



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 14, 2007
Gameti, Northwest Territories

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

Chairman

Mr. Jackson Lafferty, MLA, Monfwi, Chair (AOC)

Members

Mr. Robert McLeod, MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes,
Mr. Calvin Pokiak, MLA, Nunakput
Mr. David Ramsay, MLA, Kam Lake
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA, Sahtu

Witnesses

Mr. Charlie Gon
Mr. Eddie Chocolate, Counsellor, Tlicho Government
Mr. Louie Zoe
Mr. Joe Zoe
Mr. Romie Wetrade
Mr. David Wedawin
Ms. Jennifer Wetrade

Committee Staff

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

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7:35 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jackson would just like to thank everyone for being here tonight. The people who are here are the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. Tonight you will be introducing some new bills. You will briefly explain what is in the four bills: Bill 12, the Public Health Act; Bill 15, Liquor Act, a rewrite of the old law; Bill 13, Change of Name Act; and Employment Standards Act. Each bill will be explained.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. YAKELEYA: Mahsi, Jackson, for inviting us to Gameti. It's the first time or second time I played golf. I never thought I would play golf in Gameti. I think my ball is still flying somewhere. Mahsi for having us come here. It's a beautiful spot here. I really like it here.

Leon Modeste, Alfred Taniton and David Etchinelle said hello to you people from Tulita.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, everybody, for being here tonight. My name is David Ramsay. I am MLA for a riding in Yellowknife called Kam Lake. I used to work with RWED and I have been to Gameti a couple of times before. It's so nice to be back here in Gameti. It's a beautiful community and it's a really nice golf course they have. Thanks for showing us the golf course this afternoon and letting us play some golf on your land. I much appreciate it.

I wanted to say tonight is an opportunity for public input on four bills we have here. If you have any comments at all, we are here to hear them. Again, I want to thank you for your time. Mahsi cho.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. MCLEOD: Good evening. I am Robert McLeod. I am the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. It's the first time I have been to Gameti. I think we were recording the first time because the button was down. It's the first time I was here and I had really lots of fun.

---Laughter

It's a beautiful little spot you have and thank you for showing us around some of your land. It was nice walking around on your land and seeing the golf course. We are looking forward to hearing what you folks have to say tonight and I thank Jackson for inviting us here. I was looking forward to coming here because it's the last of the Tlicho communities I haven't seen yet. I am very pleased to be here.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. POKIAK: Good evening. My name is Calvin Pokiak. I am MLA for Nunakput. It's really good to be here in Gameti. It's a nice community. I enjoyed the tour you had this afternoon. For those of you who don't know it, my wife is from the Tlicho Territory, so maybe I feel a bit at home today. Anyway, it's good to be in Gameti. I am looking forward to listening to what the public has to say regarding the four bills. Thank you.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mahsi, Members. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. These are the Members of the standing committee. We also have with us a couple of clerks that do a lot of work on our behalf. We have with us tonight Colette Langlois. (English not provided) Pardon me, I'm sorry. Colette Langlois. I got the name, but am I speaking English or Dogrib? I forgot.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): You're English.

INTERPRETER: Collette is a researcher with all the information that we need to do tonight. She researches a lot of the information. We also have with us Gail Bennett. She's a committee clerk and she travels with us and she makes all the travel arrangements for us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Tonight we are going to introduce you to four bills and what we would like is whatever concerns you may have, if you want to ask any question with regard to these bills, you may do so. We have visited four communities so far and we have heard a lot of concerns from other people. There were a lot of questions raised and suggestions given. We can raise these concerns when we go back to Yellowknife.

These four bills are not bills that we, ourselves, have created but it's the government that have made these bills. So if there are any changes, questions or concerns, then we

need to hear from you. We want to know what you think. We want to know whether you feel it's okay. We want to hear from you. Come mid-August...What's in mid-August? Is there a report coming out? There is a report coming out and all the information that we've heard will be recorded in this information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Everything that Jackson said is written down. Did you still want me to translate all that? You don't need me to? You don't have a copy, do you?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Jackson just went through the four bills and explained all four of them, so I don't need to go over the information. He's now opening the floor to any questions that people might have. (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: I just wanted to let you know that we've talked to your chief, Henry Gon. William was also there too when we had this little conversation. The concern that Henry raised was the community here, there are some community members that have been known to bring in alcohol on airplanes and in their vehicles on the winter roads, on skidoos and on charters. We know this is a concern and we would like to work together on this. The chief did say that he wouldn't be here because he would be in Rae for a meeting. So what we want to emphasize is that this is something the community can work on and can see changes in the communities, if they want.

MR. GON: Mahsi. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: I would like to thank you for coming here to our community. My name is Charlie Gon. I apologize because I didn't come in time. I don't fully understand what it is that you've come for, so if you could just briefly explain to me why you have come. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

MR. CHOCOLATE: I am Eddie Chocolate, councillor for Gameti. I am also a member of the Tlicho Government. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: That was Eddie Chocolate. He's a councillor here in Gameti, but he's also a member of the Tlicho Government. He says he wants to talk about the Liquor Act. He said there is a high rise of alcohol and drugs in the community. We know these substances are transported here into the community. We can't say that it's a good thing. We know the tragedies that can be caused as a result of abuse. As it is, we've had three young youth who have died from such abuse. The two youth were brothers. They died from both drug and alcohol abuse and then we had another youth who died from a stabbing and that was alcohol-related. This youth was a relative of mine. It's good that

you have set a \$25,000 fine for personal offence. He says hopefully it will get them to think about what they are using.

As it is, this abuse takes away life from our youth. We would rather they live a long life. This abuse is not good and we know that. We can see its affects. If there is going to be any changes, I think you really should be giving this some serious thoughts. We should devote a lot of time and discussion on this. As it is, we don't have very many elders left in the communities and their greatest concern is for their children and grandchildren. As they think and worry about their children, it seems they get very concerned and stressed from this. Because of what they see happening to their community members, it almost seems like it drives them to their grave.

There is the sale of alcohol and drugs in the community and that's something that we all need to resolve together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you. We have visited a lot of other communities and the same concerns that you have raised have been raised by other community members too, especially the one on alcohol. Before these bills got tabled, we admitted a concern and we said we can't pass this law until we have brought these bills before the communities. So we were able to convince government that they give us a copy of these bills before they pass, so we could bring it to the community members. They finally thought about it and they gave us their consent and said take these bills to the communities and get the concerns from the community members. So that's what we are doing. We've been to Tsiigehtchic, Inuvik, Tulita, Yellowknife, and there were a lot of concerns raised in these communities. Bootlegging is a real concern. Don't think we aren't concerned. We are concerned too. We discuss this amongst ourselves too.

MR. GON: Mahsi. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Mahsi. My name is Charlie Gon. I am from Gameti. What is said about alcohol is true. He said we have people who bring alcohol into the community with trucks, skidoo or by plane. When the winter road was open, the road opened up to people from other communities and sometimes we have people from Rae who bring alcohol into the community and when they do, there is a lot of drinking going on in the community. We are very concerned about our youth. They are very important to us. We would like them to be able to live a long life and a good life. We are concerned that they have a good education because we know if they have a good education, they are going to benefit from a good education. It will allow them to have a good life. It will also help them to take good care of ourselves.

For a long time, our fathers and mothers have raised this concern. They have always wanted to have an RCMP in the community but it was impossible for the longest time. Even if they raised this concern, they never saw their request to have an RCMP in the community and they are now lying in their graves. We took up the cause and we raised the same concern and now we understand that we are going to have an RCMP in our

community. That makes us happy because now we know that every problem we have with drugs and alcohol will be resolved. We all have children. I have three sons and a daughter and I am concerned for them too. So if we could deal with the problems, then that would help us solve some of our problems that we have with drugs and alcohol.

You also raised a concern too of Bill 12, Public Health Act. You talk about the disease. It's very important that we come to some understanding together on this so we can deal with the problems at the community level. As it is, we have a place where we dump our garbage and also sewage. When the wind blows, sometimes the smell that comes into our community is unbearable and we have asked that this dumpsite be relocated, but it hasn't happened yet. We would like some help with this because it isn't healthy.

With all the mines in the North here, we understand there is a lot of chemical waste in the water. Who knows the level of pollution? If the water pollution is undrinkable, then how safe is it for the fish? Surely it won't be safe for them too. So we need to come together like this, so we can come up with solutions and make changes. Whatever you have heard and if you agree with us, we can start resolving some of the problems. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mahsi, Charlie. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Charlie. This concern that you raised about the RCMP, yes, there will be a member in the community. It's a result of the concerns that were raised that we are going to see an RCMP in the community. Concerning the dumping and the waste, I just want to tell you the community government has raised this issue the last two years and all the communities, there are 33 communities getting funding for them to take care of their dumpsite. We've also budgeted for this. It's also in the capital planning. So there is money set aside for this. If you are wanting to relocate, if this is a community concern, then we can work with you on this.

You also mentioned the mine, the water pollution. I should probably tell you there is a board that works on water pollution. They test water. The board is called Wekeezhii Land and Water Board out of Rae.

Another concern you raised was about disease. We realize this is a concern but if there is any area of concern, this can be raised with the chief public health officer out of Yellowknife. They can test water and they can deal with diseases as concerns arise.

MR. LOUIE ZOE: Mahsi. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you. My name is Louie Zoe. I want to thank you for coming here to our community. Alcohol is a real problem here in our community. When you share a drink, when you take a sip of that drink and you pass on that bottle and the other person takes a sip of that drink and that individual passes on the bottle and five other people take a sip of that drink. How do we know that one of the people who took a sip of that drink wasn't healthy? How do we know that one of the individuals could be sick? With the passing of that one bottle, they are passing on whatever sickness they

have to the other people. This is a real concern that we have and we would like to bring this to your attention.

At Christmastime, it's a time when the lakes all freeze up and the people start going back and forth to Rae. When they go back and forth on their skidoos, some of these people have been known to bring alcohol and drugs back into the community. As a result of this, there were some young people who had gone back and forth to Gameti they almost froze to death. Luckily, there were some individuals from the community who went out there to see to their safety and literally save them from freezing. So that's the kind of problem we have here.

This one individual that died, the one youth that was mentioned, he was a hard-working young person. He worked well on the land. He was very friendly with his friends and got along with the community. The young lad, whether he had a problem or not, he abused drugs. At the time when he got seriously sick, his tongue stuck out and he had terrible pains in his body. When they tried to revive him, they couldn't so they made every attempt to try to save his life so they took him to the hospital and he ended up dying at the clinic. He ended up dying at the steps of the clinic.

So I am really grateful. I also have sons. Sometimes we hear that our son has gone to Yellowknife and we hear reports that they are doing this and that and abusing alcohol. We are concerned for their lives. I also have a son too and when I hear news about him, it also stresses me. If we could all come together and make one strong voice, we could get support to deal with this alcohol problem and we would be very grateful. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Louie. I just want you to know the concerns that you raised are recorded. Every year, we know that the RCMP visit all the outlying communities in our region and it's good when the RCMP come to visit communities. This is what the elders wanted. A lot of elders have raised this and now these very same elders are all gone to their graves now. But we are still alive and carry the same concerns. So everything that you have touched on tonight, these are concerns that we are also concerned about too. So if we do agree with dealing with the problem, then we are certain we could bring about some changes.

MR. JOE ZOE: My name is Joe Zoe. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: That was Joe Zoe. He said I just want to raise some issues and some concerns. He's a member of the band here, the community government. He said why do they have the premises...I need some help on this. I haven't been to the Gold Range for a long time. I think he's talking about a couple of places in Yellowknife that's kept open late until the wee hours. He says why do they allow them to be open so late? It's open late but not only that, when people frequent these places they spend a lot of money. Even when people leave the community to go to Yellowknife, they frequent these places and spend a lot of their money. We can't help but worry about them because they are

members of this community and when we hear reports of what they are doing, that gives us great concern.

If anybody can do anything about that, it's the territorial government. I really believe they should take a good look at this. When we see institutions pass problems for the members, they should revoke their licences. That might be one way to deal with that problem.

Another concern I want to raise is why do we allow people from the South to become residents of the North? Some of these people who come up here are of a questionable nature. They may come up here for good intentions, but you have to really question their true intentions because we have known people who have come up north saying they are seeking employment but once they become residents of the North, we hear reports that they are dealing in drugs and the transportation of drugs into the North. So that is a real concern. They should be careful with who they allow in the North. Maybe an answer to this problem would be to set a certain number of the population that we want here in the North.

Another concern is bingo. As much as this is a recreational activity, it's still a real serious concern for us. If I understand it correctly, it's the territorial government that issues these bingo licences and so on. When people hear that there is a bingo, a lot of people go to these places. When we hear of a big bingo, who knows how many planes they charter just to go to Yellowknife to go to a bingo. That's a real concern too. So you should talk to the territorial council on that issue.

Also, we have another problem in the community. We've never had to pay a land lease before. Now I understand they are going to make us pay a \$600 land lease. That's a lot of money for people, especially when you have a high cost of living in the communities and we have elders who don't get that much money. They say how can we expect them to pay a \$600 land lease? I would think that would be a little too much, especially when there are some members who are widowed. They can't make that payment. We've never had to pay a land lease before. It wouldn't be such a bad idea to have us pay a dollar and take it from there. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mahsi, Joe. (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Joe. I thank you for the concerns that you raised. These are very important concerns. Regarding the issues of licences, to the premises in Yellowknife, the people who run these places run a business and they are the ones who send in an application for a licence. It's upon the issuing of the licence that they run their business.

Concerning the bingo issue, he says in this region we have four communities and community governments in the same way Yellowknife has a community government. This is the city council that I am talking about. They have a bylaw and they abide by their bylaws and make their decisions according to their bylaws. We can't have some stranger to come into our community and suggest that we do this or that. He says we

can't allow somebody else to tell us how to run our business. We are in our communities and make our own decisions and these are the bylaws that we create for ourselves and that's the same for these other communities. The concerns are being recorded.

Also we have a Liquor Act and in it we are saying we want to bring about some changes, so it's up to you to say how we want to bring about these changes. If we say that we want these changes and if you have a concern about people bringing alcohol into the community, for example, with their trucks, it's up to you to deal with those problems. When you decide you have had enough and as a community you decide you want to deal with this problem, you can as a community government.

Also, this land lease, again it's a community government bylaw that is set by the community. Two years ago, it used to be MACA that operated this but now there are other communities, for example, Whati, that have their own bylaws now. If you talk to your community government you can bring about some changes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you. We've had our little break. We had planned to start at 7:00 p.m. and finish at 9:00, but because this is your community, we are leaving it to you to continue on if you like. We encourage you to talk to us and give us your concerns, so the floor is open at this time.

MR. WETRADE: (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. That was Romie Wetrade. He wanted to thank you for coming to our community and sharing with us this new information that they needed to hear. Surely you have heard a lot of people, you have heard a lot of concerns. You have heard from the elders. The elders have always wanted us to have a healthy and a well community. We have a sub-chief in the past who we called "Whati" and he would talk about these very same concerns for the longest times. Sometimes it just seemed like his words fell aside and nobody dealt with his concerns. We never gave up. We continue to raise these same concerns. We are very concerned for our youth, especially when we hear the loss of a life. It's very hard to take. It grieves you and it just gives us more concern for the other communities and the youth. We wonder what are the solutions. How can we deal with this? In talking to the communities, as you listen to these concerns, it would be good if we were to just all raise our concerns as one voice and deal with this as a government. That would be good. We aren't government representatives but you are and you can effect change on our behalf. A fact is, we have to face facts. There are some of us who have never been to school. We can't read and we can't write. We have to look to people to effect change in our communities.

Some of these concerns that we raised, like I said, the elders in the past have raised them. For the longest time, they weren't dealt with and we would like to see some of

these issues dealt with and now it's hopeful that they will be dealt with. It gladdens our hearts.

I have worked with the council for many years. We spoke on a lot of concerns and every time we raised concerns, we were always told it would be dealt with in the future. It's always the future. Now the future is here and we still hear that it will be dealt with in the future. It always seems that there is never a solution. I am kind of hoping now that some of these issues will be dealt with, especially this problem with alcohol. We know that it is not a good thing. There is nothing good about it. We have to ask ourselves the question why do I drink. The elders recognize this and they know alcohol is a problem. My late father, when he was still alive, confronted me and said why do you use alcohol. I had a really good talk with my father. Since that time with him, I just made up my mind that I don't want to drink alcohol. I quit playing cards and I don't play bingo and I was really grateful that I had a father who cared for me and I chose to listen to his words. As a result, I just don't do that stuff. So if we can do the same, we can bring about some positives in our lives too.

We all have concern for our children. We think about their future, we think about their home and their children. It's all about them.

We finally heard the news that there is going to be an RCMP living here. We have raised this concern for the longest time. The RCMP live in a community and we were never told yes. Now that there will be one living here, we are hoping that it will make a difference. So I am glad that you have come to listen to our concerns and if we can bring about some good, that would be good. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Romie. I thank you for your words. I just want you to know that all the concerns you raised are being recorded. We have visited a lot of other communities and a lot of elders have said the same things you have said here tonight. Also the Members here and the people who represent the government have also heard you, and this community is getting an RCMP here and the RCMP will be coming here tomorrow and you will hear from them and able to see them. Hopefully with the RCMP here in the community, we will see some positive changes. We know you have brought this concern up for many years, that you want to see an RCMP here and to see an RCMP here in the community will show it's finally coming to pass. This is what the elders in the past wanted.

There is another community here in the North, Colville Lake, that has had the same concern. Even if it's a small community, I understand they will be getting an RCMP too, and so I am glad you raised these issues.

MR. WEDAWIN: (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. My name is David Wedawin. I thank you very much for all the concerns that have been raised here. We have our problems here in the community and alcohol is a problem and we recognize that. It would seem an

impossible thing, but we stand behind you, we support you, we hear you on TV and on the radio. We know you raise this as a concern, too. I thank you for your support.

When people abuse this stuff, we know that it doesn't only happen here but it also happens elsewhere. We know that even when there is an RCMP present in the community, there are still problems. Unless we work together, we aren't going to find a solution to the problem. That's how I see it. If we keep to ourselves and just let the RCMP try to solve the problem, he's not going to be able to deal with the problem on his own. We need to work together and that's the message we need to get out there. I understand that with RCMP living in the community, there is still problems despite the RCMP presence. We don't want that in our community here. We are hoping that we will be able to work with the RCMP and deal with the problems here.

Some of the issues regarding health, what Louie said was true. He said when people share a drink, who knows what they are picking up when they share these bottles? When people are sick, how can we tell? We don't know. We hope the people who do share these bottles, maybe they are catching the same disease and get sick too. It's something we need to think about. We don't want to wait for an incident to happen before we raise a concern.

What was said about these three young people, it's a loss in the community. We know these three young people were good workers in the community. They worked in construction and were good workers. You have to ask why. Why did he have to die at such a young age? Why? Drug abuse. If we can prevent this from happening again, that would be good.

Another concern about health is regarding nurses. As it is, we have a visiting nurse who comes out of Rae. We don't have a full-time nurse in the community. Another thing that we could benefit from is having a full-time doctor here in the community. As it is, we have a doctor who visits here on a monthly basis. If you could find a doctor for us, one who lived here full time, that would be good.

We have a lot of young people here and a lot of them may think they are well, strong and healthy, because I am young but if they were to get checked out, how would they find out? If they were to get a check-up, what would they find out? We need to deal with some of the problems we have here; drugs and alcohol.

Concerning offences, we talk about people but what about the people who sell the stuff? How much would they get charged for offences if they get found out?

Regarding alcohol, they should ration alcohol in Yellowknife for places that sell liquor. I understand some restaurants sell it too. Would it solve the problem if we were to ration them? These are things to consider. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, David. You are talking a lot of concerns that were very important. For a small community, we have a lot of concerns and the MLAs that are

here have heard all these concerns raised in other communities. Yes, we recognize that the RCMP can't fix the problems alone. It's going to take a whole community to work together to bring about some positive changes. Hopefully working together, we can bring about some changes in the community.

Regarding the doctor, I understand the community agency has raised this concern too and it's a question that is asked all the time. There are questions about building hospitals and getting doctors. We know it's really hard to find doctors and nurses to live in the communities. This is something we are looking into.

We have got your concerns on tape. We will be visiting the community. I may come once or twice about your concerns and we will get back to you about this.

Regarding Bill 12, I believe it says they will be looking at preventative measures on diseases. This is something that is being studied. They are looking at this quite seriously and we understand that saliva could pass on disease. We have issues about TB and diseases, a lot of diseases we read about. They are slowly making their way here to Canada. So this is a real serious issue that we want to be able to look at.

There were two other concerns raised. One is on rationing and drug dealers. The drug dealers, we have to raise the question about the charges, or the clerk has advised me that she can research this and she'll look it up in the Criminal Code and get back to you on this.

About the ration...(inaudible)...have raised the same concern too because they have the same problem in the community in Norman Wells. So in the past, it used to be a government licence but now I understand it's a private business. It's out of the government's hands. So these were concerns that were raised too. Mahsi.

ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi. We have a speaker in the back. Maybe we will go to her first.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MS. WETRADE: Hello? Hello? My name is Jennifer and I am going to be asking my question in English. Something was brought to my attention and the question is people around here, they drink hairspray, Scope, as an alternate for alcohol. If people are caught selling mouthwash for the use of drinking to the public, will that be considered into the fine of \$25,000?

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi. Mahsi, Jennifer, for your question. No, if somebody were to be found selling hairspray or mouthwash to somebody, there is a clause in the legislation, 127, it's like a catch-all. You could still be fined up to the maximum of \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 days. If it's a company, it could be up to \$5,000. But it's not seen as bootlegging. While I have the floor, one thing I did want to mention as well is the \$25,000 fine, the increase in

bootlegging charge. One amendment that I would like to see us address as Members of the Legislative Assembly is to make it mandatory that if you are caught bootlegging and if you want to be serious about the impact bootlegging has in the small communities, we need to ensure that the crime fits a certain punishment. That punishment should be jail time. I think if you are convicted of bootlegging, you should serve time behind bars, not just a monetary hit. You should get six months in jail and also if you commit a crime, you are prohibited from owning a firearm, if it's a violent crime, for five years or 10 years. If you are convicted of bootlegging, I believe you should be prohibited from possessing alcohol or being in a licensed establishment, period. If you want to deliver a strong message to people in the Northwest Territories, it's provisions like this in the Legislature that are going to get us there. Thank you, Jackson.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. I just wanted to explain further that we are talking about not selling alcohol. If a person is found selling alcohol, we have raised this question in our Legislature. If a person is found bootlegging, then this act proposes that they don't sell for the next five years and they also get jail time. We know that a lot of small communities have a problem with alcohol and the elders have been raising this concern for many years and we wanted to bring about some positive changes in these small communities.

MS. WETRADE: I have another question regarding hairspray and using those as an alternate. I see that it says the maximum penalties for individuals bootlegging will be \$25,000. So people know...(inaudible)...

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you, Jennifer. We thank you for your question. It's a really good question. You raised a very important question about bootleggers that will get a fine for the first offence of \$25,000. If we look at the \$25,000, we look at people who sell hairspray and they are found selling this product, they get a \$2,000 offence charge. When you compare the \$2,000 with \$25,000, you can see how the person who is selling hairspray would want to continue selling the product because the charge is a lot less. We are going to look at this more seriously and we are going to raise this as a Legislature and see if we can bring about some changes to this.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Jennifer. That's a good question that we could raise with the Minister. Anybody who goes into the stores and buys cases of hairspray and six bottles of aftershave, I think the people in the small communities and the store owners need to know if they don't see them in Yellowknife or they see a stranger...(inaudible)...

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. YAKELEYA: I guess the question is these people, and I know some of them in my own riding of the Sahtu, how much they are really hurting their own people. How much do they love their own people to do that, to sell them aftershave or hairspray? At one time in my life, I used to drink a lot. I knew if I didn't get it, I would find it. Oops, would just about spill it all over me too. That's how powerful elders say alcohol and hairspray is. There are people who are going to use that, going to make money on that. That's a really different lifestyle we have today. Unlike a long time ago, we changed. You're right. We raised it to \$5,000 to \$10,000. They are going to do it anyway regardless of whether we...Some people don't want to hear it. Yesterday in Tulita the grand chief said people talk to him. The grand chief said he's been sober for a long time and now he knows what the people are saying and now he's telling that to his kids. So you're right, Jennifer. Whatever we try to do with the laws, you guys are helping us make these laws. I think we could make some strong laws about our own Dene laws in here. We are trying to follow the law also. It's hard. So I think if we had some strong laws, that would help our people also. I always said put them on the land and make them work out there. Make them think with their mind and their heart. I think that's going to be the hardest one for us. Make them pay out, fine them to two months out there to live and work out there. I think that's how we will help our own people. If they pay, they will get some more money and pay. They don't care. That's a good question, Jennifer. People had good thoughts here tonight. That's for us MLAs to talk about next month.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MS. WETRADE: Okay, this is my last question. People do a lot of travelling to other communities. They go back and forth. Sometimes people...(inaudible)...back a bottle, a mickey or something. If a person is caught selling that one bottle, he or she will get a fine of \$25,000 without judgement, right?

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. I just wanted to let you know that we are going to be looking at this more seriously. We are going to see if we can make changes and these are called amendments. If we don't agree, then we will be sure to talk to the Minister. We will ask the Minister some serious questions.

There are many people in the region and a lot of people in the region and if there is a person there found selling alcohol and it's known for certain and they go to court and are given a \$25,000 charge and this is investigated by the police, then he can be sure that they will be given a \$25,000 charge with a maximum of \$25,000 being the maximum. But if there is jail time, it's up to the judge to decide. He may award them 10 years jail time. It's up to the judge. If they go to court and they say one or two years, but if it's \$25,000, that's \$25,000 and they may get one year jail time.

---Interjection

INTERPRETER: Well, you said \$25,000, \$10,000, \$15,000. Any one of these charges.

---Interjection

INTERPRETER: Oh, before you, you said 10 years but it's up to the judge, you said. When the judge makes his sentence, he may give a sentence of 10 years.

---Interjection

INTERPRETER: I will leave it to the court to decide. I won't argue with you. Okay. We thank you for all your concerns. You can be sure all your concerns are recorded and it's our desire that we will move ahead and don't leave any stones unturned. So I just thank you for talking to us. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: I just want to thank you for all the concerns that have been raised here. We are tired, exhausted. We have been to other communities. We came from Tulita yesterday, and today we came out here and went out to the golf course. So we are exhausted and the time is now 10:30. Before I close, I want to allow the Members here to say a few words and then we will close for the evening.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Thanks to your MLA for allowing us to come here and hear you. We were meeting in different communities and tomorrow we are going to Yellowknife. I want to say what a beautiful country you have here; lots of water, it's good. Thanks for taking us out. Just like I said, I didn't think I would be golfing in Gameti. That tells you how long I have been away from Gameti. I have been here before, a long time ago, when the band office was across from the...This wasn't here. I want to thank people for taking care of us. I look forward to sitting down with the other MLAs and look forward to putting your comments into law here. It's the kind of law you want to see us do on alcohol and drugs. I hope we make good decisions on your behalf. We are going to have a discussion on what you said to us. So pray that we do good work for you. The other MLAs also will have similar discussions and our staff. I hope we can do something that one day amongst our people that we wouldn't have to have RCMP in our communities, that we wouldn't need them. That's a long time I think, but I hope we can do that one day. God bless you and I hope you have a good summer. Be safe on the boats and look after your families. Take care of yourselves. Thanks for letting us come to your land here.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much. I would like to close with thanking everybody who is here, especially the elders who have come out. I know it's late. Thank you very much. The community leaders that are here and the other community members that are here as well. It's very nice to be back in Tliche Territory here in the riding of Monfwi and with your MLA, Jackson Lafferty.

I just wanted to say that I think it's very important that you get an RCMP detachment here in Gameti. It's because of the hard work of your MLA and the hard work of the Justice Minister, Mr. Brendan Bell, who will be in town tomorrow to make that

announcement. It's good news for the community but, as was mentioned earlier, just because the RCMP are here doesn't mean the bootlegging and other drug use is going to go away. It's not. What needs to happen is the community has to let people know if you see something that's going on, it could be somebody selling a bottle that is going to end up getting killed in a skidoo accident or a boating accident or something like that. You are doing everything you can by telling people who are bootlegging in the community and that's how it's going to stop. The community has to stand up together. It doesn't matter who it is in the community. Stand and be strong and get rid of the bootleggers.

Over the past week we have travelled to some of the smaller communities in the Northwest Territories and I really understand what my colleagues who represent some of the smaller communities are up against. Myself, being from Yellowknife, the economy is strong in Yellowknife, everyone is working. Sure, I have constituency issues to deal with when my constituents phone me and I do everything I can to help them out, but I am also here to support my colleagues and those from the smaller communities because that is where the social pressures are in our Northwest Territories. They are in these smaller communities. I have seen it myself. There are a number of areas that can be improved upon. I know my colleagues know they have my support. I feel very strongly about that, helping the small communities. Building capacity in the small communities is key to having a strong territory. It's not just Yellowknife that's strong. Yellowknife is Yellowknife. But outside of Yellowknife in some of the regions here, we really need to work together. I enjoy working with your MLA, Mr. Lafferty, and others who represent small communities in trying to achieve some of those goals.

So with that, I would like to thank the interpreter for doing a good job for us. Thank you very much, mahsi cho, God bless and have a wonderful summer. Mahsi.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. POKIAK: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank your MLA, Mr. Lafferty, for inviting us here to Gameti. As I said earlier, it's a very nice community. Over the last week or so, we have travelled quite a bit. Like Jackson said, we are tired but it's our job to come to the community and listen to the concerns of the community. Earlier last week, when we were in Behchoko, I just wanted to let you know that Chief Henry Gon did make a presentation to the panel when we were in Behchoko. He was concerned about alcohol and drugs and he voiced that very clearly. I would like to thank the people who came out to speak tonight. All the issues raised tonight were already heard in the communities we have already been to. Working with the upcoming legislation, it is a start. We will make sure the Ministers hear about all the concerns raised, not only in Gameti but in Tsiigehtchic, Tulita, Inuvik and we will take all the concerns and it's all being recorded and transcribed. It's our duty now to go back with our other colleagues from the south who are doing the same thing from other communities and put all the information together so we can sit down and either try to make some changes and work with them there.

I would like to say thank you very much and hope to see you again. Thank you.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

MR. MCLEOD: A lot of people think MLAs talk too much. Some do. But I think one of the best things we can do is listen. I was told when I first started, listen, listen, listen and then speak. We've heard what you have told us. We've heard what the other communities have told us. Now we are going to bring that back to Yellowknife and we will bring that up to the Minister. I have worked with these guys for awhile and the concerns they hear from the communities, they do bring them to the Minister and we will tell them what we heard. It's just not going to be us speaking. One of the things I like about this new bill is it gives more power to the communities. That's what we like.

So we have heard what you had to say. We will bring it to Yellowknife. We will meet with the Minister and he will hear these concerns. It's not just Gameti. All the communities we visit have the same problem. Something is going to have to start being done about it, otherwise it's going to get worse and worse. I am glad I was able to be in Gameti tonight and hear what you had to say. You asked some good questions on a couple of the bills. They were very good questions. You had some other concerns and your MLA heard those concerns. He does good work in bringing those concerns to the Minister and try to get some answers to you. We have heard those concerns too, so we will be able to support him when he brings them forward.

So I appreciate the input from everyone here. It was good input. I am glad I had a chance to come to Gameti and hear what you had to say. A couple of you said you support us in our work and we appreciate that because sometimes it's a thankless job and we will take any support we can get.

I thank you for coming out and speaking with us. Hopefully, I can visit Gameti again. I will practice my golf game, so I can try it. Thank you.

INTERPRETER: (English not provided)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): (English not provided)

INTERPRETER: I just want to say that thank you for allowing us to talk to you tonight. We were able to talk to you about the concerns that we had and you talked to us about your concerns. You can be sure that we've all heard you and that we will be sure that your issues will get raised when we go back to Yellowknife. It's all about hearing you and being able to work for you. When these bills are passed, we want to make sure they are passed according to our satisfaction. So I want to thank David especially for coming to Gameti. I am glad Dave could come to a small community such as Gameti to see for yourself what problems we have in Gameti.

I just want to reassure the people, once again, that we have heard their concerns and that we will take the word back to Yellowknife and get these concerns over to the Minister for the Minister. I want to thank all the people here tonight for coming out and I want to thank the MLAs for coming out with us on this trip. I also want to thank the two clerks that came out with us. We have been travelling for over a week and they are

tired, but it's their job so I was just glad they were able to come out with us. I wanted to thank the translator, too.

Tomorrow, there will be some people coming in from Yellowknife. We are going to meet with the Minister tomorrow and the RCMP is coming. So do come out tomorrow and your chief will be here too. I declare the meeting over and Elder Romie will pray for us in closing.

---Prayer

---ADJOURNMENT