, there are whole new requirements to meet northern priorities. As we said, devolution came down the pipes. We've taken on this decision-making, and under that, our government has decided to put four new requirements to meet northern priorities on the proposed regulations that we have right now: baseline surface and groundwater information. Companies are doing that right now. While they're not looking at drilling, they're going out and doing that work right now.

I think the big thing that I heard about public disclosure is that they want to make the voluntary disclosure practice mandatory. Tell us everything that's in your fracking ingredients. Then there are also measures to address air quality and also enhanced supporting. I think it was ConocoPhillips that just released their report recently. It's a big document and I haven't had a chance to read it, but that's the reporting that we need to make a decision on something that we're discussing right now. How many Members have read that report? I haven't. We're trying to make decisions on it and yet there's

a report out there that's discussing this. Has the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure read it? You know, those are questions we have to ask ourselves. Trying to make decisions without the facts is a big concern of mine. We have to start making decisions based on facts and consultations.

As I said earlier, one of the big things, one question I brought up was why are we going to go ahead with hydraulic fracturing when we don't even have buy-in from all the groups? That's where the education comes in.

Last year I saw it through a lot of media. Husky and Conoco both declared plans on any type of drilling exploration actually be demobilized out of the communities, and we see the economic impact that had on the Sahtu. You know, you went from 36 local companies down to, what, six? That's people with jobs. The income assistance went down. There were a lot of benefits and that's what we need.

You're going to hear it from Members on this side also. You know, debates and calls for jobs in our communities. You've heard here in the House before that we have the highest unemployment rates in the small communities. Right now throughout the world you have a slump in oil prices. We're not the only jurisdiction that has seen a downturn in the economy and that has no jobs; it's right across the world. Yet we're making it even harder to try to get those jobs.

With doing this on the tail end... The response of the Energy Charrette report was just tabled in the House today. We don't even know what's in that. You don't even know what's coming out of it. What's the action plan? There might be a better action plan in that Energy Charrette that we can work with what's going on now, but we're putting on a moratorium to stop moving forward. Plus the Transportation Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, as I'm trying to make my comments, I'm hearing a little bit of sidebar here, or comments.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Moses has the floor. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A big thing is the Transportation Strategy. You know, we heard from the Mineral Association of Canada when we had NWT Days and they said that in order to ship resources out, we need infrastructure and I think that questions I had earlier today for the Minister of Transportation show that we need that infrastructure in place so we can start creating jobs. Even if it's not directly related to the oil industry, at least we're creating jobs.

All you've got to look at is what's happening up in our region: the Inuvik Tuk Highway; a decrease in income assistance; you've got more people working, more families that are able to secure jobs; even the youth that are coming up; so there are a

lot of benefits there, even if it's just working on building that infrastructure up the Mackenzie Valley. During the whole education process of the public engagements, what I heard from that engagement was the shale potential, shale potential for the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, of course in the Sahtu, Liard Basin, Cameron Hills. There are tons of it all over the Northwest Territories and, you know, a lot of potential.

Let's wait until we hear the reports. Let's see what the government can do before we decide to stop anybody from doing anything. Like I said, we're debating something that's not even happening right now.

Coming from the other side of the committees that work and operate in the government, I chair the Standing Committee on Social Programs. You know, we fight for every nickel and dime to provide treatment, to provide counselling, education, work within the justice services. You know, we talk about health centres, schools. We talk about infrastructure to make it the best possible services and programs for the residents who need them.

Last year we just passed a \$1.7 billion budget for a population of about 43,000 people, which is, I think, a lot of money when you look at it. I know that we cannot continue to sustain those kinds of programs and services for the people and residents without getting any kind of source of revenue somewhere else. Yet we're one of the leaders in the world in terms of the shale activity, and I know we do need jobs.

When I ran my campaign, I ran on a social agenda and I still pushed that agenda but learned more about what we need as a territory and as a government, and I think residents also need to see this side of the picture. They need to know that we need jobs to keep our economy going, to keep our government going and to provide a tax base and also provide revenue to keep our programs, our social programs – income assistance, housing, education, Student Financial Assistance – going and operating.

So this motion today is going to be very interesting. We're trying to already put the shackles on the 18th Assembly. Even in the 18th, like I said, this might not even happen. I look at it on both sides. I'm trying to make a conscious decision, based on the facts and based on what we're still waiting to hear from the government. But we're trying to pass a moratorium on something that's not even happening in the Northwest Territories, and that just boggles my mind and I think that we should, when that happens, when we get the reports, when we get all the information that we need, and if we don't like it then, then let's bring the moratorium forward and let's say, "Hey, you guys went out. You did your consultation. We don't like it. Let's put the moratorium in." Then we can stop it.

We've got another sitting of this government in September and I think that's when this moratorium should have been introduced, not at the tail end of this, not when we've got the Energy Charrette report, not when we've got the Transportation Strategy. I think we should have got it when we've got all the pieces of the puzzle together and then make a decision on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to briefly provide my constituents, especially the elders, in terms of the context, in terms of explaining the process of fracking. So I just want to take a couple of moments just to explain to them who are out in the communities.

[English translation not provided.]

Fracking is generally the practice of putting water underneath the ground and ensuring that something comes up, and that's normally the petroleum resources that are hard to get at. That's the practice that we're debating today.

I stand in support of this motion because, you know, we have done moratoriums in this House before. Recently we did a moratorium on evictions. Back in the '70s, I think everybody is familiar with the Berger Inquiry and the Berger Report and he put in place a moratorium back in 1977. So, moratoriums are not something new to us and, you know, the timing is perhaps something we need to reflect upon.

We've seen, over the past year, a warming trend where we've experienced extreme drought conditions. We have on record, forest fires that basically decimated the southern part of the NWT and we're still experiencing drought-like conditions and it's not only in the NWT, it's all over North America. For that matter, around the world we're seeing just how it is that global warming doesn't stop and doesn't have any time. It will continue to advance forward, and it is inevitable that more than likely it will impact two very critical things that I believe play a large part in this whole discussion. One of them is permafrost and the other one is water. You know, we're seeing a warming trend.

I'd like to know, and this is where our counterparts in Yukon have taken their time, is to study what kinds of impacts global warming will have on permafrost and, at the same time, how hydraulic fracking will impact permafrost. We don't really know, and we're living in a part of the world where permafrost is very critical. At the same time, it almost acts like a sponge for us to retain water, and water at this point has become a very precious and critical resource and we can't take it for granted. We're seeing, perhaps, water in decline in all parts of the world and we need to ensure that we take measures to conserve this valuable product.

You know, I understand, in terms of oil and gas development, the need for jobs and businesses, and colleagues have very vividly painted the picture that there's a slowdown in oil and gas activity all over the world because of the oil prices. Yes, I understand that, but at the same time I think what's very important to remind ourselves is that we didn't really allow the public, in terms of having their input of how they believe this government should be reflective of the government and be for the government. This is an opportunity where we, as elected leaders from our constituents, express to them, reassure them that yes, indeed, this motion reflects their sentiments and their concerns. So, for those reasons, it's a simple task for me to stand in support of this motion and ensure it goes forward. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned the other day, it's hard not to get caught up in this polarizing drama when the concept of fracking is discussed, and we did that the other day and we're doing it today as well. So, the truth, Mr. Speaker, as I said, this well has been poisoned a very long time ago, with both extreme views on both sides of the fence, on ideology, scepticism and now science is being involved.

Looking around the globe, activists, social media, environmentalists, scientists, industry and media have done a commendable job getting this issue on the floor of democracy, and today, in our House, we find ourselves debating this motion brought forward by two of our Members.

This motion today, calling for a ban or moratorium on fracking, is a passionate plea and a sign of heartfelt sympathy. However, we cannot afford to walk away from our economic duties as newfound stewards of the land and we cannot ignore the economic potential from responsible resource development.

Yes, as I said earlier, we can all agree that there are risks. All large-scale human activities have them, which is why we must subject ourselves with the highest degree of environmental integrity to the objective of managing this new resource development.

As a Member of this House, I have a duty to all Northerners to protect the land, the water and resources from unwarranted adverse effects, and I intend to do this. Yet, I am equally bound to support the immense benefits of responsible economic developments for its people.

I have witnessed, as we heard from Mr. Moses, first-hand our social umbrella expend a greater deficit without any economic balance whatsoever, and consequently, in order to achieve this balance in society, we need to look at these opportunities

and investment and growth with a proper diversified and environmentally sound economy.

Unfortunately, today's motion contains a litany of issues, some pursuant to fact, others subject to opinion. Yet, to debate each one of them will not distance ourselves from our legal authority to regulatory responsibility under this current act.

I have always said one must find the simplicity of the situation, and in this case, the journey to get there is more important than the decision, and dealing with hydraulic fracturing is no different. Therefore, we must continue and support this comprehensive public engagement that is occurring within our government regulatory authority, and supporting any sort of a ban or a moratorium goes directly against the premise of gathering this important knowledge. We need to manage such risk. As we've heard today, it is just too premature.

In the end, we are, and continue to be, a resource-rich economy which has the ability to provide meaningful input in our assessment and management of those economic risks and benefits. We have demonstrated responsibly that we can bring significant employment and business opportunities to our residents, as our diamond mines are a clear example of this success.

To look at this another way, without a mineral resource-based economy, we are a have-not territory, plain and simple. Supporting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing will have unlimited and significant impact on the future of our economy. I can assure you, sending such a message to the private sector and to the world markets that the NWT is not open for business will result in a complete erosion of confidence for decades, if not generations.

Outside of Yellowknife, where the economic picture is extremely dire, shutting down opportunities from responsible economic developments and benefits will affect our smallest communities, and this I cannot let happen, especially under my watch.

To Mr. Bromley: I'd like to thank you for bringing the motion forward, and to Mr. Blake for seconding it and allowing this debate today. I wish I could support you folks today, but unfortunately, as we've heard today, I find this is a bit too premature. As we heard, we have a natural moratorium built into the program right now, and let's let the department finish the job that it was given instructions to do. I think this is going against that premise.

As I said the other day, there are no winners in this, just merely survivors of opinion, and for that, I'd like to thank everyone today for allowing this debate to occur.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Sahtu we believe we can do better because we have the tools now with our hands to create our own destiny, not from Ottawa or not from Yellowknife anymore. They've gone through many changes and have adapted to those changes as part of our life.

In the '20s, Norman Wells oil development began and is still in this process of developing.

However, the principle of recognition of who we are remains firm. We are our own people in this great land of our ancestors. No one can deny our life's opportunities, either good or bad, and only good if we're responsible and bad if we're irresponsible. But the fact remains, it is our decision alone to make when the Sahtu decided to accept the land in 1993 and it became law. We made a decision to take action, to become a participating member of Canada and build our sovereignty to create opportunities for our institutions and make decisions on how we will protect our land and use our economic activities.

Canada asked the Sahtu if they wanted lands to be opened for exploration. The Sahtu met and decided and said yes. It's an important point here. Canada asked, not imposed. The residential school days are over.

Last year the Sahtu passed a motion. The motion was drafted and voted on. Earlier in this House today I tabled a motion. The motion talks about working together with the GNWT. It talks about looking at the potential risks, the benefits, sharing of information, seeking the advice of regulations and experts and providing the public report, including recommendations. That's what the Sahtu wanted in that motion last year. The motion is about working together. What other better time to do this, because today we have an economic self-moratorium. There is nothing, zilch, nil going on in the Sahtu with regard to hydraulic fracking or any other types of exploration in the Sahtu.

Earlier today EDI said they're eager to participate in the process. Today we also have the mover and the seconder on the EDI to continue this process of regulations. I'd like to say to the EDI members, why don't you come to the Sahtu? Visit the Conoco leases, read their report and see what types of negative impacts it has done in the two wells that it fracked. Better yet, I would say go down to Fort Liard. As reported in the Economic Strategy, the National Energy Board approved the commercial discovery to produce sweet gas, 12 million cubic metres per day from multi-fractured horizontal wells. Go down there. Do your homework. Check it out.

My colleague, I have family down where he lives. I'm concerned for what he talked about, but today I have not seen any type of evidence, factual evidence that the water that has been used in the

fracturing process has gone down. They put tracers down into the ground to see if anything was coming up. Zilch. Nothing yet. But yet, at the same time, Imperial Oil renewed its water licence for 10 years. There are billions of litres that are going down to his country, Good Hope, and it's going to happen for 10 years. We did not see anybody doing any hard letter-writing campaign from outside our region. Nobody there picketing. Nobody flying up to protest. We allowed that. Imperial got approved. Billions of litres are going to be injected into the 179 producing wells that they have. One hundred seventy wells are well-injected. It means that they're putting stuff down there to bring the oil up.

There are 386 wells in the proven area, and there are billions of litres that are coming out of the Mackenzie. A lot of it has been going on in the ground, and billions are going to be returned back to the Mackenzie River.

I don't see this government jumping up or anybody on this side saying, "Put some water stations down in Fort Good Hope to know the impacts of long-term, cumulative effects." This is 2015. This kind of stuff has been happening since the 1920s. We know the industry. We lived it. We breathed it.

That's what we're saying. Because of that type of stuff that was going on, the Sahtu said, "We're going to negotiate." After we finished our land claim negotiations it became law. Imperial Oil went up the Mackenzie River to Bluefish Creek to do some work. They didn't inform us. We told them, "You can't do this anymore. We have a new law in town." You know what they did? They got mad. They loaded up their barge and took off down to The Wells.

Their attitude wasn't even saying we're sorry. For too long they've been doing things like this. That's why in the Sahtu we wanted to have a land claim to create our own destiny.

I want to say that by working together we can move things, and by working together we can educate each other. I'm learning. Even though I don't agree with some of the points, I'm learning. I'm learning something, and there's so much data out there. There are important ones and unimportant ones. I'm trying to figure what's the information, what's fact and what's fiction. I'm trying to educate myself and I want to continue to do it today on what's available. There's lots of stuff. Facebook, that's a whole different world, you know? So, I'm trying to look at what's available that would give us active data on this new technology and not distort it and just question it. That's what I tell the people. Learn about it; educate yourself about it. I say that because it's the messaging that's getting out there and it's really important that we get the proper message out there.

A 2011 survey, age 15 and over in the Sahtu, 245 people were unemployed, 550 people were not in

the labour force. However, as I researched more, also in the same year, 995 were employed versus 245 that were not working.

So the point is the messaging. Who do you listen to and how does it come across? In the Sahtu we have lots and lots of work to do.

All we're saying is that if you're thinking about putting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, I ask my colleagues put a moratorium on the diamond mines first before you start calling for a moratorium on oil and gas. Let's call it even-even. We will not tell you how to do your business in Yellowknife or around the region.

We have a land claim; it's settled, it's a constitutionally protected document. We have provisions on our land and water board. We have provisions in our Sahtu Land Use Plan, 10 years in the making by elders who are not even sitting in our home communities right now. We have provisions in our land; we have jurisdiction. Respect that jurisdiction because time is on our side. Right now time is on our side.

I ask the Members on my side of the table, this side here, to look at what's before the House. What are the measures that are coming out, and that, as Mr. Moses said, we have to look at a number of factors. The number one that I'm looking at is the message that we have to send our children to not be afraid. We have to deal with what we have to deal with, otherwise we're going to be crippled and be in poverty and we do not want to be in that state. So, I want to say in closing that this motion should never see the light of day again in this House, and I mean it. A motion like this, I'm really wondering about it because we have Members who want to put the cart before the horse. We wanted the control. We asked for it; they gave it to us. Now it's in our lap and let's be responsible. We can do it.

Again, I say that time is running out on our legislation, our time in this Assembly. Let's make some hard decisions and let's start the 18th Assembly with a clean slate.

So, as you probably know by now, I'm not going to support this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Ramsay, to the motion.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has already made a commitment to the people of the Northwest Territories to take the time that we need to ensure that we get this right and that we intend to do just that. There is no oil and gas activity in the Northwest Territories today and we don't expect to see any for at least the next couple of years. This pause gives us the opportunity to look at the science, to look at best practices from around the world and to design a world-class approach to managing it. Time is on our side and we should use that time to our advantage.

Last week I committed publicly to take the time that is necessary to ensure that Northerners understand this important issue. I remain committed to that and this government remains committed to that. We've already initiated a public dialogue on hydraulic fracturing, and it is important for that process to play out so that Northerners can better understand what this is all about and what is at stake. As a government, we want to see that dialogue with Northerners continue so that together we can understand the issue and decide how best to manage it.

Just over a year ago we gained responsibility of our regulatory system through devolution. We took up that responsibility and we told NWT residents that we could serve them well. We said that Northerners would be in charge, that we would be in charge and we are in charge. We promised to maintain the fundamental aspects of the regulatory system that have been established through the land claims and territorial and federal legislation. The system reviews every project multiple times, making sure projects are in the public interest. Land and water boards regulate the use of land and water in our territory. The departments of ITI, Lands and ENR have important roles in the system. Other public agencies are involved in inspections and in management.

That system works. We can trust the system and we can strengthen the system. We can design made-in-the-North rules that benefit the territory and its people. Working to build that system with the people of the North is our primary focus. We've already started to do that, and we already know we have the time that we need to get the work done. We need to keep moving forward with our work to build a strong, robust system here in the Northwest Territories.

These are the reasons why the government will not be supporting this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. I'm going to allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to thank all of my colleagues for their participation in the debate today and of raising their various perspectives.

First of all I'd like everybody to realize, in the Northwest Territories, that we're talking about very big dollars here, very, very big dollars, and when we are doing that you can get a real distortion and move away from objectivity into distorted views and so on and a lot of biases.

So, I know it's frustrating for the public, but that's not unusual and it's something we have to deal with. The public's voice will be prevailing, but I think it's important to know that we are talking about very big dollars here and that's causing many people to

have the views that they do have. I would say we need to listen to our elders, and our elders, when they were in this House, spoke with a unanimous voice very clearly on fracking and what they thought.

This gets back to what my seconder said very clearly: The concern is about our future. It's about our water. Will it be safe? It's about our land. Will it look and feel and actually be the same into the future for our children and our coming generations?

We've heard that people have called for a formalized opportunity. My colleagues have called for a formalized opportunity for a thorough conversation on the risks of fracking. The government is clearly refusing to do that. They will talk about how to get fracking done, but they are refusing to have that conversation.

I've heard my colleagues call for a real opportunity to get information out on the table for discussion from all angles, an example of the data. That's what is being refused here today.

I guess we heard that informing the public, we need to educate our residents. This is so incredibly arrogant. One of the biggest difficulties for me, serving the public, is to hear this sort of arrogance. I am continually impressed with the knowledge of the public that I interact with. There may be an education needed, for sure, but from what I see and hear, it's not only outside of this House where education is needed.

I think somebody mentioned it is a moot point. We do have a quiet period of time and that's certainly true. But consider two things: The government is on record of permitting fracking without environmental review already. This is not an unknown situation, so the public is reacting to that, of course. Secondly, the public is calling for the moratorium. This is not something we've come up with ourselves. The public are the ones who have signed the petitions by the thousands. You've heard from them in many different ways. That moot point is a bit of a moot point there.

Social programs need dollars. I hope my colleagues realize I pushed very hard for spending in the social area. It is the reason why I always push for the triple bottom line. We cannot do these things in isolation. To allow and even support the damage to our environment and reducing the ability of our environment to support life in order to try to support the social side of things is biting ourselves in the butt. That's why I always encourage people to try to get to both meetings – the social, environment and economic discussions – so we can have that rounded picture.

The point about deciding to put a moratorium in place when all information is collected, unfortunately the government is on record for permitting fracking without an environmental review

and they are saying they will not have this comprehensive discussion this motion calls for. That's the important part, not the moratorium. The important part of the motion is it calls for a comprehensive, transparent and public discussion and review of the risks and a public decision on whether or not those risks are acceptable. That is not clearly on the government's agenda, as we've heard today.

I think it would have been great to learn more about the ConocoPhillips wells, and I have attempted to do that through written questions, as suggested by my colleague for the Sahtu. But, of course, that information is proprietary and confidential. I was told I can't have that for a couple of years.

Finally, I would agree that this will certainly be an election issue no matter what we do, and that will be appropriate. Many people wanted to seek a ban and I have been a proponent of a moratorium as opposed to a ban. They wanted a ban based on some pretty good information, very convincing.

Again, I encourage consideration of a moratorium. I guess I now would encourage the public to go for a ban. We know that fracking is not healthy for people and our future. I again encourage people to look at the committee research report on the draft fracking regulations that were tabled today.

Speaking to my colleagues, I wanted to thank the researcher for the extraordinary work that she did, Megan Welsh, on producing that report.

I guess I would just like to finalize by letting the public know their voice certainly will prevail ultimately. Mahsi.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All Members in favour of the motion, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Mr. Bromley, Mr. Blake, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Mr. Yakeleya; Mr. Beaulieu; Mr. Abernethy; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South; Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Ramsay; Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. Dolyunny; Mr. Bouchard; Mr. Moses.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please stand. Five in favour, 11 opposed. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

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 business before the House.

Mr. Hawkins.

MOTION 45-17(5):
 PLEBISCITE ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
 IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES,
 DEFEATED

MR. HAWKINS: WHEREAS the Elections and Plebiscites Act provides that the Commissioner may, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, direct that a plebiscite be held on any question that is of importance to the people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS discussion and debate of hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories has entered public discourse;

AND WHEREAS the government has recognized the significance of public engagement in this area and announced that engagement on proposed hydraulic fracturing regulations will continue until at least August 2015;

AND WHEREAS, to date, this engagement has shown hydraulic fracturing to be an issue of great importance to the people of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the people of the Northwest Territories should take part in any decision on whether to undertake hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories as well as how to regulate any such activity;

AND WHEREAS the Polling Day of the Northwest Territories General Election will be held on Monday, November 23, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner that a plebiscite be held in the Northwest Territories on Monday, November 23, 2015, with the following question: "Should hydraulic fracturing be permitted in the Northwest Territories?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, today's motion is a plebiscite. It's a motion calling for clear guidance from the public to the Legislature. This motion is something that none of us can lose on if we vote in favour of it. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, this is our opportunity to get the opinion of the public.

Fracking is defined as the topic of today. You see this question all over the place, not just here, not in the Northwest Territories, not in Canada, but all over the world. This is an important question for our time. So, it's not just about what we think we know about fracking, it's also about what we want to know from the public, which is how do they feel.

This motion is simply asking about the authority to frack, nothing more. It doesn't go along and ask the people how to frack, it asks the question, simply,

"Should we be allowed fracking in the Northwest Territories?"

We have polls out there, like the old Nik Nanos that reach out by calling people and they all have margin of errors. But a plebiscite would come forward and it would be clear. It would be in black and white, of the public's opinion.

Now, some will say, and they will be right about this, that the Northwest Territories government is out there getting people's opinions on hydraulic fracturing under the regulations process, and what's at play here is it's not about should fracking happen, it's about how to frack. It's quite a bit different. They're not the same issue.

Should we not ask the permission of the people on such an important issue? It may be correct that they should ask how to frack, but I think that's one step ahead of where we should be today. We need to realize this before we continue too far down that path, before we forget to look back.

Let me stress, Mr. Speaker, this is a plebiscite. The plebiscite asks for clear direction, a public opinion, and a plebiscite motion is non-binding. Under Section 48 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act, it clearly spells out that it isn't binding on the Legislative Assembly, on its Executive Council, or any other person under that purview. So, if it's non-binding, there's nothing for us to be afraid of. If anything, it shows great courage that we were willing to go out to the people and ask them their opinion. Leadership sometimes thinks that. It's not about making decisions in isolation and there's certainly no shame in asking the public what they want. If anything, we should feel enormously proud that we've used our democracy in a way that works. We've gone to the public saying, "What do you think?" We have the ability to make these choices. Let us use that courage to deal with this issue in that manner.

Now, there will be those in favour of fracking, and let me assure them, by supporting this motion it shows leadership, as well, because it is the direction from the masses. We should not be hiding behind maybe a few people making this decision. Let's involve everyone as part of it.

This is an ideological question. It's an environmental question. If anything, this is a question about the future. So let us gain power from the strength of ourselves reaching out to the strength of our people and stand strong and tall. This is certainly the lifetime opportunity we've been looking for by being willing to ask this type of question.

To be clear, this government technically doesn't have a mandate from its people; and the style of government that we run, which is consensus government, never gets one. But wouldn't it be neat if this was a way we could break ranks and allow

our Ministers a free vote? Wouldn't this be a neat way to get a mandate from the people of the Northwest Territories on one clear issue? A mandate could say, one way or the other, if the Territories supports fracking or not. It would be definitive; it would be clear; it would be black and white. We would be able to go forward as a government, as a people.

Now, some would say, "Well, let's wait. We could do this in September." Well, you know, there is no technical sweet spot of when we do these things. You either do them or you don't. So we can wait and we can do an information campaign now; we can wait and do it later; or we could probably not do it at all. But we have to ask ourselves, when would be the right time, and now is it. I trust the public, I really do, and I think the public deserves the opportunity to have their voice heard on this one.

This is not a trivial issue and I wish people would not try to pretend that everything's perfect. We all know that there has been, and I'll be fair, there have been experiences where fracking has not been done well – and there should be no denial of that – and at the same time there have been places where fracking has been done very safely and we know that. But this is an ideological question. This is not a question about has it been done right or has it not been done right. This is a question about what type of northern development do we want here. This issue, honestly, will define a generation, like climate change. I link it to that. How many issues do we have the world talking about? Not many. Let us not miss this opportunity to rise to the occasion.

Now, some don't think this is important and, you know, making a decision, I hope they do see this is important. But people will ask, "Where were you when this decision was made, this incredible decision was made?" People will also ask you, "Where were you and how did you decide as part of this very important decision?" The opportunity to make this decision – empower the people, get them involved, let them be clear – would only cost us \$17,500 if it ran during the next General Election, which is about six months away. Without trying to sound critical, of course, I've seen this government spend millions of dollars on profoundly less important issues over and over again. That's an opinion. I'm not trying to say that it's critical, but we all know spending could be done better in various ways. But I'll tell you, what an amazing amount of investment and public opinion and mandate that would be clear and definitive for such an affordable price.

Now, if you're for fracking, I honestly say this actually helps your argument. If the public votes for it, there you go. And if you're against fracking, well, that helps your argument too. I really don't see a lot of losers in this situation by asking the people what

they want. Let the people play a role in this, because they deserve it. So, this is not about how to frack, this is solely left, should we frack. By the way, to date, to frack or not to frack is left solely in the hands of the seven people on Cabinet. It's not the 19 of us.

So, back to timing. There's the old Goldilocks theory and it's all based on timing. Either too soon, too late, or when it is just right. So, again, some people will say, "Well, let's wait and leave this motion until September. Let's put it off until later." The fact is September is just, frankly, too late. The government or anyone else couldn't get the right information. The government or anyone else couldn't get information out in time. That wouldn't be fair to the issue. That wouldn't be fair to anyone.

Now, some would have said, "Well, we should have done this last session or maybe even last year." Mr. Speaker, that wouldn't have been right either because it would have been so far in advance people would probably not care, not organize properly. So, when is the right time? Now is the right time to make a decision. It's relevant, and with the regulation discussion going on, the timing doesn't get better. The public barometer is there. They're tuning in with their finely tuned antenna, asking themselves, what's happening? They want a role in this particular situation. They want to know. They want to be involved. They want a say.

This does not interfere with the regulation discussion going on. It could go on at the same time and there's nothing to be afraid of. It doesn't debunk that process and, actually, could run concurrently. And there's no worry, Mr. Speaker, we could do it.

The public is asking for an opinion on this one. I'm asking Members to vote to allow them to have an opinion. Should it succeed, I think we've done a monumental thing; that is the motion, that is. We should never be afraid to give the public an opportunity to engage on important issues like this, and frankly, as I said at the beginning, if the plebiscite came forward and whatever the results were, they're non-binding. The government could use them as good advice on how to do business better, or how to do it differently.

As I come to the end of my opening comments I will say this: What better way to have a mandate from the people of the Northwest Territories? There is no clear method to do this through a public plebiscite. This would give any future government the authority to act and how to act. No one could deny that.

The plebiscite question is about all of those communities and all of those peoples and all of those assemblies talking about one thing – their future – and they want to be part of it. It takes courage amongst all of us to make that type of decision. If this motion fails, I will tell you, the public will never be given another chance to have input in

such a similar way as they could today. It's true they can write letters and they can send e-mails and they can demonstrate until the cows come home outside of the Assembly, but the fact is, this is really the sweet spot for them to have a chance to be part of the process and today is their day. So I ask everyone to think about that when they choose to rise about their comments. When they choose their comments, I ask them, let us give the public the chance to weigh in on this very important issue. Mr. Speaker, absolutely, of course, I'll want a recorded vote. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution was supposed to give the people of the Northwest Territories a voice in matters previously decided from afar by faceless bureaucrats with no skin in the game. It has become apparent, as illustrated by the issue of whether we should pursue fracking in the NWT or not, that our public's voice continues to fall on deaf ears and that the government's platitudes about decisions being made by the people of the North were just lip service. The people continue to be unheard when they speak.

That is why when presented with an initiative to give the people an opportunity to speak clearly and directly to the government on a matter of importance to them, I will always be in full support of it. A plebiscite on this contentious issue held in conjunction with our territorial election this fall will provide clear, if narrow, direction to the next Assembly on the issue of whether we should allow the use of hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories or not.

Obviously, it would be much better for this government to hear the people put in place a cost-free moratorium, given the unlikelihood of any industry interest for years, and conduct a comprehensive, transparent and public review of the risks that accompany fracking and whether or not they are acceptable.

Given their apparent deafness and based on their record, my expectations of government to act as requested by the public are low at this point. They have done nothing in response to the clarion call of public: "Why would the government respond to MLAs trying to bring the public voice forward." But we leave no tool untried.

I am confident this will be an issue in the upcoming election one way or another, but for this moment, this is a straightforward, low-cost motion to seek the public's view on fracking. I will support this motion.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mr. Hawkins for bringing the motion forward.

He makes some really good points, some pretty clear points there, and once again, we're trying to make a decision here on something that's not even happening in the Northwest Territories. The economy is so bad right now worldwide, we don't even know what's going to happen in the next government. There's going to be a cost effect to it, no matter how low it is. We're still going to make a decision, throw money at it, and we don't even know what's happening.

The main problem that I have with this plebiscite is the population disparity. We're going to get thousands of people here in Yellowknife who are going to vote against the small community of Norman Wells, the small region of the Sahtu, the small region of the Beaufort-Delta. Every time, regions are going to lose. Small communities are going to lose when we put a plebiscite out like that, and it's not fair to the small communities and it's not fair to the small regions. I think that when we do bring a motion like this into the House, you've got to think about the small communities that we're here to serve. Right there, it's unfair. I can't support this motion on that alone. Especially, like I mentioned, you've got the transportation, the report on the response to the Energy Charrette coming through. We haven't even looked at those yet. We haven't even heard from the public engagement.

Like I said, we're making a decision on something that's not happening right now, and in terms of population disparity, small communities, regions are going to lose. I came here to represent the small communities, the regions, even Yellowknife, but in this case, for such a controversial issue, we know where it's going to go, so I'm not going to vote in favour of this motion. I think it's very unfair to the people of the Sahtu, the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, the Deh Cho where all the shale potential is. I don't think it's fair to them and I think it's almost... I won't even say anything on that yet, but I will leave it at that and I won't be voting in favour of the motion.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated with the last motion, I think some of this stuff is very premature. This motion is even worse. We talked about taking a couple of years in the last motion, taking a couple of years to get information out to the public, get informed. Now we're going to rush it over six months, and now six months from now the public has to make a decision on whether we're going to have a plebiscite or not.

Honestly, our committee didn't even hear about this until a couple days ago. This decision to do a plebiscite, we're going to take this to the people right now? We haven't even completed the process of talking to the people. I mean, my colleagues say they support the fact that we should be listening to the people. I have no problem with that. That's what

I've indicated. We need to keep consultation going. A plebiscite to force them to make a decision on that now or over a period over the next three months when we're in the summer session, how do we get that information out to them to make that decision?

I understand. This is the perfect timing for it if we're going to do it, but I don't think we've gotten all that information out there. We haven't had all that discussion. My colleague Mr. Moses hit it on the head. I mean, with a population of anywhere from 45 to 48 percent sitting in Yellowknife that don't have anything to do with hydraulic fracturing, there's a disparity there.

At this time, we need to stay the course. We need to keep pressure on our government to make sure regulations are as strong as we can have them in this territory, as anywhere else in the world. I will not be supporting this motion.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though I did support the last motion, I will have to abstain on this motion. The reason being is the reason I supported the last motion. As I said, people need more time. As the Member from Hay River mentioned, six months is not enough time. That's why we asked for up to two years for a moratorium here so people can get that information.

We would have had a couple more votes on our last motion if we didn't go ahead with this one, and I was hoping that we didn't. But just with that, I'm abstaining on this one.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My stated goal is that we have a comprehensive public review of fracking, and that is what I wish for. I don't believe that this motion will give enough time for that to happen. I support, certainly, the wish of my colleagues to hear the voice of the people, and I am always open to the voice of the people.

At this point, I don't feel that I can make a decision on this motion. I haven't had time to canvass my constituents. As mentioned, we saw this quite late in the week this week. I've been considering it ever since I first saw the motion and I really don't know how I should vote. I am going to abstain. I don't feel that I can vote against it, because it is the wish of my colleagues that this motion go forward, but I can't vote for it in this particular instance.

I have to comment on a couple of the statements that have been made earlier by my colleagues. It has been stated that we – and I'm presuming by “we” it's talking about us in the House – are making a decision with this plebiscite. I have to disagree. We are not making any decision in terms of

fracking. We are simply giving an opportunity to the public to express their view.

There have been comments about the fact that if there is a plebiscite that the majority of people in Yellowknife will override the people in the regions. What it doesn't do, if there is no plebiscite, is it doesn't allow the people in the regions who are against fracking – and there are a lot of them – to express their voice. I wish we would not pit region against region. I think you will find that there are a lot of people in Yellowknife who probably would support fracking.

However, that said, I want to keep my comments short and that's all that I have at this point.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am going to not support this motion. I find it puzzling. I don't know if it's the appetite of the day or the week, because this motion coming in here and asking us to take a plebiscite to the people in November, and on any question that's important to the people of the Northwest Territories, as MLAs, every Assembly we have questions of importance. I could add on to the plebiscite a number of questions to the people to vote on. It's just a natural process in November when we go to the polling stations, people there vote on the candidacy, on their records, on where they stand on certain positions. You don't need to ask them. They know where you stand. They know what you're saying in the House. You go in the grocery store and they tell you. You go on Facebook and they'll tell you, really tell you. So, you don't need to spend \$17,000. Put that towards an education or youth program. Put it somewhere where it's best to use.

So there are lots of discussions, lots of debates of hydraulic fracking. It's in the public; it's in the bars; it's in the restaurants; it's in the conference rooms; it's in the House. There are lots of discussions, lots of debates, depending on where you sit on the table; depending on what information you get; depending who you believe, who you don't believe. There are lots, even in Yellowknife here. Even for me going down, people talk about fracking. They don't talk about the community or how about fracking is really going on. Let's not kid ourselves here.

Feedback into the regulations, that's happening now. We all have different roles in the Assembly. We all play different roles. We're given these roles to take them on with high integrity and regard and very seriously. We have members on Social Programs, Government Operations and EDI. I see you having a role with EDI asking this question. So I wonder sometimes, is that committee tainted because they're asking these questions? They haven't finished their work yet. That clearly, clearly, if anything, is putting the cart before the horse. Let's

do our work. Let's not pull our potatoes before the first seeds have sprouted and grown up, okay? That, for me, is serious.

However, we all justify our own means of putting things forward and working on them. I respect the members from EDI. I'd respect them more if they went to Norman Wells and did a tour of the Conoco sites.

I want to say something again clear and loud. Read my lips: The Sahtu people have a land claim. They are the ones who said, "Yes, open the lands for exploration." The people of the Northwest Territories, Sahtu, through their jurisdictions, institutions, constitution, protected rights said yes, not the people of the Northwest Territories. That's a clear fact that we're not looking at. We have a land and water board. Look at the Water Board: tight, tight, tight in regard to regulations. Yes, we can learn some more. Look at our Sahtu Land Use Plan. If you were to look at the regulations, you would have four decks of binders of regulations. You go to Alberta there are two decks. You go to Russia, there are no decks. It's pretty rough over there on environmental issues.

So, we've got to put things in perspective. We're in the driver's seat and, like driving a vehicle, it's a privilege. You follow the rules. You obey signs and regulations. There's a good chance that you won't get in an accident, but you never know. Slippery roads, blowout tires, other drivers. That's part of life. There are no guarantees.

I want to say that, again, it's not up to the people. Mr. Hawkins thinks it's up to the people of the Northwest Territories. Very, very clear, even though we do have impacts, it's no different than the diamond mines here in Yellowknife. Have you read their report? They drained five lakes, millions and billions of litres. Does that compare to hydraulic fracturing? It's more like a little teaspoon of water in their buckets of water that they use. Its chemicals are crazy. Thousands of trucks, tens of thousands of trucks that pass through Yellowknife. If our exploration ever hits peak, it's about 2,500 at the most.

We in the Sahtu never interfered because, you know, these benefits down here, we have never said, "Should they have a plebiscite on should they be mining here?" You ever see those pictures of the mines? I have it right here. I don't want to table it because it's a public document already. Drained lakes, 10, 11, 12 hundred fish taken out of the lake. It's just mind-boggling.

So I just wanted to say that Canada asked the people in the Sahtu, and Canada is working with the people in the Sahtu because we have a land claim, and our land claim allows us to participate in the Northwest Territories. It's a sovereign state. It's a sovereign nation, jurisdiction, institution, self-government provisions. It's totally different from the

1920s, '30s and '40s. That's what people of the Northwest Territories outside the region need to understand. We have our own work inside our own region to do and that's what we're basing our decisions on.

So, in short, I will not support the motion.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Bromley for bringing this to the floor of the House today to allow some debate on it here.

The whole idea about devolution was to reduce our dependence on Ottawa. We keep hearing that, that we want to take full control of our lands, our water and resources, and in this process we are evolving. We're going through our evolution, and I think we've shown our ability, in a very short period of time, to deal with our new environmental duties in managing our resource development. It appears, by all accounts, that this government is still listening, the department is still learning, and I think this is a good sign. I still see a government today knocking on the doors of communities and getting feedback on the creation of these regulations, regulations that will form the principles of the environmental protection umbrella that will be governed by Northerners for Northerners.

So, today's motion before us calls for a plebiscite, and we've heard from Mr. Hawkins this is not a binding legal standard and he used the term "a barometer." It's a gauge. It's a kind of a tool to gauge public opinions, but I know that this is not the only tool that can be used by the House and certainly sometimes it's not the most cost effective. In fact, past debates on this very same issue of a plebiscite or a referendum put costs around \$1.8 million to the Minister as a stand-alone event. Now, I know the motion speaks for this question to be added to the ballot of the next General Election, but there will still be a cost and to what extent we really don't know.

I know we've heard today from a Member and also from another Member here that \$17,000 range as a number, and I know this number came from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Now, for all due consideration, Members of this House have only been privy to this number just for a couple hours here, and this number has never been substantiated or validated by any accounting standard or practice and I do have the utmost respect for the chief electoral office and definitely the fine work that they do, but until we see a full cost accounting that breaks down the wages and legal costs, drafting costs, management costs, printing costs, the most we can hope to say at this point is that this motion asks the taxpayer to budget anywhere from \$17,000 to as high as \$1.8 million,

which I know is high, but these are the only numbers we know. At the end of the day, we don't know. I'm not saying it's \$1.8 million, I'm just saying that we don't know. It's somewhere in between.

To the bigger question, as an elected leader, as an elected official of the Northwest Territories, you're here to do what's best for the people we serve. My role, everybody's role here is to act as a fiduciary in protecting of the land, the water and resources and to support any benefits of responsible economic development of the Northerners we serve. I for one have no problem, no problem at all, standing up in this House to represent the views of my riding and the people I serve. To cloud this ability in any form and to resolve our proceedings by plebiscite or even a referendum, for that matter, questions the very system that I hold true, and I'm sure it's the same for many of us here.

So, for that, it's unfortunate that I cannot support this motion. But I do want to thank Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Bromley for bringing it forward today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's fair that in this circle we work in consensus. Looking at this issue of hydraulic fracking, right across Canada there is no consensus. There are jurisdictions in parts of Canada that have put a moratorium on this very matter. This is at the national level. Perhaps looking at the NWT there is indeed no consensus as well. We have some regions that are prepared and want to do fracking. There are some regions that are against it. But at the same time, there are communities that don't have consensus on this matter.

Clearly, the best thing we can do is to try to take this matter to the fullest extent of how we work in principle in terms of consensus. Giving the voice to the people is giving an opportunity for them to express their concern and for us to respectfully listen to them. That's the true spirit of consensus.

This plebiscite is in that spirit and I support it. Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, this government understands that the protection of the land, water and environment matters to Northerners. It matters to us too.

Sustainable responsible development has always been a priority for our government. As part of devolution, we committed to improving and strengthening the way we manage development in the Northwest Territories, to ensure that it reflects northern values and priorities while providing for the

creation of jobs and economic opportunities through responsible sustainable development.

We already have a strong system based on federal and territorial law and obligations established in settled claims and self-government agreements. Decisions must be made within that legislative context and should be consistent with established frameworks and policies like the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, Sustainable Development Policy and NWT Water Stewardship Strategy. That system already provides good tools for managing development in the Northwest Territories with ongoing input from the public. We should continue to rely on that system and focus on making it better.

A plebiscite is not the best way to do that. Plebiscites are not binding. They are simply tools used to gauge public support. They are not the only tool to do that and they certainly are not the most cost effective. Previous estimates of the cost of a plebiscite were approximately \$1.8 million, and we know a significant amount of work and time with Elections Northwest Territories would be required.

We are already engaged in a public conversation about hydraulic fracturing and have committed to taking the time we need to develop good, strong rules about it, rules that are informed by science, best practices and the views of Northerners.

We have plans to continue that conversation and to engage with Northerners across the territory in the coming months. There will be plenty of opportunities during the public engagement for the people of this territory to express their views on the issue of hydraulic fracturing.

Hydraulic fracturing is a complicated issue that cannot be easily reduced to just one question. It has implications for oil and gas development more broadly, and ultimately for the future health and growth of our economy.

We shouldn't reduce something this important to one simple question. We should be having an extensive public discussion about it. The public engagement process we have already undertaken gives us a venue to have that kind of conversation. It gives us the opportunity to dig into the issue and fully understand it. We need to continue that conversation because it will give us a better and rich understanding of what matters to Northerners than a plebiscite would.

We don't need a plebiscite to learn what Northerners think. We already have a process underway and have already committed to taking the time we need to have that conversation with the public. I hope that the public and Members of the Legislative Assembly will take advantage of that to weigh in on the issues in the coming months.

Cabinet will be voting against this motion, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion to have further remarks. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I thank those who have spoken in favour of the motion, and those who spoke against the motion, I probably won't thank you at this time. But in the spirit of consensus government, I do recognize and appreciate and respect your perspectives.

I did hear a few things and they did cause me great concern. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important question, the plebiscite question on hydraulic fracturing. The reality here before us, though, is if we can't use the Plebiscite Act for stuff this important, why bother having it?

I heard the cries of people suggesting things, and I was actually quite upset when I heard colleagues suggest this is about region against region. To be honest, that actually bothered me quite a bit. Yellowknife is not against any region. More particularly, if I may say, Yellowknife, in my opinion, certainly everyone I know isn't against the Sahtu in any way. If anything, we support people in the Sahtu asserting their rights and certainly they deserve economic opportunities. I've never spared an opportunity to say, "People there need economic opportunities because their families matter too." I stand by that and I will always stand by that.

I will tell you, I was quite upset hearing the characterization that this was taking away or denying opportunities. As far as saying Yellowknife against the regions, the real technicality about this is Yellowknife represents approximately 45 percent of the population, so Yellowknife could not take away the opportunity of the territory. A true vote, there's a majority of people outside of Yellowknife.

Again, this was never about Yellowknife against anyone. This is about how do we want to do business and how do we plan to do business.

As I said earlier, the fracking regulations talk about how to frack, not the merits of fracking. They talk about how to frack, not why shouldn't we do this. We should never find this funny and we should never be gloating as we see the numbers laid out before ourselves. This is an important issue. As I said earlier, if we couldn't use the Plebiscite Act to do something like this, then why even have it some days?

I did hear the number of \$1.8 million. That is not a true number. People can keep saying it and they can repeat it as much as they want, but it doesn't make it true. Now, would it cost \$1.8 million to run the whole election? Absolutely. If you ran a stand-alone plebiscite? Probably. I don't know. But I can tell you, the research into adding a valid question at the ballot box is \$17,500, and that is for the printing of ballots and that's associated with the organization thereof, because they're already doing

an election and they already have a ballot box and they can run it concurrently.

There are no hidden costs. I appreciate the fact that people are worried about hidden costs, but that is simply it: \$17,500. As I said earlier, I've seen us spend way more money on things that are way more questionable.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap it up I am going to stress that I've heard my colleagues. I do appreciate and certainly respect their opinions. Many of them I don't agree with, but, hey, I suspect there's many a time they don't always agree with my opinion. But what we're missing here, in closing, is the fact that we're missing a great opportunity to reach out to the public and hear them. I worry, as people vote against this motion, we've silenced the public in a very constructive way.

As I said earlier today, this is a black and white definitive way of deciding how the Northwest Territories wants to go forward, and for people to blame the economy about stuff not happening here today should not have any effect on the chance, if not the great opportunity, to make good public policy. Good public policy should stand the test of time and certainly should stand the test of good times before us.

Mr. Speaker, I already asked for a recorded vote, so I look forward to seeing the final outcome of the results. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Nadli.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please rise.

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Mr. Moses; Mr. Yakeleya; Mr. Beaulieu; Mr. Abernethy; Mr. Miltnerberger; Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South; Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Ramsay; Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. Dolynny; Mr. Bouchard.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please rise.

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, three; no, 11; abstentions, two. Motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Bouchard.

MOTION 46-17(5):
 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
 HONOURS ADVISORY COUNCIL,
 CARRIED

MR. BOUCHARD: WHEREAS the Order of the Northwest Territories was established in 2013 by the Territorial Emblems and Honours Act to recognize individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the Northwest Territories or elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS Section 21(1) of the Territorial Emblems and Honours Act provides for the creation of a Northwest Territories Honours Advisory Council to review nominations and recommend appointments to the Order of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Section 21(2)(b) of the Territorial Emblems and Honours Act provides that the council be composed of not more than five members of the public appointed by the Legislative Assembly on the recommendation of the Board of Management;

AND WHEREAS Section 22(2) of the Territorial Emblems and Honours Act provides that the members of the panel hold office at pleasure for a term not exceeding three years;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified individuals for appointment as honours advisory council members;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management is tasked with recommending individuals to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment to the NWT Honours Advisory Council, effective immediately for a term of three years:

Ms. Grace Blake of Tsiigehtchic;

Ms. Sabrina Broadhead of Hay River;

Mr. Paul Delorey of Hay River;

Mr. Danny Gaudet of Deline; and

Ms. Anne Peters of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a few brief remarks about this motion and I'm extremely pleased to see we've reached this point. The idea was presented to me by a constituent several years ago and I felt it was an idea worth pursuing and so I did pursue it, pushed it as much as I could at Caucus and I'm very pleased that Caucus did agree that an NWT Honours Award was something worth pursuing. I am very glad we

got to this point and that it has come to fruition. So I need to give credit to that constituent, and his name is Jeff Corradetti. I want to thank Jeff for pushing me and I want to thank my colleagues for allowing themselves to be pushed to get us to this point. I look forward to the first awards who are going to be chosen by this very exemplary, I think, slate of candidates. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion's carried.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 47-17(5):
 EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2015,
 CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, June 4, 2015, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, September 29, 2015;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to September 29, 2015, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 59:
 ESTATE ADMINISTRATION LAW
 AMENDMENT ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 59, Estate Administration Law Amendment Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Children's Law Act, Guardianship and Trusteeship Act, Intestate Succession Act, and Public Trustee Act in order to adjust certain monetary amounts, facilitate the disposal of unclaimed property arising out of intestacy or, where no one applies for a grant other than the public trustee, streamline certain estate administration processes involving the public trustee, and make other amendments to improve clarity and readability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 59 has had a second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 60:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, NO. 2

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 60, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, No. 2, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act to remove references to validation stickers; authorize vehicles that are abandoned, seized or stored and have a valuable load prescribed threshold to be disposed of in accordance with the regulations; establish a framework for speeding offences that is proportional to the amount by which the driver exceeds the speed limit; define the term "use" in respect to restricted electronic devices; authorize the suspension or cancellation of a driver's licence for repeat contraventions of restricted electronic device prohibitions; clarify the registrar's authority in respect to medical examinations that are required with respect to classes of drivers' licences; and make other amendments to improve, clarify and for readability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 60 has had second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 61:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC AIRPORTS ACT

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 61, An Act to Amend the Public Airports Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Public Airports Act to bring provisions regarding regulation to traffic and pedestrians into greater harmony with the Motor Vehicles Act; increase the maximum duration of a lease to 30 years; specify how unclaimed personal property other than motor vehicles is disposed of and where the proceeds of the sale of that property end up; increase the maximum fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to achieve harmony with the Motor Vehicles Act; make consequential amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act so that enforcement officers have similar powers as motor vehicle officers under the act on public airport highways and make other amendments to enhance clarity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 61 has had second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 62:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CORONERS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 62, An Act to Amend the Coroners Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Coroners Act to clarify the duty to report certain deaths to a coroner or a police officer; enhance the powers of coroners in conducting investigations and inquests; clarify the circumstances in which coroners may arrange for assistance to be provided by others in carrying out certain functions; clarify the duties and powers of the chief coroner to disclose information, including personal information; prohibit any interference with the body of the deceased, and any associated wreckage subject to certain exceptions; make refinements to provisions respecting the holding of inquests; require the preparation and tabling of an annual report on the coroner's service; increase the maximum fine that may be imposed for a contravention of the act and its regulations. The bill also makes consequential amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act and the Vital Statistics Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 62 has had second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 63:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 63, An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Victims of Crime Act with respect to surcharges imposed and paid into the Victims Assistance Fund. The bill allows the surcharge amounts to be set by regulation and allows an offender to complete a work option program under the Fine Option Act as an alternative to incarceration for failure to pay a surcharge. Consequential amendments are made to the Fine Option Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 63 has had second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Mr. Ramsay.

BILL 64:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 64, An Act to Amend the Co-operative Associations Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Co-operative Associations Act to define the essential characteristics of a co-operative enterprise; improve procedures for the incorporation, naming, amalgamation and continuance of co-operative associations; clarify rules respecting joint membership; permit the directors of a co-operative to terminate a membership; clarify requirements for the redemption of shares; clarify responsibilities of directors; provide for the removal of a director; simplify filing requirements; provide co-operatives

with greater flexibility in respect of financial reserves; allow co-operative federations to meet by conference call and expand options for the determination of voting representatives; eliminate unnecessary or duplicative regulatory requirements; and make non-substantive amendments that enhance clarity and readability.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 64 has had second reading and is moved to standing committee.

The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

BILL 65:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
SAFETY ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 65, An Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Safety Act to provide more clearly for occupational health and safety programs, committees and representatives and a Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, and repeal an amendment that never came into force and is no longer needed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 65 has had second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act; Committee Report 16-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Public Accounts; and Committee Report 19-17(5), Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on Corrections in the NWT, with Mr. Bouchard in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to consider Bill 66, Committee Report 16-17(5) and Committee Report 19-17(5).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I'll go to the mover of the bill. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act currently provides survivor benefits to a Member or a former Member's dependent children if they are less than the age of majority or if they are under the age of 25, unmarried and attending school or university on a full-time basis.

The amendments to the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act will broaden the definition of a child to include an adult child who is dependent on a Member or a former Member for the necessities of life. This definition mirrors the Canada Income Tax Act definition of a child and will entitle a Member or a former Member's adult dependent child to survivor pension benefits.

These amendments were drafted at the request of a current pensioner and are supported by the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Do you have witnesses to bring into the House?

MR. BLAKE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the House.

Thank you, Mr. Blake. Can you please introduce your witnesses.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left I have Kelly McLaughlin, director, legislation division, Department of Justice; and my right-hand man, Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Blake. I'll open with general comments to the bill. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to welcome Mr. Blake to the witness table, and colleagues.

Just some housekeeping items with respect to this act. When something like this comes into play it will definitely factor into the quantities, the dollar figures in the pension fund and make changes thereof. Has there been any actuarial performance done as to what impact this may have on our current plan?

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll refer that to Mr. Mercer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Mercer.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pension plan actuaries have reviewed these amendments and have provided their view that the potential implications of the amendment are speculative. In other words, there's no certainty that they will ever be called upon for use, and if they are called upon for use that they will have a negligible impact on the actuarial evaluation of the pension plan.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the response to that. To the question of timing, if this bill goes through here, when does this bill become enacted in terms of affecting... I assume, it was brought forward by one of the pensioners. When would this trigger any type of monetary flow?

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will come into effect immediately at assent.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Committee, we're on general comments on Bill 66. Committee is agreed we'll go to clause-by-clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I'll pass the bill number and the title. Go to clause number 1.

---Clauses 1 through 7 inclusive approved

To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree that Bill 66 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 66 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

Committee, as we've agreed, we'll go to Committee Report 16-17(5), Report on the Review of 2013-2013 Public Accounts, and I'll go to the chair of Government Operations, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On June 2, 2015, the House received a report from the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the Review of the 2013-2014 Public Accounts. The report contains eight recommendations to the government, and on January 22 and 23, 2015, the

standing committee examined the public accounts of the Northwest Territories with the assistance of staff in the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Office of the Comptroller General and the GNWT's Department of Finance.

On February 12, 2015, the standing committee examined the consolidated financial statements of NT Hydro Corporation and its subsidiary companies, with the assistance of the staff from NT Hydro. The standing committee thanks the Assistant Auditor General, Terry DeJong, and his staff for their assistance in this review. The committee also thanks NWT comptroller Bill Merklinger and his staff and the NT Hydro president and CEO, Emmanuel DaRosa, and his staff for their appearances before the committee during the public review.

The standing committee has seen a notable improvement in the timely completion of the financial statements by the department, boards and agencies and the government reporting entity. The standing committee acknowledges this achievement and encourages the GNWT to keep up the good work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Committee, we'll just deal with the motions in the report. First I'll go to Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 123-17(5):
ANNUAL DATE TO PROVIDE
INTERIM PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of motions. I move that this committee again recommends that the Minister of Finance provide the committee with the interim public accounts by August 31st of each year in time for committee review of the government's business plans.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. Motion is on the floor and being distributed. Motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to make a brief comment here. The committee has found, as we've reviewed public accounts over the last couple of years, that Finance has done a good job at getting the public accounts ready earlier and earlier each year, and they were able to get us the interim public accounts prior to August 31st in 2014 and we simply wanted to reiterate that this is an excellent practice and we want to make sure that Finance continues to do that in years going forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question is being called.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 124-17(5):
EARLIEST POSSIBLE COMPLETION OF
INTERIM AND FINAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee again recommends that the Department of Finance continue to work with the Auditor General of Canada and GNWT departments, boards and agencies to complete the interim and final public accounts at the earliest possible date each year and in time for their respective statutory reporting deadlines.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of brief comments again. There are or there have been, over the years, quite a number of agencies and boards that have not met the filing deadline for their public accounts and it has meant that the final public accounts were delayed. In this past year I think there were two who didn't meet their deadline. Some of them asked for a deadline and I think there was only one that didn't meet the deadline after they asked for an extension. So, committee feels very strongly that it is a requirement by law that people meet their statutory deadline for filing their audits and we wanted to, through this motion, note that and make sure that Finance continues to work hard with the agencies to get it done and it is working with the Auditor General, as well, which helps boards and agencies get their audits done at the right time.

So I just wanted to explain the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to, again, just add a little bit more context to what we heard from Ms. Bisaro and talk about, with respect to this public accounts review, that there was a number of public agencies that did not meet reporting deadlines and, according to the Auditor General, they were the South Slave Divisional Education Council, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Aurora College and the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, otherwise known as BDIC.

Now, we went through the review of each one of them as to why and the Auditor General was indicating to us that the NWT Housing Corporation and Aurora College were working towards improvement, but the Auditor General did note that the Aurora College was a bit of an anomaly this year and they have to apply what he referred to as more of a big picture approach. So what they call a

"no qualification" was warranted. That's a terminology used in accounting. However, I should note that the Auditor General made very specific claim that if the Aurora College was to find themselves in this anomaly again, that a qualification would be warranted as they moved forward.

So I just wanted to put some context to this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Moses.

COMMITTEE MOTION 125-17(5):
AGENCIES FAILING TO
COMPLETE AUDITS BY DEADLINE,
CARRIED

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a committee motion. I move that this committee again recommend that as part of the standard reporting process, the comptroller general include a list of agencies in the consolidated public accounts that did not meet the deadline for completion of their audits. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. I just want to make some comments in terms of the audits that weren't meeting the deadlines. Before we began this process, a lot of agencies and government departments weren't. This was almost a common practice. I just wanted to make the comment that since then, and since the practice of public accounts that Government Operations has been doing, there have been some huge improvements. But still, again, we want to ensure that agencies do meet their legislative requirements moving forward and we also do understand that there are challenges throughout the Northwest Territories in terms of chartered accountants and the services that they provide. Even though there are challenges, you want to really make sure that we get those audits, because they do help moving forward in terms of our business plans and the way we run business as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 126-17(5):
INCLUSION IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF
SCHEDULES OF ENVIRONMENT
ASSESSMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories continue to provide updated timetables for schedules for the environmental assessment of potentially contaminated sites for which the GNWT is responsible to be included annually in the public accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To put this motion into context, environmental liabilities have a new accounting standard referred to as PS 3260 and that is referred to as liability for contaminated sites. Committee reviewed things like the Giant Mine environmental liability and another 129 potentially contaminated sites. Dialogue between the government and the OAG staff did put some degree of uncertainty about how the GNWT was calculating its cost to remediate and record them in the public accounts. In theory, the process and the practice should be doing so at the beginning of the year. We are led to believe that this practice is being done near the end of the calendar year. This is something that would have to change. We did ask the Auditor General his thoughts on that. Some of the feedback we were getting back from the government was they did not have the time to get out to some of the sites. The Auditor General was quite clear that there cannot be any excuse. It is the role of the GNWT to get out there on time, and it is recording and it's our legal responsibility and obligation to do so.

Since then, Mr. Chair, we've been given some degree of certainty that the GNWT will comply with these new provisions, new accounting standards, but it will be up to the future Assemblies and standing committees to definitely modernize, not to modernize but to monitor this performance moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Dolynny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 127-17(5):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that to enhance transparency, the Government of the Northwest Territories improve the quality of reporting in the public accounts, including providing a detailed explanation of how the government met the requirement of its Fiscal Responsibility Policy for the year in question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Dolynny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 128-17(5):
RECOMMENDATIONS OF
INTERNAL AUDIT BUREAU,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that in the interest of transparency and accountability, the Department of Finance share the findings and recommendations of the Internal Audit Bureau with the committee in confidence, particularly where the Government of the Northwest Territories relies on those findings and recommendations as substantiation for its action taken. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just let me confirm my notes here. We know that at a very high level, programs and services are reviewed and evaluated and audited. We know that the comptroller general sits on what we call the Audit Committee and reviews a number of these programs and services for the improved corporate risk management. So, in essence, this is some very high-level internal audit work that has been done for the department so it can run smoother and be more efficient for public accounting.

We all know through questions in the House earlier this year that for the year 2013-2014, this committee approved 12 such projects. The committee, as being the Audit Committee, approved 12 such projects and addressed roughly two-thirds of them. Of those two-thirds of the projects that were evaluated, there were 47 recommendations to which the Department of Finance, according to information received by committee, only implemented about 67 percent of

them. So, the bottom line is that there was some degree of reluctance from Cabinet to share the findings of the Audit Committee information, basically its findings and recommendations and implementation.

So, again, what this motion does is we stress that the standing committee in the 18th Assembly needs to hopefully work with the Cabinet to unveil, if I can use this term loosely, to unveil a bit of this degree of secrecy on corporate risk management and make this information available to standing committee, as it does have a bearing on audit opinions and the overall fiscal health of the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 129-17(5):
MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION ANALYSIS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Finance require all public agencies to include a management discussion analysis in their year-end report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

COMMITTEE MOTION 130-17(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO REPORT
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, if they could do it sooner, we'd appreciate it.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

Does committee agree we've concluded Committee Report 16-17(5)?

COMMITTEE MOTION 132-17(5):
DEPARTMENTAL ACTION PLAN,
CARRIED

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice adjust the action plan to focus on procedural changes that will enable more effective implementation of existing directives, standing orders and policies rather than the review and revision of these rules, which may take place over the longer term. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): We'll move on to Committee Report 19-17(5), Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on Corrections in the Northwest Territories. I will go to the chair of Government Operations, Mr. Dolyunny.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Earlier today the Standing Committee on Government Operations read into the record its report on its review of the 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Corrections in the Northwest Territories.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a brief comment here. The action plan from the Department of Justice had, I think, 100-plus items in it and many of them are scheduled to be finished by November of 2015. Many of those, as well, were looking at reviewing and revision of their policies and procedures and directives.

The Auditor General's report, which was tabled in this Assembly on March 3, 2015, concluded that the Department of Justice has not met its key responsibilities for inmates within the corrections system. The audit found that while the department had adequately planned for its facilities, it did not adequately operate facilities to house inmates in compliance with key rehabilitation and reintegration requirements. The committee would like to thank the Auditor General, Mr. Michael Ferguson, and his staff, as well as deputy minister of Justice, Ms. Sylvia Haener, and her staff for their appearance before the committee.

Committee felt that basically the department, at this point, has in place standing orders, directives, policies, everything they need in order for corrections to adequately function and we felt that there needed to be a greater emphasis on doing what their standing orders or directives or policies say, as opposed to reviewing and revising them. The review and the revision should happen but it will take longer. We felt it more important that the department put what they already have in place and monitor it, rather than they start the review and the revision right away.

The standing committee is very concerned with the Auditor General's findings. The report makes nine recommendations to government designed to complement the 14 recommendations contained in the Auditor General's report and to help improve the deficiencies identified in the GNWT's corrections system. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

So, what this motion is trying to say is monitor what you've got in place and make sure that it's happening and then once that is done and you know that things are being monitored and things are being followed, rules are being followed, then look at reviewing and revising them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Yakeleya.

COMMITTEE MOTION 131-17(5):
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL,
CARRIED

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee endorse the 14 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General in its report and recommends that the Department of Justice takes the steps necessary to ensure all recommendations are implemented in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Next I'll go to Mr. Dolyunny.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. To the motion.

COMMITTEE MOTION 133-17(5):
PERFORMANCE MEASURES,
CARRIED

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

Justice include the performance measures from Auditor General's report in future reports on the department's progress in implementing the Auditor General's recommendations and in future departmental business plans. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This motion is somewhat self-explanatory, but to put it into context, as well, committee, not that long ago, and Regular Members, as well, went through a business planning process to which all departments bring forward performance indicators, I guess compass waypoints, dashboard indicators that show the performance of their departments. In this case here, this would have been the corrections services. I would assume that, and from our review, a lot of these indicators...and there wasn't a lot of them, was probably the question. So, we're hoping that through the process of the Auditor General's review as well as committee review, that the department undertake a review and implement a much better monitoring system with these dashboard indicators and include them in upcoming business plans.

Again, the question is that if they were done properly, these issues that were noted in the Auditor General's report should have been picked up by the department and executive much sooner than it did. So, I think committee feels pretty strongly about this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Go to Mr. Yakeleya.

COMMITTEE MOTION 134-17(5):
DEPARTMENTAL STATUS REPORTS,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice provide a status report to Standing Committee on Government Operations at least once before the end of the 17th Assembly, and further recommends that the status report be provided annually during the 18th Assembly, outlining actions taken in response to the Auditor General's report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 135-17(5):
CASE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice take immediate steps to ensure that all inmates undergo case management assessments regardless of the length of their sentences. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The purpose of this motion is probably twofold. One, the Auditor General definitely recognized the fact that those inmates of less than 120 days receive very little programming or enhancements to their stay in our care. Even through dialogue with the department, there was a direction and even a response that the department was going to look at lowering that 120-day review, observation, to a 90-day process.

Committee felt very strongly, and I believe so did the Auditor General's staff, that there should be no time limit based on your stay. If you are an inmate within our correctional service, that every and all inmates, as the motion says, undergo case management assessments.

There's definitely a system problem there. There's a software problem, and we're hoping that by this motion this gives clear direction to the department and its Minister that this has to be fixed sooner than later. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Moses.

COMMITTEE MOTION 136-17(5):
INMATE ACCESS TO
REHABILITATION PROGRAMS,
CARRIED

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice find innovative ways to increase inmates' access to rehabilitation programs and to ensure that all inmates have access to the programs they most need to meet the rehabilitation goals. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it all begins right on the onset of when an inmate comes to the institution system and developing that case management assessment. But, more importantly, the case management plan, not having those in place doesn't help the inmate look at what programs will benefit him the most, and being institutionalized for a certain amount of time, it's the perfect opportunity to get some of those who are of the highest needs, whether they're mental health issues or alcohol and drug related, to get them to the right and proper rehabilitation programs or any programs that can help them get reintegrated into their communities or back into society as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 137-17(5):
PLANNING FOR INMATE RELEASE
AND REINTEGRATION,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice develop better plans for inmate release and reintegration, including examining the merits of having a dedicated reintegration coordinator. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is an area where committee felt strongly that the department was falling down as well. When inmates come in, they need to be assessed. They then need the programming that will assist them in getting better, to try and solve the problem of why they're in there in the first place. But when they are released, they need to have supports so that don't re-offend and end up back in correctional facilities.

So, this motion tries to highlight the fact that there is very little planning for inmate release and reintegration back into their community and it is important enough to the committee that we want to tell the department to put a much larger focus on inmate release and reintegration and we are suggesting that they look at having a dedicated staff person who does nothing but coordination for

reintegration of inmates on their release. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Dolynny.

COMMITTEE MOTION 138-17(5):
FACILITY MANAGEMENT,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice develop the processes and safeguards necessary to ensure that staff are knowledgeable about the rules they are required to enforce and that they have the training necessary to do their jobs effectively. Thank you Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, the motion is fairly self-explanatory, but I believe the other message that it's trying to convey is that the department, through the Auditor General's observations, had very little in the form of monitoring the performance of the training that was completed by our staff and I found that to be a bit problematic. If you don't know what calibre your staff are, it can be very hard to initiate the programs and services that we're compelled to do under statutory obligations. So, we recommend that this motion not only enforce the rules that need to be applicable to the safeguards of our institutions and to the proper training but we make sure we have the proper database and also that the continuing education and credentials are kept in order. So, if any of these programs are expired, we know very well what type of investment we have to do to get our staff to the right level of satisfaction in terms of job requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 139-17(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO REPORT
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Does committee agree we have concluded Committee Report 19-17(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Committee, we've completed all items in Committee of the Whole. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bouchard.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act; and Committee Report 16-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Public Accounts; and Committee Report 19-17(5), Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on Corrections in the NWT; and I would like to report progress with 17 motions being adopted and that Committee Reports 16-17(5) and 19-17(5) are concluded and that Bill 66 is now ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Beverly Esau, who's up in the gallery today. She stepped up to the plate and brought two of our Pages from Inuvik to chaperone. I just want to thank her for taking the time and watching over some of our youth during this very long sitting. I appreciate your patience.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 47:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the third time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, has had third reading. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act.

---Consent granted

BILL 66:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT

MR. BLAKE: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, has had third reading.

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George L. Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills?

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro): It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of former NWT Government Leader George Braden.

Mr. Braden, along with his colleagues in the Legislative Assembly in the early 1980s, worked hard to advance the political process that we see in today's Legislature. George continued to work for the betterment of the Northwest Territories even though he had moved to Ottawa about 20 years ago. I know that many Northerners will offer their tributes for the good work that was accomplished by the late George Braden and the early political leaders of the day.

My sincere condolences go to George's loving wife, Lise; his mother, Esther; and to his brothers and sister and their families.

As we get set to enjoy the summer months – we have waited so long for them – I would like to wish each of you a safe, healthy and happy summer as you take your break and enjoy quality time with your families. Please travel safely on the land, in our waters, in the air and on our highways as you continue working for the betterment of all Northerners. Please encourage and remind your families, friends and people in your communities to be safe out on the land and to wear personal flotation devices, or PFDs, when travelling by boat in our waterways.

Take great care this summer with your campfires, when extinguishing tobacco. The risk of fire is extremely high again this year.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall of the last sitting of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

- Bill 37, Financial Administration Act;
- Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act;
- Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act;
- Bill 57, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2014-2015;

- Bill 58, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2015-2016;
- Bill 66, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act; and
- Bill 67, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, although this has been a relatively brief sitting of our Assembly, we have accomplished a great deal in the time available to us. You have considered and adopted seven major pieces of legislation, three supplementary appropriation acts, given consideration to four substantial committee reports and debated issues of great importance to all our residents.

As we leave today, I note that work will continue over the summer months. The government has introduced and referred seven new pieces of legislation to standing committees for consideration over the summer and fall.

I know this is also an opportunity to reconnect with your constituents, take part in summer assemblies and spend some of this valuable summer season with our families.

As part of your summer activities, colleagues, I hope you will all make the time to celebrate two very special events coming up: National Aboriginal Day on June 21st and Canada Day on July 1st. As I have mentioned before, this is a perfect opportunity to celebrate both the outstanding achievements of our citizens and the diverse culture of the Northwest Territories and our special place in Canada.

I wish you all safe travels this summer as we head out on the water and on the land.

I look forward to seeing you back in this Chamber for our last sitting of the 17th Legislative Assembly. Have a good summer and do good work for our constituents.

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 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
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

