



# Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

## Standing Committees on Accountability and Oversight and Social Programs

Public Meeting on

Bill 12, Public Health Act

Bill 13, Change of Name Act

Bill 14, Employment Standards Act  
and

Bill 15, Liquor Act

June 12, 2007

Tsiigehtchic, Northwest Territories

**STANDING COMMITTEES ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT/STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

**Chairman**

Mr. Robert McLeod, MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes, Acting Chair

**Members**

Mr. Jackson Lafferty, MLA, Monfwi  
Mr. Calvin Pokiak, MLA, Nunakput  
Mr. David Ramsay, MLA, Kam Lake  
Mr. Robert Villeneuve, MLA, Tu Nedhe  
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA, Sahtu

**Witnesses**

Mr. John Norbert, Band Councillor  
Ms. Virginia Cardinal  
Mr. John Itsi  
Mr. James Cardinal  
Ms. Alestine Andre, Band Councillor

**Committee Staff**

Ms. Gail Bennett, Operations Assistant Clerk  
Ms. Colette Langlois, Director of Research

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COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS  
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Bill 14, Employment Standards Act, and  
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June 12, 2007  
Tsiigehtchic, Northwest Territories  
7:15 p.m.**

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** I am Robert McLeod. I am MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes and I am chairing tonight's session. I will allow the Members to introduce themselves starting at my far left.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Robert, and to Tsiigehtchic tonight for allowing us to have the hearings on these bills that we are going to look at. Thank you for the prayers.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi. Again, I want to say...

**MR. YAKELEYA:** My name is Norman Yakeleya, MLA for Sahtu, for the record.

---Laughter

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thanks, Norman. My name is Bobby Villeneuve. I am MLA for Tu Nedhe. It's my first time here in Tsiigehtchic and it's a beautiful town. I am really happy to be here and I am looking forward to sharing some ideas on some of the bills we are presenting to the public here today. I hope we get some good input from this meeting and am looking forward to getting good ideas from you guys. Welcome.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you. My name is David Ramsay. I am MLA for Kam Lake in Yellowknife. I just wanted to say I am very happy to be here to review the four bills that we have. It's also my first time to the community of Tsiigehtchic. It's a beautiful community. There are lovely views and very friendly people. It's opportunities like this, being a Member from Yellowknife, getting out to the small communities is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a Member of the Legislature. I just want to thank you for being with us this evening. Mahsi.

**MR. POKIAK:** Good afternoon. My name is Calvin Pokiak. I am MLA for Nunakput. It's good to be here in Tsiigehtchic. I am just waiting to hear what people say about Bill 12, 13, 14 and 15. Thank you.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. (English not provided)

My name is Jackson Lafferty. I am MLA for the Monfwi riding, Tlicho Nation. We have several bills in front of us, four bills. The big one is the Liquor Act. The government has given us these bills to be introduced to the communities and have communities' input. That's why we are here. We want to hear from the public, what their views are on the

four bills introduced here. We are looking forward to a good discussion. We were in Inuvik yesterday, Tsiigehtchic today, Tulita and then Gameti the next day. So that's the purpose of our travel, to hear your thoughts and what your views are on these bills. This is my second time to the community. The last time I was here in the wintertime and now summer. It's beautiful here. Mahsi.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thank you very much. As well, we have with us Gail Bennett, our committee clerk. We have Collette Langlois, director of research for the Legislative Assembly. Last week, we heard from Ministers Roland and Dent on their bills and held public meetings in Behchoko and this week we are in Tsiigehtchic, Rae, Tulita and, as Jackson said, we are in Gameti on Thursday, to hear from the public on these important laws. There is another group of MLAs that are in the south tonight. Most are in the southern region of the NWT. They are holding public hearings in the south. I think they were in Fort Smith last night. They are in Hay River tonight. Our committee is made up of 11 members and we split up into two groups, one in the North and one in the South. There are copies of the bills in the back. I think we all have a copy and you can help yourselves.

The reason we are here tonight is we want to hear what you think about these bills. We will consider your comments and tell other MLAs about them before we decide whether or not to pass these laws in August. We also try our best to answer any questions you may have. These bills were brought to us by the affected Ministers and they are in our hands for 120 days. We take them to the public and hear what they have to say and then we go back to Yellowknife and give our feedback to the Minister. If we can't answer your questions now, we will take them back to the Minister and try to get some answers for you. I have already said these bills were written by the government and we are really not here to defend these bills. We want to get the public's input; that's our committee's function.

I am just going to explain briefly what the four bills are. Bill 12, Public Health Act, will replace a law that was written 50 years ago and is very out of date. One of the reasons we need to make this change is if there is ever an emergency like SARS or a bird flu outbreak, we can cooperate with other parts of Canada to manage it. The bill also has more accountability for any orders made by public health officials, like to quarantine. For example, there will be time limits on quarantine and people will be able to appeal the orders if they seem to be unfair.

Bill 13, Change of Name Act, will allow people to change their names through vital statistics instead of having to go through court. This is intended to make the process faster and easier. Right now, if you want to change your name, you have to go through court. With the change in Bill 13, you can just go to vital statistics administration rather than go through the court process.

Bill 14, Employment Standards Act, will replace the Labour Standards Act. It includes things that are not formally recognized in the law before like sick leave, time off for funerals or family members and compassionate care leave when a person needs to look after a dying family member.

Bill 15, Liquor Act, will change the law so that communities will have more say in whether or how alcohol is allowed. The maximum fine for bootlegging and other offences will go up. The government will be able to make regulations about people buying and shipping large amounts of alcohol into a community.

This is a brief explanation of the bills. We welcome any questions or comments that you have. Gail has got a microphone. We are transcribing the whole meeting tonight, so if you have any questions, you will have to state your name and then you can proceed with your comments or questions. Like I said, these laws were written by the government, but we will try to answer as best we can. We have had briefings by the Minister. We have all asked the Minister questions when we were before them, so we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

**MR. NORBERT:** First of all, I would like to welcome all the MLAs here for coming to our community. I am kind of disappointed that all the people aren't here. I am John Norbert. I am a band councillor. I have been on the band council for about 12 years.

Recently, I saw in the paper where a few communities the size of our town, they each got police. I wonder why we don't get any police. We really need a police officer over here. People are going in and out of here and people coming in. I know there is no police here, that's why...(inaudible)...

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thanks, John. You said there were just a few people here, but, if it's any consolation, there are more people here tonight than were in Inuvik last night. So it's a pretty good turnout.

I understand they have been looking at all the communities and trying to get RCMP in there. I think Sachs finally got some officers there. There is no place for them right now to stay, so they are still stationed out of Inuvik as soon as they get someplace to stay. So they are looking at it. Calvin and Jackson have been asking quite a few times about RCMP in small communities. Minister Bell, I know, has been looking at it trying to see what he can do to get RCMP in the communities. You're right, if they know there is no one here, stuff like that is going to come in. I was going to say that we were hoping to try to get a discussion on the bills first, but your question is a very good one. It's tied in with Bill 15, Liquor Act. So, well done.

**MS. CARDINAL:** Thank you. Hello. Thanks for coming. My name is Virginia Cardinal. I am the DA chairperson in the community. It's good to see all of you. I am a small mouth in a small community. I see the children and I call them my kids because I go into the school every day and it really hurts to see the kids not loving to learn on account of bootlegging, drug dealing. I hope and pray that the people that do these have stiffer penalties. It's very badly needed and I don't only hear it from my small community, I hear it from Tuk, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour, where 10-year-old children can buy a bootleg bottle, eight-year-old children do drugs. So they don't get caught, they have their three-year-old relations holding drugs for them. Nobody wants to do anything because everybody is related. This small voice here and for my children of the future, and I don't say my own children, I mean all the kids, I see their future and I am just

wondering where it's going. In the education field, it's very hard today. They are on social paths and there is no more academics. If you don't do your school work good and you fail that grade, you are still passing to the next grade. You are in Grade 6, but you are still doing Grade 3 to Grade 4 work. Lots of times, it's a lack of attendance because of alcohol and drugs.

So for me to speak, it's not for myself, it's for the kids. I really, really hope these people get stiffer penalties. It's \$25,000 for the first offence, I don't believe that's anything. They will find a way to get that and keep on going. You know how the drug industry works, they have money. Maybe a little later I will say something again. Thank you very much.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thank you, Virginia. You're right; \$25,000 for the first offence and if they are charged again, it's another \$50,000. I think that's quite an increase from what it was before. It was like \$10,000. I think \$5,000 was a maximum before and now they can charge them \$25,000 for their first offence. So that's a good start. Your concerns are very good ones.

**MS. CARDINAL:** That is only when they get caught.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** That's only when they get caught and we all know in the small communities, you all know who's bootlegging and trying to catch them and getting evidence to catch them is the tough part. In the small communities, there aren't very many people who say I bought a bottle from so and so. So that's the tough part, that's the part that the RCMP are having difficulties in right now. We would like to see more of them get caught, but we need a few more people step up and start saying I did buy something from them.

**MS. CARDINAL:** Well, this community is a little prohibited area and it should be enforced by the law. That's one of their requirements. They should have a law officer here to deal with those issues of people coming in with booze. They should have people on the ferries that come here on the road. I believe everything should be done that's possible. There's a lot of people that can go and check everybody that comes here with booze or drugs; anybody anywhere. Thank you.

**MR. ITSI:** Good evening. My name is John Itsi. I know Norm and my friend down there, Calvin and Robert. Originally, I am from Fort McPherson but I have lived here for five or six years now. What I want to talk about is the name change. Since I was a child, I had my name changed four times by the government. I went to the hospital in Aklavik and my name was Chitzi (sic). My dad is from Old Crow. Later on, they changed it to Etzi. Then Itzi. Now it's Itsi. Every time I try to get them to change it, different bureaucrats go and check that person and go check that other person and you get fed up talking with different people. You are phoning all the time and you have to pay to phone. Then they write you letters and ask you for your original birth certificate, which you can't find. Then they want \$250 to change my name. They are the ones who changed my name. They should give me back my original name for nothing. I was going

to bring that up when they have that residential school hearing. It's a shame how government treats people. They treat people like buttons.

So I hope to get over to those guys and they can change my name. I am not paying them one cent to change my name. They are the ones who changed it and \$250 is a lot of money. When we went to school, all the kids teased us about our name. We got into big fights and stuff like that.

Another thing I want to talk about is the Liquor Act. Instead of \$25,000 for the first offence, that's peanuts to some young people. They have lots of money. In McPherson, if you buy a 40-ouncer, it's \$250. This made it worse. Guys started drinking hairspray and all that shit because they are limited to a 40 ounce and case of beer. When you party, you get 10 guys there and that's nothing. So they buy a can of hairspray, \$60. They could kill themselves drinking that kind of stuff. They make home brew and stuff like that. Everything is getting worse. It just makes it worse. For a bootlegger, send them to jail. Six months in jail, hard labour. Let them pound rocks. They take a lot of money away from these school children. Sometimes they have nothing to eat in the morning and the parents spend that money on bootleggers. That's what I want to say about it. Never mind the \$25,000, just automatic jail. They have lots of money. They will just pay that \$25,000 like nothing.

Anyway, if I get brave, I will talk a little more after. Thank you.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thanks for your comments, John. They are interesting. This is being transcribed, so they will hear your comments.

**MR. CARDINAL:** (Microphone turned off)...anyway, in my mind, what you are giving us now are some bylaws. Bylaws on the Liquor Act, health and others. You know that we have a culture, traditional ways. Why is it you don't need this? Why does it always have to be up to the federal and territorial government ways of doing things? You hear, we've given you information about how things are happening in the communities. The thing I am going to bring up, not only here but it's going to be going on radio and everywhere, including my councillors, my chief, is banishment has to happen in this community if control is not being followed here. We have to stop liquor from coming in. People know who the bootleggers are. Still, they won't report it. They won't buy the bottle and return it to the RCMP and say I bought the bottle off a person and I would like to have the person charged.

I studied law before I came back home from Edmonton with Lennie Cunningham (sic) who was the first native to put native people together to work in court justice. You are telling me that \$25,000 was put forward when you are caught, but within \$1 to \$25,000 a judge has to make a decision as to how much the person can be charged, how much the fine is going to be. What are the results of the case? How guilty is the person? Who is the person who saw this? Who is the one who is going to come forward and said this person sold me a bottle? There are different ways to translate that if you want to look at it. In our way, our traditional ways, and some of us don't understand them, a lot of them don't. You can come up here and say that person is going to automatically get a

\$25,000 fine. I don't believe that. The court system doesn't work that way. According to the guilt of that person, that's how that works.

The other thing I want to bring up in here is health. In the Department of Health, we have a purifying system at Water Lake up there. It's more than \$1 million worth of equipment up there. We do have problems with that. A lot of times we have a shut down there and they have to wait sometimes 24 hours and sometimes 16 hours. We have a problem of the outside of that. We have beavers. Last year, I shot seven beavers in that lake; the year before, I shot 10. This year, somebody is taking over my job of shooting the beavers there. Douglas came back and now he's got a big beaver and there are other beavers coming out. There are a chain of lakes there that pollutes the water and everybody says the water tastes real good, but I don't believe that. For goodness sakes, they are all over there and they are doing their thing in the water and then we are drinking that even though we are purifying it.

You know, when it comes to diseases, it's a hard thing to cure. The water here is no good. One thing I found out, I have a disease here for five years on my body now. Three weeks ago, I went to see a special doctor. I was on pills for five years. I finally got somebody that can cure me. It's because of the contamination and the sewage I got these things and there was no cure for that. These are the kinds of things that you don't see with specialists. Sure, it's fine to see them go to Edmonton. Why don't they bring them up to Inuvik for us to see them there? Our families want to be with us when we go over there, you know? They are concerned about us.

I went to see a specialist for things. I remember when they did this, they put me on TV. It was the first time I was on TV. I was all naked and everything else; I didn't like it. The doctors did all this, touching me and everything. The nurse was doing all this stuff, too. They only told me I had a rash and that rash lasted for five years until this doctor phoned me. He was the doctor on this and he had a list of all the doctors working in Inuvik and he's going to talk to them. That is just the beginning of the kinds of problems you run into in a community when we don't have a specialist and you can't get a specialist. The people who go to Inuvik and Yellowknife, that's the problem I see here.

The other problem is the spring and fall. We are totally isolated and sometimes the spring is worse than the fall because the fall freezes up faster across the Mackenzie. In the spring, sometimes it's two weeks and we are sitting here waiting for that ice. How do you get from Arctic Red to Inuvik or Tsiigehtchic to Inuvik? By chopper to get the things that we need. It's pretty hard, but when you have a nurse here that is capable of looking after those problems right from elders to youth, it's very helpful. You know you aren't going to die when somebody is qualified. Oh, you're going to live for another day, that's good to hear.

These are the kinds of things we have been pressing for and we haven't seen coming to our liking in our communities. I am very sad to see that because so much of that happens....(inaudible)...for smaller communities. Now you just listen to the youth today that home brew in small communities is a very positive thing. You get the outside communities to help you like Yellowknife and Inuvik and the big ones so you can get the



things you need in the small communities. That's what we are going to have to end up doing as well. Even our funding proposal is coming from the top down when we get proposals for things we need in the communities. So many things have been shot down. So if you are just sitting back and focusing on what is best in our community...One of our small communities I heard the MLA when they were having their Legislature and how they wanted to do something in the smaller communities. I hope that is a reality. I hope that comes to mind that we are going to work with smaller communities. I hope that is a reality and it comes to mind that we are going to work with the small communities. We are human just like you are. You may live in the big city and eat ham and steak, but we still live down here and eat like ordinary people. We are cultural people here. We live off the land, we live off the water and we eat fish and we eat meat. You very seldom see us going to the store to buy wieners.

So these are the things I wanted to bring forward to you, especially the Liquor Act. It's something that destroyed us in 1954 when we had an election in the Northwest Territories for liquor for native people. That was a disaster. That became the first disaster of the NWT. I remember that very well. There were people drinking in Aklavik. I was in Aklavik. I was wondering how come this guy kept falling down around our wood pile. What did they call him? I forgot his name. He was fighting there and this guy had a big bottle. Those are the kinds of things we used to see that we hadn't seen before.

My wife is right; we don't want to see kids going to school hungry. On the weekends, when you haven't got anything to drink, you go to a bootlegger and you buy that bottle from that person. Because of those kinds of things, drastic things happen in education. You don't see our younger ones...It's very sad to see.

When you look at it yourself, it always hurts you. Those people don't have something to eat or to drink. That's the kind of thing you see. I hope the pressure is being put forward by all the communities that put something forward here, not only us but in your bylaws. I hope something comes very good for this one and that will put something in force. It's the law and something can be done about bootleggers and dope dealers who come to this community silently and do their work here.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Okay, thank you very much, James. You are right about the \$25,000. It could be from \$1 to \$25,000. That's a question I posed to the Minister before. Do we have a minimum? That's a good point and that's something we can bring back.

We were talking about the culture and the traditional ways. We can make laws that affect the NWT as a whole, but what I like about this bill is it will give the community more powers to hopefully stop the flow of alcohol into communities. Banishment used to be something practised traditionally, but it's not a decision this government can make. It has to be a decision by individual communities. I would like to pass laws where we could automatically ban someone from the community, but we don't have that right. It's within the community's power to do that. We live in small communities, too. I eat fish, meat, muktuk. So we hear where you're coming from and most of the Members up here are from some of the smaller communities and they do speak on behalf of small

communities. Small communities, a lot of people don't realize, are a high priority amongst the aboriginal Members because the majority of Members are from the smaller communities. So they try to look after the best interest of the small communities.

**MS. ANDRE:** Good evening. My name is Alestine Andre. I am a resident of this community. I am also on the charter and...(inaudible)...Gwich'in Council as a councillor. I work with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute as a cultural researcher. I also do some volunteer work in the community with helping, assisting, with the church and a number of other little things.

I think the communities that we have today and the way the life is in our communities today is far different than what it used to be. If I think back on it, I think the Residential School Act that was passed way back when, I think that was the most devastating thing that happened to our communities and our families and each one of us as individuals that were part of the residential school.

I think all our life has gone downhill from then and we are still sliding down. It seems to be further and further down. I speak like this because, as Virginia said, it really shows in our children today when we go into the schools, that we are living in such a different life and I, too, wonder about the future because we are still so far down. You try to put something up today like on a volunteer basis to fundraise and we have the same people that step forward as volunteers to do the banking and the same people step forward to do whatever needs to be done to fundraise. To be a volunteer in the community, you pretty well have to drag everyone else along with you. It takes so much energy to rally the troops to get people to move forward. Many times, people in our community are playing a lot of bingos. There is a bingo game every night. If there is not a bingo game, there is a game called OKO. If there is no OKO, there is house poker, poker games. I hear about these things. So all those are just there to keep us down in our communities, so it's so hard to try to do anything. All of this is leading up to the acts that you have here for us to review tonight. While our communities are in this low state, it's really hard to try to do anything positive. So I really think we have to rely on the GNWT Legislative Assembly to know the state that we are in in our communities and each one of you is from a small community, whether it's from Yellowknife, south of the lake or along the coast or along the Mackenzie River. We are all pretty well in the same boat and I am sure you have heard this before. So it makes it really hard to try to move forward a little step, because we always seem to get dragged down and move backwards faster than move forward.

In terms of Bill 12, Public Health Act, I could see and as I hear it on the radio or in the news, there are reports of SARS and those other kind of pandemic epidemics that we hear about, the bird flu. I think we need to be ready for those kinds of things, even though it's happening down south, overseas, we are still on the same earth. That doesn't excuse us just because we are up north. I think we have to have something ready and prepared.

Safe drinking water, I think that's always important. Our drinking water in the North is going to be come as valuable, probably more valuable as the diamonds and the gold and other stuff.

In terms of public health in our communities, we have our water, drinking water, delivered to our homes in trucks. We also have along the same route, the sewage truck coming along behind it. I think we have to have a good look at safe drinking water or the cleanliness of the vehicles that are delivering our drinking water as well as picking up the sewage. It's one truck right after the other. I think the public health officer will have a little bit more work to do in our communities.

In Yellowknife, it's okay because, in most cases, you don't have to rely on the water truck, or in Inuvik or the larger centres. Those are the realities of our community.

In terms of Bill 15, Liquor Act, I think this act really needs to go hand in hand with the SCAN program or whatever that is called; the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. SCAN and the Liquor Act really need to go hand in hand because this Liquor Act only covers the alcohol. SCAN covers other things like the illegal drug dealing, selling, that is happening. In a lot of cases in our communities, those things are happening right on our streets. Our children are on those streets and children learn really fast. I think we all know that.

There are other activities. There is illegal stuff. It's not only drugs; it's also addiction to prescription drugs from the health centre. Addiction comes in many forms. The gambling that happens in the individual homes, I think we all know whose homes are poker houses or OKO houses or whatever the other ones are called.

With the Liquor Act, what is written down here looks fine with the penalties, but also sometimes you can have a simple thing like the RCMP, especially in our community that has this prohibition. To have the RCMP stationed outside the boundaries of our community past the ferry, on the road, just before the ferry crossing in Inuvik and on the Dempster Highway just up from George Nidichi's (sic) house, just to have a road check, a random road check. I think that will deter some of the things that are happening.

A few years ago, we had a scare in our community with rumours of Hell's Angels coming in. I have never seen so many scared people in all my life, but that was really...People were already ready to move up the river and all that, jump in their boats. I think the RCMP could act in the same way, just have road checks outside of our communities and outside of places like Fort McPherson that has prohibition.

Those are the only two that I wanted to comment on, but I think we really need to still talk out loud about the state of our communities and the mental state of the people in our communities. Below all this are people who are really angry, resentful and unhappy underneath all this and we are living with it. It's among us. So it really is dragging us down rather than moving us forward. As Regular MLAs, you should be aware of that and just know that that is the reality we have in our community, for Tsiigehtchic in our case.

So thank you for coming to our community and thank you for listening. Mahsi.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** ...(inaudible)...

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Robert. I just wanted to provide a few comments. Being a Member from a large community like Yellowknife, it always is a challenge being a Member from a large centre. In order to get anything done in the Assembly, Members from large centres learn quickly they have to work with their colleagues from the smaller centres in order to get anything done. As I mentioned in my opening comments, coming out to smaller communities to meet people, seeing how they live, hearing what they have to say is very important. That way, you get a better understanding of what the people are up against, what the challenges are in smaller communities and they are enormous. We can't fool ourselves with that. The government has been working towards capacity building at the community level for many years now. We aren't there yet, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We continue to work towards that. Not all communities are equal. Some communities have more capacity than other communities and, at some point in time, we will get there by working together. There has to be a balance between the large communities and small communities in order to make that happen.

A couple of comments on what I heard. In terms of bootlegging and the fines, I am glad to see in the Liquor Act that the fine is going to increase. I also agree that jail time, as James mentioned, I would be in favour of that. I would also be in favour of prohibiting people who are caught bootlegging and purchasing or possessing alcohol, much like a firearms prohibition. I think that's something committee and maybe the Legislature should take a look at in creating some provisions in this bill to see that happen. If we want to get serious with bootleggers, we don't let them buy booze and you don't let them possess booze and if they do, they go to jail. That, to me, is fairly straightforward.

I know John Norbert spoke of the police presence in Tsiigehtchic. The government has worked hard, the Member for Monfwi and also the Member for Nunakput, in getting RCMP detachments into Sachs Harbour and into Gameti, fairly similar sized communities, smaller communities. I believe the best way to do that is to have the Member of the Legislature work hard on your behalf to try to make that happen. Also, we are three months away from an election. Perhaps an RCMP detachment in the community here is high on your list of priorities. Make that one of the key things you focus on during your upcoming election. Make sure whoever is running in the Mackenzie Delta realizes that a police presence in Tsiigehtchic is something the community wants, and question the folks who are running in the next election on the work they are doing for the city. That's one way you can address that. That's coming soon. That's only three months from now. I think that was probably about it.

There is also fines for young people using fake IDs. I think that's important, too. I don't think there is a deterrent for kids to alter identification to try to get booze underage. So I think that's important, too.

This Liquor Act is progressive in ways, but there's something about it for me. It's been a long time since the act has been looked at, but when you find ways through legislation to make more accessible a substance like alcohol that is ruining families, destroying lives all across the Northwest Territories, you don't have to look too far to find examples of that, you have to ask yourself are we doing the right thing? We are trying to give people total responsibility back on the communities, total responsibility on the individuals. Sometimes I struggle whether we are doing the right thing by giving people more opportunity to get alcohol. That's, in essence, what the act does. So it's always a balancing act and always a struggle. Again, I just wanted to thank you all for your comments. They are much welcomed. Mahsi.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** ...(inaudible)...

**MR. NORBERT:** This is John Norbert, councillor. I brought that up because I was bylaw here for many years. Many times, we couldn't get the RCMP when we needed them here because their hands were full at Fort McPherson also. That's one of the reasons I brought that up. I know there are no facilities for them here, but if other communities get RCMP, why can't we? That's my question.

The other thing is, I was involved with a suicide here one time. This happened around 8:00 in the morning. The RCMP showed up here at 1:00 in the afternoon. It's still bothering me. That was quite awhile ago and it's still bothering me. It's one of those things. Like I say, we have people travelling through our communities and those people have been in jail and as soon as they get out of jail, they come over here and do what they want. They don't have respect for anybody and they aren't safe. That's the kind of community we are getting here now. I am really hoping for an RCMP in our community to be on the safe side, and also a qualified nurse.

While I am speaking on that, I would like to speak a little bit about the gun law. I don't really believe the law being made from the South and affecting people in the North who make their living hunting and stuff like that. Today, to start work, you have to take a gun course and you have to get 80 percent to pass. Afterwards, you have to register all your guns and everything and then renew your licence every single year and if you don't, they will charge you. Us in the North here, we made our living by hunting. When I was 12 years old, I was taught by my Dad to use a gun. ...(inaudible)...maybe that's why I am not a good shot.

But anyway, I really have no use for the gun law. I never renewed mine because of the little picture and I have no place to go to get that little picture. We don't have any facilities here for that kind of thing. I just don't believe in it at all. Thank you. I'll have to go home and phone Ottawa.

**MR. CARDINAL:** James Cardinal. We do have the police come here every Thursday only for summons or things like that, but sometimes they don't come when you call them. I know we have a very hard time getting them here, especially when we need them and something drastic happens in the community after drinking so much, fights and things like that, gun related problems. That's the only time they would come, but

other than that, I only see them come Thursdays for summons. That's about it. There is supposed to be an RCMP member assigned to this community from Fort McPherson, but I don't know. Maybe one or two weeks this winter they were kind of busy on this end. They were doing searches and that was it. It's not a big thing anymore. That is all I have seen. I live by the river. I know where everything is happening.

**MS. CARDINAL:** Hi. Loddi (sic) here again. I would like to make one comment. When John was talking about being a bylaw, I remember last year when we had bylaw here, I don't know where he was hired from. He was trained several times in and out of the community. He didn't do very much. He was supposed to guard the buildings, make sure that nobody had alcohol, check the vehicles and everything. He did for awhile and then laid off.

I recall one time when there was a party at this house where a guy got out of jail and was staying there with his woman and a big fight issued out of that building. He had a knife. He was trying to knife that woman. My daughter went in there to stop that action and almost got knifed. Right there was a crowd with the bylaw sitting on his skidoo watching and they were trying to tell him do something, do something. He said I am going to do something and he started his skidoo and took off. So if you are going to get bylaw or anything, they should be culturally oriented, not somebody that is just brought in from down south there. Stick them in the community and they can get at her. By the way, my daughter was sober that time. She was practically freaked out when she came home. The other woman survived because the young man, father of three, went and knocked the fellow out. My daughter took the woman away and brought her across to another house. The guy went back to his house and happily consumed the rest of the evening, no bylaw. He never did a thing, never phoned the cops, nothing.

Last week, I heard a woman went chasing after kids with a knife. She went into a house and threatened a woman with a knife asking who's those kids. Little things like this happen. We really need culturally oriented strong bylaw or law officers. It seems like only things get done when somebody is tragically killed, hurt, disabled, any form of accident that happens. That's the only time things are done. Somehow this has got to stop and things need to be productive, for the safety of our children, for their future, for their education, for the love of a parent. Some parents don't know how to love their kids on account of alcohol and drugs. They are more into their own heads and their own troubles and concerns. Every child needs that love and education. That's my point. This is what I see when I go to school. I always go to school just about every other day and look at the faces. You can see which is which. Some are sleeping. Why is that kid sleeping? He's tired. I can't keep him up. I just let him sleep. Well, that's nice. They should be doing that at night and not in school. Little things like that, I just wanted to let you know some of the things that I am thinking and what's going on. Thank you very much.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thank you, Virginia.

**MR. ITSI:** I am getting brave now. My name is John Itsi. I was a bylaw officer for the Tsiigehtchic charter here. You pretty well have to be trained in self-defence and stuff

like that. I was helping RCMP pick up four guys. They used their revolver to scare that one guy. It's better to have RCMP in the community because they are trained in self-defence and stuff like that. I was a bylaw officer and it's scary. Sometimes you have to phone the RCMP and they come over and it's about an hour's drive or a three-quarter of an hour's drive. By that time, the guys have beat up somebody. My point is to get the RCMP officer in and well trained bylaw officers in self-defence. We had one guy here from B.C. someplace. He's mostly a fireman and a First Aid guy. He was scared too. I knew him really good. He said he doesn't trust some of those guys. Even the police have to bring their guns.

Last year, we tried to get a JP here and they told us they pretty well had to be a lawyer to be a JP. That shouldn't be. They called the justice committee. That's all I have to say. Dave Ramsay, try to get my name back for me, eh?

---Laughter

Thank you.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** ...(inaudible)...I will start with Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Robert. I want to thank the people who spoke and came to the meeting tonight. I am sure glad you said what you had to say. When you come from a small community and live in a small community, some things small communities don't have such as some things we take for granted such as a nurse, those are very essential. David was right; other communities do have it. They do other things and we need to come back to what the community needs and the people need, even a justice committee. It's so simple. So it's like Colville Lake. They don't have an RCMP or a nurse. I say to some of the Members, what's wrong with people in Colville Lake? They are people too. They have alcohol and drugs going into the community. They are from the land. A lot of things are changing.

I am glad you said what you had to say tonight to us. It's refreshing to know that we shouldn't forget about the small communities and the people there. We push hard for those communities.

I was talking to John Kendall when I came in. I shook his hand and his wife's, and he was saying how things have really changed in our community. I wanted to see Rosie Clark and she said I hope we get an airport; we have been waiting for an airport for 30 years. I don't know, but that's what she said to me. Then she started talking about the Mackenzie River and how they used to work. So I am glad what you said and I take it to heart. I hope, once and for all, John, your last name stays forever. I don't know the other name they are going to give you, but there are some things that aren't done right in the Northwest Territories. I am glad Tsiigehtchic spoke up because it's not right not having an RCMP in the community. It's just not right and hopefully they will do things that will make some changes. We have other MLAs we have to confine also and work with them too. I will leave it at that. Thank you very much for inviting us in to listen to you. It was very good to hear. Mahsi.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Norman. Coming from the South Slave, I do share a lot of concerns you raised here today, especially the concerns on the police protection and enforcement and bylaw operations that just don't happen. You should definitely bring that to the attention of your Member of the Legislative Assembly. It's a really dire concern of residents here that there is a high need for a full-time police officer here. I am sure he will act on that accordingly and put it on his priority list.

With that, I am really glad to come to visit your community. It's the first time I have been here; it's a very beautiful place. It seems nice and quiet, but I was talking to one elder who I went to go visit and she was saying sometimes young people come in with booze and they just take over the community. There is no control factor in place to try to minimize the effects they have on the rest of the community. Again, I will definitely share that with your MLA and make sure that he is fully aware of the concerns that you raised with us here today. We will definitely put it in our report when we file it at the Leg. Thank you very much.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Bobby. Just in closing, again, I wanted to thank you for coming out to our meeting here on this public hearing of the four bills that we have and also welcoming us into your community of Tsiigehtchic. It's absolutely gorgeous, the view from the hill here over the Mackenzie and the Arctic Red River. It's a beautiful spot and I hope to get back here again some day to visit with you.

My colleague spoke of the needs that the community has and I think we can deliver that message to your Member. Like I mentioned earlier, there is an election in three months. The community leaders have to make sure that the community's interests are dealt with by the respective candidates in the upcoming election and that they pay attention to the needs here in Tsiigehtchic. That is coming October 1<sup>st</sup>, so it's going to be right around the corner. The whole month of September is actually the election period. Again, I know we have a long way to go in getting what you need here, but I think, like I said, working together is the way we are going to achieve that the best. I will do what I can to try to get your name back, John, if I have anything to do about it. I would certainly like to help you try to get your original name back. I think that's something a person has once when your name is first given to you and it's very important to your person and who you are. If I can help you, I would certainly like to do that. Again, mahsi, thank you for your time.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the public for coming out tonight again and hearing what you had to say. I don't think it's the first time we have heard the concerns raised here tonight. When we travel, we hear a lot of concerns about RCMP, bootlegging and gambling. So we know what they want in terms of what should happen. With regard to the RCMP, it took me almost three years to get RCMP presence in Sachs Harbour. So it takes a while. Not only that, it takes the Members on this side and other Members to really go behind an MLA in terms of what they want to do. So that's one way we did it. I appreciate my colleagues here for recognizing the fact that we needed RCMP presence in Sachs Harbour. I applaud them for giving me their support. That was one way of doing it. It took a long time. People in Sachs Harbour are really happy about it. It's something that became a reality over the last three and a half years. Like Mr. Ramsay said, you have to get your MLA to pursue things like that and



speak to other MLAs so they can get all the support the need in terms of RCMP presence in Tsiigehtchic or Colville Lake.

Bootlegging will always be a problem. I agree that \$25,000 is not a lot of money, but that's something that government is recommending right now. This is the minimum. We will just have to take it back and take all the comments we heard from the public and sit down with the Minister at some point in time and say these are some of the things we heard from the communities.

Just in closing, I would like to thank the public for coming out. I have been in Tsiigehtchic a couple of times. I don't know if Wally Firth is still here, but I understand...It's very interesting and a nice community. Thank you very much.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. (English not provided)

I would just like to say thank you for being with us tonight. We have seen more faces here tonight than we saw in Inuvik last night. There were only a couple of people. So it's nice to see a bunch of you here tonight.

We expose our committee members to the communities so they can see firsthand how we, as MLAs, are struggling with issues. A good example would be Mr. Ramsay. He's always been interested in how we struggle in the small communities, how we face issues. It's great to have him along. I appreciate that and other Members as well, so they know what we are faced with.

This whole Liquor Act that is before us, I think that will bring some changes back to the community. It's going to be a community control. It's always been the elders' wishes in the past; they have raised issues with the Dene assemblies, raised issues at the community level, that we should be making our own laws. This will allow you to do that at the community level. That's why I think finally government is listening to our elders, to our Members, to say let's empower the bylaw-making powers in the community. So that's coming. It's going to be addressed this fall as well.

There were issues on kids going to school hungry. It takes a whole community to make changes. With this bill, it's really critical. It is highlighting where liquor can be prohibited and the community controls it.

With the RCMP detachment, we have talked about it here tonight. There was announcement on two communities, Sachs and Gameti. Minister Bell, the Justice Minister, has always been pushing for small communities. Colville is also on the radar screen and other communities. One of his personal goals is to have a detachment in all communities. That is our push, as well. Regular Members sitting at this table here, that is what we want to see. But those issues could be dealt with at the community level by you in the community. So talk about the banishment about the booze and drugs in the community. You can easily do that. This act can help you with that as well.

I would just like to say in closing, there has been a lot of issues raised tonight. I appreciate questions and directions you have given us. This is why we are here. We

want to listen to you and bring that information back to our Ministers, to Cabinet, the government, and say this I what we heard. Can you implement that or make some revisions? We are also going to be pushing on our part and certainly if you can work with your Regular MLAs as well, we can all work together. Once again, thanks for coming. Mahsi.

**ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLeod):** Thank you very much, Members. When we were deciding which communities we were going to go to, a lot of Members wanted to come to Tsiigehtchic. They try to make all the communities in the four years that they sit and Tsiigehtchic was the first choice for one of the northern communities. I am glad we came. We heard a lot of concerns, not just with the bills that are before us, but other concerns. Those comments are much appreciated. I sit here with all the Members on our AOC committee and, actually, Jackson is chairman of the AOC committee, but he's been kind enough to let me chair the last few meetings. I appreciate it.

I sit on AOC, the Minister comes before us with the bills and all the questions that you folks have asked tonight have been brought and asked to the Minister. Some communities we hear asking the same questions; what we think needs to be done with certain bills. So we really do appreciate your concerns and questions. I guarantee you, we are not just here to make an appearance. The Minister is well aware of what you guys have to say; I guarantee that. So we have really enjoyed our time here.

A couple of things before I close here. I have been telling Collette for the last two years that you can get really good fish sticks in Arctic Red. I haven't gotten any yet, so she doesn't believe me. So I am going down in August, so I am going to stop by here before August and pick some up so she knows I am telling the truth. So I will be back in August to pick some up before I go down.

With that, I thank you for coming out. I thank you for your input. John, Dave is going to work on changing your name. I am going to suggest Diefenbaker.

---Laughter

So thank you for coming out. We will be spending some time here informally. Thanks again for coming out and sharing your views with us. We are glad we came and we will bring your concerns back to the Minister; guaranteed. Thank you.

---Applause

---ADJOURNMENT