



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, February 26, 2013****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MINISTERIAL PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're getting to the midway point of our term in the 17th Legislative Assembly, and as I have been known to do on occasion in the past, sometimes we like to talk about ministerial performance. I don't have any speaking notes here, so I'm just going to wing this.

When we come here elected as 19 Members, we come here all as equals, all equally elected. Then we go into our territorial leadership and choose seven from amongst us to sit and hold positions of responsibility and leadership in certain areas of government performance. In my opinion, the "us" and "them" begins, which I think is a problem, but we continue to work on it. It's our form of government. I think it needs to be reviewed and I think it needs to be looked at. We call it consensus government but it has traits of party politics, which is kind of a hybrid. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't work that well, which I think we can all talk about.

When we choose the seven from amongst us to take on these special roles and responsibilities, we have expectations, I think, from all of us, because we're all MLAs. Even if we're Cabinet Ministers, we're still MLAs and we all come here hoping to make a difference and use our contribution to better things. I believe we're all here for noble and very good motives.

From this side of the House, the things that we look for in our leaders on the opposite side of the House is we would like them to be hardworking. We would like them to be knowledgeable so that when we ask

them questions, they can answer them. We would like them to have good communication skills. We would like them to be very responsible to the tasks before them. Obviously, they are all honest and honourable Members. We expect honesty. We expect sensitivity. If they are a Member who represents a large city, we expect them to be sensitive to the issues that we bring to them on behalf of our constituents that might be unique to our region or community. We like sensitivity. We'd like them to keep a global perspective, that they're there to represent the entire Northwest Territories with fairness and equity.

Having said that, I don't know if I have time. I had jotted down some comments on each one of these folks, but now I see that the clock is ticking here and I don't know if I'll have enough time. Maybe I'll have to make that my statement for tomorrow. It's unanimous consent to conclude your statement, not to extend your statement. I will leave it at that for today. Tomorrow is theme day, but I'll get it in there tomorrow. It's actually theme day on bullying so it will have to be very, very nice.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SHANE KOYCZAN ANTI-BULLYING VIDEO
"TO THIS DAY"**

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow is Anti-Bullying Day, otherwise known as Pink Shirt Day. Now, I know this is the eve of what should be another great awareness day, but I wanted to make sure that I left everyone here today with a homework assignment in preparation for tomorrow.

In preparing for tomorrow, I came across a unique video by Shane Koyczan on bullying that has been going absolutely viral. Shane Koyczan is a BC poet who is definitely no stranger to being bullied as a kid. In fact, if you recognize the name, it's probably because you remember him from his inspired performance at the Vancouver Olympics opening ceremony where he read his poem *We Are More*.

Earlier this year Koyczan, who admits that bullying can leave psychic scars that can last for years, teamed up with artists from all over the world to

animate a seven-minute video called To This Day. In this video Koyczan narrates a poem of his experiences of being bullied in school, as well as two other victims: a girl with a birthmark on her face and a boy who struggles with depression. This is a powerful animation that tackles bullying head on and strikes a nerve with everyone who experiences the vulnerability of his storytelling. To This Day is a wonderful animated tool that can help schools and families confront the problem of bullying, or at least allow for the starting point of discussion.

I'll leave you with this: If you think this is just another southern artist who doesn't understand what bullying means in the North or has any clue of what it means to be of First Nation heritage, I beg you to think again. Shane Koyczan is a true Northerner, born here in Yellowknife, and had a childhood of being bullied right here. His story is our story.

My pink shirt is ready. My pink tie is ready. Let's get ready for tomorrow, shall we? Before we do, I ask everyone here at the Assembly and listening in, to take a minute to watch Shane Koyczan's To This Day with your kids.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canada is currently negotiating with the European Union for a Canada-Europe trade agreement. It has been some four years in the making and, I gather, they're finally getting to a possible end point. Much of the negotiations have been withheld from the public, but provinces and territories, at least, are party to the negotiations. We have to hope that our interests around this agreement are being adequately represented by our government, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

So why should I discuss a federal issue here in the NWT Assembly? Well, because this agreement has the potential to impact our government, our residents, and we should be concerned about that. A submission from Alternatives North last year stated it is precisely the people and small businesses in the NWT who stand to lose the most should CETA become a reality.

The question for me is what will Canada give up during negotiations to satisfy the European Union and reach the agreement the federal government seems so desperate to achieve. The most recent negotiations were just last week and the European Union trade commissioner has been quoted as saying, "On a number of issues they have to make additional steps. What was on the table is not enough. Very simple."

A few weeks ago a radio commentator stated we know what Europe wants. We don't know what Canada is willing to give up. That's my concern. What will Canadian citizens lose and is our territorial government fighting to keep that from happening? They are the only ones who can represent our interests to the federal government.

The intent of CETA is to open new markets for Canadian goods, and I'm all for that. But what I cannot conscience is an agreement that ends up costing Canadians more for certain goods and services, and that's a distinct possibility. The likeliest culprit is the European Union demand for extended patents on prescription drugs. This remains one of Canada's most difficult decisions in these negotiations as drug costs for provinces and territories could jump significantly.

If the European demand is agreed to, Canadians will not be able to use generic drugs for five years, instead of the current two or three years. With the cost difference between generic and patented drugs, we could see our own government drug costs increase a great deal.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: The GNWT has to make sure that Canada understands the impact such a change will have on us and our hold-the-line fiscal strategy, as we hear very often from Mr. Miltenberger. My fingers are crossed that the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment will adequately negotiate on our behalf before CETA is concluded.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO PERSPECTIVE ON DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the Premier and the former federal Minister have said they expect to have a final Devolution Agreement very soon. I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but First Nations in my constituency are not participating at the devolution table. The Dehcho First Nations would like to see movement in their own negotiations to finalize the land use plan for the region before devolution goes ahead. As well, they strongly believe that 25 percent of what the GNWT gets shared with all regional Aboriginal governments is not a fair allocation of resource revenues.

From the First Nations' perspective, devolution, so far, is nothing but a GNWT money and self-government grab. Most First Nations don't have self-government agreements. In spite of reassurances, it's hard to see how devolution won't prejudice these negotiations. In fact, the possibility

of Dehcho First Nation's involvement in devolution is one reason the K'atłodeeche First Nation recently left the regional lands and resources table. As Chief Roy Fabian said, we're not willing to give up our jurisdiction to anybody until we are finished negotiating.

I must ask what has the GNWT given up or compromised on to reach this deal. What more will they give up for a final agreement? I'm concerned that this deal is already forcing us to inherit environmental and resource management arrangements weakened by the recent federal omnibus bill. Can the regions and small communities even count on a share of the 170 jobs to be transferred to the GNWT after devolution? Devolution should be good for everybody, but will it be good for First Nations in my constituency?

I will have questions for the Premier later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FIRST AID TRAINING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent tragedy along our highways has once again reaffirmed and reminded us about how important our first responders are. They are critical to the fabric of the Northwest Territories and certainly to the health of the people. It's only in times when urgency is required we often think about what pillar of society that they play and that important role that they represent.

Not everyone has the experience and training a first responder typically would go through, and depending on where you are in the sense of where you're located in the Northwest Territories as a first responder, will sometimes in some ways, unfortunately, dictate the type of level and skills you'll get. What I'm saying is large centres may have the benefit of having more training than other, maybe, small centres, which is a problem in itself.

I draw this type of dichotomy out only to talk about in a way what we could be doing. A number of months ago, I raised the issue of teaching First Aid to our youth who are in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, and I've heard from a number of teachers where they thought this was a great idea. The schools would like to do this, but they're unable to do it under the current funding model.

The question that really rises is why wouldn't we be teaching them First Aid? It's such a critical skill. How many skills out there do we learn over the course of our lifetime that we can say that skill can actually save someone's life?

It's been well written, well documented, well said many times over that even bad First Aid is better

than no First Aid. There are critical components of First Aid that are so meaningful. I look around the room and even across the territory, and First Aid has seen results by first responders who have taken even the basics, who have gone out and rescued and changed a person's life by being able to be there to help them and save them.

These are skills that we could be giving back in a way where we'll say we're saving our community, we're protecting our community, we are giving to our future. In short, the importance of such a skill is such a liberty that we should not be hiding it and keeping it confined to a very few. Let's unshackle the inability for everyone to have it, and say today, this territory will lead by example, we will show the rest of Canada we are forward-thinking as a government and as a people, and we will teach all our students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 First Aid, because as I said earlier, the skill is a lifesaving skill and who knows, the life it may save may be one of ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOME OWNERSHIP UNITS VACANCY RATES IN NAHENDEH CONSTITUENCY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I just want to speak about the vacancy rates throughout the Northwest Territories and particularly my riding of Nahendeh. There is some recent documentation, I believe my colleague Mr. Bromley received, that shows that there's a 32 percent vacancy rate in our home ownership units throughout the Northwest Territories. That means that one out of every three homes that we've built remains empty. With respect to my constituency of Nahendeh, the vacancy rate is actually 25 percent, so one out of four homes that we built in Nahendeh remains empty to this day.

Especially with the riding that has the highest core need in the most recent Housing Needs Survey that we had, I think some of the solutions that we had in the past was having a community liaison worker in each of the communities as a part-time position. I believe that this will go a long ways; it did in the past. Whereas, if the community liaison worker is in the community addressing and working with the clients there, I know that as I've travelled to my communities, often when the regional staff make visits, they're doing their best at making visits, their clients are out of town travelling and they miss their appointments. So they're often asking me, when is Housing coming. I say, well, they were just here last week. They say, well, they didn't know about it. However, a liaison worker will know this, will work with the clients; in fact, maybe even upping the number of applications that the corporation receives.

I would like to urge the Minister to look at the past practice, because we do want to house people. It's a shame in the communities that I visit, there are empty houses and people are in need, and they're seeing empty houses. I know the Minister has a strategy and I'd like to ask some questions during the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ENCOURAGING ELDERS TO SHARE
STORIES AND MEMORIES**

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was to my surprise and great interest that on February 21st when I opened up the Inuvik Drum there was a very educational and historic story that was told by my father, and it was entitled The Mad Trapper Case Recalled. It's about some oral history that's never ever been told in the books, and I was really surprised to hear that my father decided to let the public know, and let the historians know, some of the things that had happened during one of the biggest stories in the Northwest Territories, and that was the Mad Trapper of Rat River.

This is something that my father had spoken to me about not too many years ago and was it was really interesting to hear, because everything that I ever knew about that whole story were things that I had read in books. So I was very impressed and very encouraged to hear my father speak up on something that a lot of historians did, and that he shared it not only with family members but with community residents in Inuvik and the Beaufort-Delta to share a little part of history here. Then I was even happier to see it in yesterday's News/North, dated February 25th. This story is not only shared in the Inuvik region, but it's shared throughout the Northwest Territories.

With that, I'd like to encourage all elders within the Northwest Territories to share these types of stories so that our youth, and our historians, and people that are continuing to work to help with the culture and what the Northwest Territories is, can hear some of the real stories. Our history helps define us and makes us who we are. Much like my father who spoke up on his father and seemed to be very proud to share his story. Today in the House I'm very happy, I'm very proud to speak of my father on his courage to bring this story forward. Better late than never. Thank you.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CAPITAL RETROFIT OF STANTON
TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL**

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The urgent need for a complete restructuring at Stanton Territorial Hospital has been under review since before the last Assembly. We've patched cracks and tinkered with failing and mouldy systems for too long. It's time to get serious.

Emergency physician and current CMA president Anna Reid has been quoted as saying, "there is no place in emerg for doctors to privately use a phone, not even enough surface space for a doctor to sit and fill out paperwork." That's the critical care portal at Stanton Territorial.

Patients wheel through the waiting room to X-ray, there's room for only four crammed beds in the ICU unit. Files overwhelm office space and surgeries get backed up through long waiting lists for a lack of operating room time. The facility is poorly laid out for modern medicine, causing serious issues of safety, efficiency and privacy.

We strive to control travel costs, but then ship patients south for want of facilities here. The cost in employee stress and to patient care can only be imagined.

In August 2011, the Minister of Finance was quoted as saying, "Stanton needs some very, very critical work." He estimated \$200 million in needed renovations would extend the facility's life by 15 years and cost \$300 million less than replacing the hospital. We're spending \$1 million this year and we'll be lucky to see \$5 million next. That's what, 20 or 30 years?

With elections won, where is the real money? Well, it will be paying for a bridge for 35 more years, 80 to 90 million dollars for the Inuvik-Tuk highway is on the spending list, with tens of millions more for yet more new initiatives. All new dollars while critical capital spending to meet human needs is postponed, delayed and deferred.

Stanton Territorial Hospital is the foundation of our most important and often most urgent medical facilities serving all of the citizens of this territory. Three hundred fifty million on a bridge, Tuk road and other new projects won't save lives and ease suffering. The conditions at Stanton for patients and staff border on disgrace. Members have been calling for action from the Health Minister for a decade. Two hundred million dollars now to save \$500 million later is a fiscal no-brainer.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: We've fiddled and faddled so long the midlife window for Stanton Territorial has

almost passed. The Finance Minister urges thrift today for a better tomorrow, but tomorrow is here.

I'll be working with all Members to put the human needs of our constituents first on the list of our next capital budget and I will have questions for the Minister later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ADDRESSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
(FRACKING) CONCERNS
IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a song sung by Johnny Cash. It goes "I walk the Line." I believe today the people in the Sahtu are also walking the line. The Minister of ITI has clearly said no fracking, no development. That's a clear indication not to frack, not to develop, but can we have it both ways? That is the question.

Many people are divided over the issue of hydraulic fracking. Some people think the social and environmental risks outweigh the benefits. Others believe that the benefits of development and continued oil and gas resources outweigh the risks. People need to decide.

The Northwest Territories is moving ahead to guide practices and make decisions about how we use this technology. Economic development has responsibilities. Are we prepared to be responsible?

Last fall the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment hosted a Sahtu Exploration Readiness Session in Norman Wells. This session brought together the land owners, the oil companies, and GNWT representatives to talk about the benefits of the Canol shale play and the upcoming winter activity that's going to happen this season. It became clear that everybody has to work together to find solutions to the challenges and to advance the people of the Sahtu. Social issues and addictions prevented some people from benefitting from the economic activity. We must prepare not only for today's exploration, but for long-term development and production. At the end of the session, participants agreed on some of the action items and the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the lead on some of these important initiatives.

ITI was the lead on the Mackenzie Gas Project. We have an opportunity to apply some of the lessons learned from the pipeline readiness to the development of the Sahtu. The Sahtu Aboriginal people have developed a comprehensive regional strategy for addictions prevention and treatment. This is a serious challenge and the people are up for that challenge. We have already seen mining companies that cannot meet their hiring targets from socio-economic agreements because of lack

of skilled workers and other reasons, we are told. In order to deal with this challenge and to advance our people in this new development, we must be ready.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: There is great potential for the Sahtu in the Northwest Territories. We need to act wisely and make the best use of our time now. We have a chance to strike a balance and get things done now. In the words of Johnny Cash again, when he's saying I walk the line, I also keep my eyes open all the time.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

I'd like to welcome our visitors in the public gallery here today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 144-17(4):
DECENTRALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL
POSITIONS TO HAY RIVER

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. We have an amazing group of people in Hay River who are highly interested in agriculture. I know the Minister has received a briefing from a very enthusiastic young lady, who has a market garden in Hay River, by the name of Jackie Milne who is now the president of the NWT Farmers Association. Ms. Milne has come up with an outline for training so that she can share her knowledge with others and encourage more interest in the idea of growing our own food, which we know is very, very possible here in the North.

The Northern Farm Training Institute is about to get underway. The Minister has heard the presentations. I'd like to ask the Minister what support ITI is offering for this new initiative to share this information with the surrounding communities and Hay River.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to have to be very nice on my answers to the Member here today, considering she's going to be grading us tomorrow. We have met with Ms.

Milne when she was here in Yellowknife and my understanding is she is coming back to Yellowknife, I believe, on March 5th. Our department, and hopefully myself, will be able to meet with her again. We are anxious to see her progress with her initiative and help out in any way that we can.

As I have mentioned a number of times in the House, we are moving forward with negotiating the Growing Forward 2 Agreement with the federal government, which will provide us \$6 million over five years, and we're hoping to access some of that funding to help with this initiative. Those discussions are underway.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I do thank the Minister for his interest in this topic. Everything can't be about the non-renewable resource sector. We have to put some of our attention to renewable resources and small-scale operations.

I'd like to ask the Minister, within his department, what kind of human resources and resources are dedicated to this issue of agriculture.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Over the past four or five years, we've had many more staff working on agricultural initiatives. They're balancing their workload with other things as well. I would be guessing, but I would say five staff in the area that would deal with this type of work on a day-to-day basis.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I think that it's safe to say that agriculture is catching on across the Northwest Territories. We've always had the greenhouse in Inuvik. We hear wonderful stories coming out of Norman Wells. I think the real impetus and the real push for agriculture in the Northwest Territories, I have to give credit to the folks from Hay River who have kept this little struggling organization of the TFA alive, and have actually put their actions where their words are and have started market gardens and all kinds of different endeavours in that area.

I'd like to ask the Minister, does he not think that it would make sense to put the positions that are dedicated to agriculture in a place like Hay River.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: As I mentioned, we have staff. They are multi-tasking on a number of economic initiatives here in the Northwest Territories. Certainly as things progress, and if we do have dedicated staff that are working in the area of agriculture on a day-to-day basis, it would certainly make sense for them to be located in Hay River.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not intimately familiar with people in ITI and what they do, but I believe there is one long-term public servant in Yellowknife with ITI that has been

focused on agriculture. Certainly, we also have another long-term staff position in Hay River, which we do appreciate.

When you're talking about decentralization around the table with respect to agriculture, has there been any consideration to supporting agriculture in Hay River by looking at decentralizing that one full-time position that we know about in Yellowknife?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We haven't done that analysis on those positions, but it's certainly, as I mentioned earlier, as we move forward we get the deal done with the federal government on Growing Forward 2 and we put more of an emphasis on agriculture, and we're getting closer to the devolution deal being done, once that's complete and we take over responsibility of land management here in the Northwest Territories, positions like that may certainly make a lot of sense for us to have. As to a location, I think I said it earlier that Hay River would certainly make a good case for those positions.

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

QUESTION 145-17(4):
IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISIONS TO
WSCC SAFETY REGULATIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Some time ago, in September 2010, actually, the WSCC Safety Advisory Committee started a revision of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. That's a big mouthful. These regulations were definitely in need of updating.

There was considerable backlash when the first draft of the regulations was put forward for consultation. There was a great deal of input from many businesses, so the board heard the criticism and the safety committee went back and they revised the regulations.

They produced a report in January 2012 which recommends acceptance of the second revision of the regulations. That report on the regulations would have been forwarded to the two Ministers for WSCC prior to them coming into force. It's my understanding that these regulations are still not in force. They have not yet been approved by the Ministers. This is a huge amount of work on the part of the WSCC Board and the WSCC Safety Committee and the stakeholders. I want to know from the Minister what the status of the revision and implementation of the regulations are.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers'

Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Jackson Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to commend those individuals who have been involved with providing input into this. It's a very comprehensive and complex regulation system that is before us. There has been some input and amendments to the regulations themselves. Right now, as it stands, I have forwarded that to WSCC Board of Governors. They are meeting in early March in Iqaluit. They are going to be reviewing that and they will provide recommendations back to me. From there I need to work with the Nunavut Minister responsible for WSCC, my colleague. From there we need to move forward on the regulations.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I couldn't agree more that we need to move forward on this. This has been two and a half years from start to the point where we are now and we still don't have these regulations in force. The report went to the two Ministers one year ago, over one year ago, and I don't understand what the holdup has been. I'd like to know from the Minister if he can explain to me why a report that is dated January 2012 has not yet been acted on.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As indicated, this is a very complex document. The Board of Governors will be reviewing it next week in Iqaluit and they will be reporting back to me, and I will be meeting with the chair and the counsel. My colleague from Nunavut as well. That's where it's at at the present stage.

MS. BISARO: I understand where things are at. I thank the Minister for his response. I guess I'm struggling with why they are where they are at.

The Minister stated that he is reviewing something and he's going to send it back to the board. The report that came from the Safety Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the regulations. What is the Minister currently reviewing and why does it have to go back to the board?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I have to work with various groups, whether it be the Safety Committee, the WSCC, the Governance Council, and also my colleague in Nunavut. It's just a process that we're going through. I realize that it is taking some time. Again, it is a complex issue but once it's in my deliverance, then I need to consult with my colleague in Nunavut and possibly tabling the document, then we can move forward on the complex document that's before us.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have one question for the Minister and a nice, short question for the Minister at this point. When does the Minister expect that these regulations will come

into force, considering all the approvals that apparently have yet to be received?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: They are meeting next week, the WSCC board council. Then once we get the report back, I need to hear them out as well. This came from the safety council, so from there we are hoping by this calendar year to deliver that package to part of the Assembly here. I will keep the Members up to speed on the process itself.

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

QUESTION 146-17(4):
PROTECTION OF ABORIGINAL INTERESTS
IN DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I made a statement on devolution. I wanted to ask the Premier a question in terms of the status of groups that haven't signed on to the AIP, including the Dehcho, the Akaitcho, and also the Tlicho regions that haven't signed on. I wanted to know what the status is of the engagement process for those regions.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're days away from having a devolution deal. I've written to all three of the Aboriginal governments. In order, I've written to the Dehcho First Nation a couple of weeks ago. Actually, I met with the grand chief at lunchtime today. We've agreed to a bilateral process to try to resolve outstanding land issues with the Dehcho First Nations, with the objective of getting the agreement for the Dehcho First Nations to sign on to devolution. We've had a number of meetings with the Tlicho and a similar offer has been made, inviting the Tlicho to sign on to devolution as well. They have responded with an offer. We are trying to set up a meeting for this week to try to finalize the arrangements. We also have written to the Akaitcho First Nations, and we have been trying to organize a leadership meeting to identify the issues that we need to discuss with the Akaitcho.

MR. NADLI: I wanted to ask the Premier what provisions is the government making to protect the interests of First Nations in the devolution process, given that most NWT First Nations do not have self-government agreements and most in the southern NWT do not have lands and resource agreements.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In our view, and the legal advice that we've been given, and with all of the non-abrogation clauses that we have concluded in the Devolution Agreement, we don't feel that devolution will negatively impact on either negotiation of land claims or of self-government. Those negotiations will continue and there should be no negative impacts on those processes.

MR. NADLI: Perhaps this question will help in terms of bringing to light some of the positive impacts of devolution. What is the government's target for the number of jobs transferred to the GNWT as a result of devolution? Positions that will be located outside of Yellowknife.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have identified decentralization as a priority for this government. There are approximately 350 jobs that will be involved with devolution. Approximately 175 of those jobs are already located in the Northwest Territories. We expect approximately 175 or so jobs will be moved to the Northwest Territories. As part of the devolution negotiations, the Aboriginal partners that have signed on have clearly indicated that locating jobs to their regions where they come from will also be a very important consideration. As soon as we finalize our organizational design, and we've already identified the principles for decentralization, then we will identify where those jobs will go.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is: What scope is there for changes to the resource revenue sharing regime now and after a final agreement is reached?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We're very close to finalizing a resource revenue sharing agreement between ourselves and the Aboriginal government partners that have signed on to the AIP. Once that is concluded, it will be very clear to everybody involved what kind of arrangements we have negotiated.

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

QUESTION 147-17(4):
FIRST AID TRAINING FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hearken back the House's attention to Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 29, last year. I had asked the Minister clearly, on the record, about possibly delivering support to school districts so they can teach their students, grades 9, 10, 11, 12, First Aid, by giving them the resources and empowering them to do this. There is an interest at the school level.

The response from the Minister on the record is that that's something that they need to explore. It's getting close to a year. What has the Minister found out on this particular question? Of course, these are obviously going to the Minister of Education. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. These are part of courses that are being delivered throughout the communities. It's not really part of the schools. Some of the schools are currently delivering these modules, the First Aid and CPR, so we encourage those individual students that are willing to take First Aid and CPR training, because a lot of them are being delivered in the communities. Whether it be through various training, heavy equipment or other training that's happening in the community, they always provide WHMIS or First Aid or CPR training that's happening.

That's what we've found out from our research into the communities. That is what is being delivered as part of a training package within the communities.

MR. HAWKINS: I swear the Minister's reading the same paper that I am, because his answer is almost identical to what he said back on May 29, 2012. I'm not sure what WHMIS and heavy duty equipment has to do with grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. I'm talking about building it into the school curriculum through their normal programming. I've had a number of teachers say that they'd like this.

What's holding the Minister back from having a real dialogue that talks about delivering resources to schools so they can hire, for example, St. John Ambulance to deliver this training or even train within, to have instructors that do this?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When I talk about WHMIS and other training that's happening in the community, there is always training happening in various communities and it does relate to First Aid and CPR as well. That's what I was referring to.

Within our education system, currently there is no mandated requirement for students to take First Aid training. However, various boards and various schools are offering First Aid and CPR, and I commend them for that as well. At the same time, there is nothing stopping school boards or the schools to deliver that training, that First Aid and CPR. Like I said, it's always happening at the community level. There is always training that's pertaining to safety.

MR. HAWKINS: I've heard community so many times here today. I'm not talking about community; I'm talking about all education boards. That means all of them, not just one in particular. There is no mandate and, therefore, there is no technical support from the Department of ECE which can further support all education boards.

The Minister is correct; a few offered to a very few students. All students deserve this skill. What can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment do to ensure this type of mandate and support gets out there to all our students and all our school boards from his department? What is he willing to do?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When I say communities, I'm talking about 33 communities that we service here in the Legislative Assembly. My department services eight school boards within the Northwest Territories, so I work closely with them.

Again, there are schools out there that are delivering First Aid and CPR and they continue to do that. When I say community, whether it be Yellowknife, whether it be Tsigehtchic and a small community, you know, there are always, like, these different, various training programs from agencies that come in to deliver those programs. We, as a department, will continue to work with them and provide assistance in every fashion that we can, and produce those highly qualified people with safety standards. We do encourage those students to take advantage of those safety programs that are happening, whether they be in the schools or in the communities.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear the Minister is confused. He's not the Minister of community. He is the Minister of Education, and that's what I keep trying to say. It's about mandate. There is no mandate; therefore, there is no support at the board level and at individual schools.

Would the Minister of Education be willing to expand the mandate and support the schools and the school boards who would like to deliver this program, because teachers tell me it's a critical skill and there are youth that would like to learn this. It's not a community-based program. It's a school-based program I'm asking for.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: If the school boards feel that it's a critical part of the safety program, then they can deliver that in the schools. We provide annual funding to the school boards based on enrolment. So we will continue to support the school boards, the eight school boards that we have, and 33 communities. I must emphasize that I am Minister responsible for 33 communities, not only one school, so I have to be responsible for all 49 schools. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 148-17(4):
TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS
PROTOCOLS FOR HIGHWAYS EMPLOYEES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in follow-up to my Member's statement yesterday on last week's devastating highway crash north of Fort Providence. The names of the families were released yesterday, and our thoughts and prayers reach out to those families.

In my questioning to the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Municipal and

Community Affairs, my questions will not deal directly with the accident itself, as it is still under RCMP investigation. However, they will deal with the level of medical knowledge of our Department of Transportation, of our highway workers, and the protocols of our emergency dispatch and support.

My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. Due to the fact that we do not have a community highway emergency response program in the NWT, could the Minister of Transportation explain to the House if our highway road maintenance or their supervisors have been trained in the basics of First Aid responder care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that the Government of the Northwest Territories has highway emergency learning protocols in place, and these describe responsibilities, by region, as to who will respond to emergencies on our highways, and these protocols are developed in partnership with our Department of Transportation, MACA, the Department of Justice and also Health and Social Services. As to the exact level of training of, say, a grader operator, they would certainly, I think, have different training than our highway patrol officers would have. But I could certainly get back to the Member and the House on what exact training each of our front-line staff has. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's response. Can the Minister of Transportation indicate what are the protocols for the Department of Transportation when our workers are faced with an accident on our highways? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, they would just follow the protocols that are in place. If they come across an accident scene, they're to alert the authorities and monitor things. Again, if the Member wants specifics, I would be more than happy to get him specifics. It is different between a highway patrol officer... We have a number of front-line staff out on our highways. We have highway patrol officers and also equipment operators, so it's much different. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Can the Minister of Transportation indicate what are the capabilities of our highway ground fleet in terms of communication? Do we have the capabilities of full communication or through dispatch along all our highway systems? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, as I am aware, our highway patrol officers are equipped with the best in communication equipment, and are able to communicate with other enforcement agencies in the territory and emergency response personnel in the territory.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The words of the Minister today are encouraging; however, we've heard a lot of generalities and I think there are lots of opportunities that we've heard today in terms of our training of our road fleet, possibly a review of our protocols with highway accidents when they first become a responder, and probably the needs to improved communication. Again, we're hearing generalities. I think the Minister should endeavour to address this House and address the people in the Northwest Territories, but more specific. So I challenge the Minister if he'd like to provide that level of detail to this House and table it in the near future. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we certainly have protocols in place when it comes to emergencies on our highway system; however, we don't have those types of protocols when it comes to whether or not air rescue is brought into play. That is an area that we will continue to work on with the other departments that I mentioned earlier – Health and Social Services, MACA, Department of Justice – on enacting some protocols when it comes to air rescue. But for highway rescue, we do have protocols in place. Again, I'd be more than happy to share those protocols with the Members. We will get that to them as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 149-17(4):
VACANT HOME OWNERSHIP UNITS

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I raised the issue about NWT Corporation home ownership units that are vacant. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation what strategy is the department currently using to address these vacant units in our communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was quite a growing concern a few years ago with the number of vacancies that we had in our home ownership portfolio. I always credit a lot of that to the good work done by the corporation in making use of the money that we got from Ottawa. We had to use the money or we would lose it, so we tried to get as many units on the ground, and that left us with the problem of trying to fill a lot of these vacant units.

I think in the last year or so, we've done a very good job in filling these units. We've converted

some of them over to public housing. We're trying to find qualified clients to put into these units. We just had our intake here recently. The number escapes me, but I think we have about 21 potential approvals across the Northwest Territories. I think there are three in the Member's riding.

We still realize that we have about 67 vacant units now. We're going through the application cycle. We are hoping by end of summer to have as many people into those units as possible. If we can't find clients for them, we may have to look at possibly converting them to public housing again. We're also starting to use some to rent out to professionals that move to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHE: Mr. Speaker, so the Minister was talking about the intake cycle. Is that complete now? Are they currently evaluating all of the clients to see if they can match them to the home ownership programs such as HELP and PATH right now? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. The intake cycle is over. We are evaluating a lot of the applications. There are some that get approved fairly quickly because of the information they provide. There are some we still need to work on. I'm not quite sure when the exact evaluation of all applications is done. However, when it is, I will inform the Member and Members of the House. We will see, at the end of that cycle, how many vacant units we have and then our plan going forward with those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHE: Mr. Speaker, some of the issues that face my communities are they actually missed the deadlines. I had raised the issue of liaison workers in the communities. We had this program about six to eight years ago. I'd like to ask the Minister if he will review that and maybe even consider that once again. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there was a program a few years ago. However, I think when it was determined that we were going to have government service officers in each community, part of their role was going to be exactly that, advising people of all the program deadlines and that with all government programs, including the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. However, I can inform the Member that, as a corporation, we are looking at roles and responsibilities of our LHOs so we can better serve a lot of these smaller communities. We are developing proposals that we're hoping to bring forward to committee for their input and see where we go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned that the smaller

remote communities, too, even though they are much smaller, they do need assistance with the clients filling out the application, meeting the deadlines. I would like to ask the Minister if part of the strategy is to be aware of that. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we're going to review how we deliver our programs in the small communities. We want to ensure that our residents in the small communities feel like they are well served by the NWT Housing Corporation in filling out applications. I think we have said in the past that, if there is a need to supply translators so they know exactly what they're getting into, then we will provide that too. There is still a little bit of work that needs to be done. I think we're taking some good steps in ensuring all of our residents across the Northwest Territories have equal access to our programs, and have the opportunity to fill out all the proper applications by the deadline so they won't miss qualifying for any of the programs that we offer. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 150-17(4):
INFRASTRUCTURE TO HOUSE THE
HISTORY OF RCMP "G" DIVISION

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just following up to my Member's statement earlier, the North has a big history of work that the RCMP division has done not only in the Northwest Territories but across Nunavut and the Yukon as well. I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice if there's any type of museum infrastructure or some room dedicated to all of the history, and the good work and significant events that the RCMP "G" Division has done in the North, and is there somewhere dedicated in the Northwest Territories that our residents and our public can be part of that history and learn that history. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question. Unfortunately, I don't know if a room exists where this information can be displayed and shared. You're right; the "G" Division has a long and distinguished history here in the Northwest Territories, from the lost patrol of Rat River, the Mad Trapper, travel up and down the Mackenzie River, travel into the Eastern Arctic when it was part of "G" Division. There is a real solid history here.

I have had an opportunity to travel to a number of the detachments and I've been in the detachments. Many of the officers in those buildings actually have a real connection to the past and you will see pictures and historical sort of documents available. But as far as where it's all brought together and

whether it has been all brought together, I don't know, but I will check with the RCMP to see how they present this information so that they can share their impressive history with all Northerners. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, and I do agree with the Minister's comments. We do have a very strong history of the RCMP here in the North and we're well aware of that. I'd like to commend the Minister for going and taking a look at that, but would he be willing to dedicate a specific museum here in the Northwest Territories, perhaps through Yellowknife which is one of our hubs of all the communities? Would he be willing to dedicate some type of infrastructure towards the history of the RCMP "G" Division and all of their significant events, their members, lost members in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I remember as a kid, going to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre here in Yellowknife, they had a lot of fantastic displays, and one of the displays actually had a significant amount of RCMP history and memorabilia. I believe that display is now gone, but I would be happy to talk to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to see about bringing those materials back together and creating a display that maybe could go to different museums throughout the Northwest Territories.

We do have a number of facilities that may be able to show a display like this, but I'd also be interested in talking to the RCMP to see how they would like some of their history presented.

Budget constraints being what they will, anything that's going to cost money would have to go through committee for consideration. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Would the Minister not only look at the detachments here in the Northwest Territories, but also work with other jurisdictions that might have possibly taken some of the artifacts, some of the archives from the Northwest Territories when we didn't have specific detachments here in the Northwest Territories and look at possibly bringing them back to the North? So our Northerners, our residents, can see those archives, see those artifacts, and be proud of the RCMP and the heritage that they have in the Northwest Territories. Would the Minister be willing to look at other jurisdictions and see what artifacts and archives should belong in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Yes, I'd be, obviously, happy to talk to the RCMP about their history and where some of the historic items may exist. But I would also suggest to the Member that helping people in the Northwest Territories understand our history and the important work that "G" Division has done is only part of it. Getting that

information out to other people in the country is important.

"G" Division has a long history that stretches back as the Territories has become a smaller jurisdiction. So there are other individuals outside of what is the Northwest Territories now that have some history with "G" Division as well. I think if we could find a way to share that information, we should take that opportunity. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 151-17(4):
CAPITAL RETROFIT OF
STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement with questions to the Minister of Finance on the Stanton Hospital. We put tens of millions of dollars into a Fort Smith hospital and a Hay River hospital, and now, when we should finally be going after the long overdue Stanton Territorial facility, what are we doing? We're building new highways on the most costly terrain known, paying off poorly-thought-out bridge infrastructure and pursuing other new and expensive projects.

I'd like a clear commitment from the Minister that this fall's capital budget will contain a proposal for a full and comprehensive start and an end to nickel and diming this project forever. Will the Minister give us that assurance? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The territorial government and this Assembly have committed to a broad range of infrastructure development, and I agree with the Member that Stanton is our flagship when it comes to acute care. We've started the process, it's been some time in the making, we've dealt with a lot of issues on an ongoing fashion, but we are now fully committed to engage in a process that will see an investment of at least \$200 million to do a much needed midlife retrofit and the capital plan is coming forward. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Public Works, sitting to my immediate right here, are listening carefully to the discussion here today. As we come forward with the capital plan, it will reflect the importance of this project. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Thanks to our fiscal procrastination we are now passing the point of completing a half-life retrofit on this asset.

The Minister of Finance commented publicly that we need to spend \$200 to avoid replacing the hospital for \$500 million, but I'm sure everyone here will agree that's very much lowballing the estimate of these costs. Many suspect our procrastinated

renovation may be pushing toward 300 and 400 million dollars in the billable amount, the longer we wait and current proposals are again nickel and diming. You're stretching this out over decades, despite the Minister's commitments.

So does the Minister agree that in the interests of both better patient care and wise fiscal management, we need to accelerate planning and implementation on this project starting in the next capital budget?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. We agree that this is our flagship, it's a critical piece of health infrastructure. We're laying out a plan that's going to allow us to do much needed renovations and, at the same time, keep the operation in Stanton, for the most part, functioning and providing service, which is another critical piece that will add a time and complexity to the completion of the project. But, yes, we agree with the Member that we'd like to get this thing fully in the pipeline as fast as we can without compromising patient safety, and get this much needed project on the road to completion. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. A strange kind of priority when we're spending hundreds of millions of dollars on other projects and dragging this out over the decades. Because this is an operating and jam-packed hospital, carrying out the renovation during hospital hours will be difficult.

Does the Minister anticipate any extraordinary costs resulting from having to refer patients to southern institutions when wards, operating theatres, clinics, diagnostic and other facilities are closed for renovation? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. It clearly makes good management sense as we look at the scope of this project, and trying to maintain services as well as complete a major renovation and upgrade, that we have to look at other places, backups for services on a temporary basis, that we may have additional pressure on our medical travel and such. But that will be part of the planning and one of the reasons it's taking time to get this project to the state that it is.

Once again, we agree with the Member that once we move down the path past the planning, once we get into this, the intent is to try to get it done as quickly as possible, but as well done as possible. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister. We want to do this properly, we want to do it quickly, and we want to do it safely. How can we do that when we're nickel and diming this project?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As we have been talking about, we're talking about a fairly substantial number, a number that, at the end of the day, will exceed the cost of the bridge. We're talking \$200 million, possibly greater, to do this. We've committed the resources. It's in the capital plan. The money has started to flow. We're going to try to make sure the steps proceed in as timely a way as possible without compromising patient safety and efficiency, and making sure we can manage to run the hospital as we renovate around it.

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

QUESTION 152-17(4):
ADDRESSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
(FRACKING) CONCERNS
IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about a song that Johnny Cash sang, called I Walk the Line. I want to ask the Minister of ITI, in light of the oil and gas exploration in the Sahtu, and I also talked about the people in the Sahtu walking the line. We are at the brink of having both development and protection of the area in the Sahtu. I understand the Minister is going to meet with the Aboriginal leaders who are involved in the Bakken shale play in April. I want to ask the Minister how he is going to bring this report back to us and report on it on how Aboriginal people are handling development on their land.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The trip that we envision in April to southeast Saskatchewan and to North Dakota would be to meet with Aboriginal leaders. I would certainly hope to have some Aboriginal leaders from the Sahtu accompany me on that trip so that we can meet with them there to see how Aboriginal people in the Bakken have benefited from development on their land. That is something that we certainly look forward to and I certainly hope the Member can make some time in April to come with us.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'll have to check my schedule and get back to the Minister on that. I certainly would like to go with the Minister to the Bakken field.

I want to ask the Minister, with the government's increased budget for programs and services, and that's one of ITI's mandates, I want to ask the Minister how his department coordinates activities with other departments since the oil companies said the oil plays in the Sahtu are encouraging and they want to further develop those areas.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has some very good staff in the Sahtu. We've also modified the pipeline office in Hay River, it's the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Planning Office now. They do work now for and on behalf of what is happening in the Sahtu.

We've had the Sahtu Readiness Session that we were able to attend last fall. I have made a commitment to the Member that we will look at doing an exercise like that again this coming fall to get ready for what is happening so community leaders, business leaders and industry can get together in one room and try to understand exactly what is going to happen there next winter.

In discussions with the Member earlier during this session, the use of the winter road, how it's been utilized this winter, how we've partnered with industry, how we can improve on this for next year, I think that's also very important that a post-mortem on how the winter road operation happened this winter and improvements that can be made next winter. I think those are very useful dialogues to have and we look forward to helping put that together both with ITI and DOT.

MR. YAKELEYA: In the Sahtu exploration readiness session, a lot of good things were talked about. One of the things that concerned me is there was no lead identified during the readiness session to work on the addictions and mental health issues. I want to know how ITI is addressing that within the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have a plan in place with Sahtu, we just don't have the money.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: My role as Minister of ITI when we attend a session like the Sahtu Readiness Session, is to take the information back to the Cabinet table and make my colleagues aware of what is happening in the Sahtu. After what happened last winter, Cabinet got together, there was a response to that and you can see that response in this year's budget.

As things continue to move forward in the Sahtu, government will need to respond, whether it's through Education, Health and Social Services or ITI. Government will have to react and respond to what is happening there. We certainly look forward to things continuing to move forward there. This is something that we're very excited about.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this project in this work in the Sahtu, ITI has taken the lead on oil and gas development and is coordinating with all the other departments. ITI is the boss here. I want to ask ITI, is he working with the other departments, with the Sahtu leadership, with the Aboriginal leadership to create the

economic Oil and Gas Strategy for the Sahtu? Because this is a great potential that the oil companies are telling us that they have encouraging results that would make it one of the most powerful economic drivers in Canada.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We do continue to work together and, I think, that's how we are going to see the play that is taking place in the central Mackenzie in the Sahtu. We're going to see it move forward because, again, that dialogue has taken place and will continue to take place between government, industry, business leaders and Aboriginal leaders in the region. That is the only way that we can move forward.

The Member said he is walking a line and we do have to walk that line. There has to be a balance on protecting the environment and development. We believe that by working together, we are going to achieve some very good results there.

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

QUESTION 153-17(4):

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INITIATIVES

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the days get longer, everyone is considering their growing season, agriculture. I'll follow up with my colleague's questions for the Minister of ITI on agriculture.

The first question I want to follow up on is the question on the training course for the northern farmer training. Has the Minister committed to doing anything for the upcoming year in this area of training farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in response to Mrs. Groenewegen's questions earlier, we have met with the TFA. We are aware of the training that they are proposing. We plan to meet with them again next week in Yellowknife. We are hoping to conclude negotiations on the Growing Forward Fund by the end of this fiscal year, another four weeks or so, at which time, I do believe, we'll be able to provide some assistance and help in order to see this farmer training taking place in Hay River. We are very hopeful that it will happen.

MR. BOUCHARD: I'm wondering if the Minister and his department have had any discussions outside of the Hay River area as far as bringing people from the Northwest Territories. I know there's some agriculture happening in Norman Wells and Inuvik. Is there some interest in bringing people in from the communities for this type of training?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I think the really positive thing about having the training there is that we can get people from the communities to attend the training in Hay River, and take the skills and knowledge that they learn there back to their communities so that they can train and teach other people back in their communities. So, yes, there has been some indication that we will get some people from the communities that want to get the training and take that information knowledge back home.

MR. BOUCHARD: I think some of the other issues that are out there, also in the agriculture area, is in training. Are there ways that we're implementing these into the schools and institutions and stuff like that? The corrections facilities? Is there any indication from the department, as far as agriculture is concerned, of doing that type of education as well?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We haven't had discussions. I know ITI has not had discussions as of yet with ECE on looking at putting a component in the schools, but that is a very good idea and certainly something that I will follow up on.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final supplementary, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question about agriculture is the agriculture policy and the identification of lands and special taxation. Has the department done any additional work with that lately?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The only demand involving lands outside of municipalities is coming from Hay River. We have met with the Town of Hay River and the Territorial Farmers Association. They are looking at 300 acres of land within the municipality for agriculture, and our officials have spoken to both the town and the TFA and offered support in trying to find a way forward for utilization of that land for agricultural pursuits. We will continue to do that. There is also interest in Fort Smith and Enterprise, as well as Yellowknife for land for agricultural use. We're continuing that dialogue as well.

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

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 16-17(4): LOCATION OF HIGHWAY NO. 4 REALIGNMENT OVER UNDERGROUND ARSENIC STORAGE CHAMBER

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

The attached Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, AANDC, map for the Giant Mine Remediation Project shows the location of underground arsenic chambers and project drill holes. The attached GNWT Department of Transportation map, "Proposed Ingraham Trail Realignment," shows the route of the road realignment.

1. What is the purpose of the realignment and what issues or concerns is the highway being realigned to address?
2. How was the road alignment route chosen so as not to interfere with the remediation project and to avoid damage to underlying arsenic storage chambers?
3. Since the underground arsenic chamber labeled Reach 6 on the AANDC map appears to lie directly under the route of the realigned NWT Highway No. 4, how is the safety of routing the highway over the storage chamber assured?

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

WRITTEN QUESTION 17-17(4):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT
CORPORATION ACTIVITIES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

The Business Development Investment Corporation, BDIC, reports to the Minister of INDUSTRY, Tourism and Investment, from whom I ask for the following information regarding the BDIC:

1. The monetary value of new activity for each of the following categories for the current fiscal year:
 - (a) contributions,;
 - (b) credit or credit facilities; and
 - (c) venture investments.
2. A summary description of new activity in each of the following categories for the current fiscal year:
 - (a) contributions;
 - (b) credit or credit facilities; and
 - (c) venture investments.
3. Detailed information on the following:
 - (a) the value of funds owed by BDIC to the GNWT;
 - (b) when those funds were borrowed; and
 - (c) what those funds were used for.

4. The subsidiary companies owned by BDIC, their locations and a summary of the products and services they provide.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Replies to Opening Address

MRS. GROENEWEGEN'S REPLY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I didn't get a chance to really conclude my Member's statement today on the theme that I was going on and I really didn't think it was fair to leave everybody hanging overnight. Also, as I mentioned earlier, tomorrow is Anti-Bullying Day, so I thought I'd better get my comments in today.

We're coming up soon to the midway point for the 17th Legislative Assembly. We're just a little past the midway point of this particular session. This is where everybody is tested during the budget session, where Ministers are put to the test as they appear with their witnesses before the Chamber, where Regular Members are put to the test with their tolerance and endurance, and sometimes frustration with some of the long hours and some of the issues that we all grapple with.

I'd just like to do a quick review of the folks that we chose at the beginning of the 17th Assembly. We went into TLC. We heard their comments. We heard their speeches. Some of them we knew, some of them we didn't know as well, but we chose leadership from amongst us to go on the other side and take responsibility for departments. We entrusted them with that. Now we are coming up to the midway point, so I just wanted to go over a few of my observations today. These are purely my observations.

I'll start at one end: Mr. Beaulieu. A very tough and challenging Department of Health and Social Services, one that covers a very broad spectrum of issues that are dear to people's hearts. When we, as MLAs, have constituents come to us with issues, I would say the majority of our issues that I'm approached with as an MLA are somehow related to Health and Social Services. It's a people department and it's one that requires a lot of knowledge to get familiar with all of the issues. I appreciate that Mr. Beaulieu comes to us with a small community perspective. He did chair the Standing Committee on Social Programs in the last government, but he is a person that knows the real challenges that face people in their everyday lives, and he's real. I mean, there have been some days here, but I think he has a ways to go before he matches my record of six days with Health and Social Services before standing committee, but...

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Record noted.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Yes, record noted. Thank you. But sometimes when, like, he's so honest about it, he's not a good poker player. Sometimes it's becoming overwhelming and he says that I wish to do better and I strive to know more about the issues and give my colleagues a good answer. I appreciate the fact that he is very real. We all have a ways to go to learn all the topics.

Our Minister responsible for Public Works and Services and Human Resources, comes to us from a background in the public service. I find Mr. Abernethy very responsive. He's a critical thinking person. You don't have to say, "Do you know what I mean?" after you ask him a question, because you do know that he knows what you mean. I believe that he genuinely cares about the plight of our communities outside the capital. He has demonstrated that, and that is very comforting to me, for a Yellowknife MLA to be able to understand some of the challenges that we are facing in the communities and in the regional centres. We've kind of had a little thing going on this side of the House, where we just want to add at the end of every sentence "and the communities and regional centres," because in our discussions in committee it comes up so often. I do appreciate Mr. Abernethy's quick thinking and responsiveness to the issues, and I think that a Cabinet position suits him very well.

Mr. Miltenberger, my long-time colleague of almost 18 years now. I've given report cards on him before and I think I might have even used this phrase before, but again, in the 17th Assembly, the workhorse, with his eye on the fiscal restraint and responsibility of our Legislature. Undeniably, a very intelligent man. You know how the really smart kid in the class gets really bored with the others? Sometimes he has to be a little bit careful, that we need to catch up with him. Maybe it's just a thing of being here so long, you've got so much, kind of, corporate knowledge. But with that knowledge, I think that Mr. Miltenberger is in an excellent position to be looking at these next two years for mentoring some of the folks who will be here after...

---Laughter

Mentoring some of the folks that will be here after we're gone. Now he says he's coming back so...

---Laughter

When the Drive for Five was still alive, I said don't make me come back again, but anyway, here we are. I'd like to thank Mr. Miltenberger, because I do know that his motives are altruistic and I know that with the length of service he does have here, sometimes I tell people he could be... He's making

nothing because your pension can't start until you actually retire, and I'm sure if he was in Fort Smith or pursuing his own aspirations right now, he would be probably making as much, if not more, money than he does sitting here as a Minister in our government. I know that his motives are good and he does genuinely care about the people of the North. He just has to sometimes understand that maybe we're not all quite caught up to where he's at and he needs to communicate with us.

Premier McLeod. Premier McLeod is probably the most understated achiever that I've ever met. If I'm doing something or have something on my mind, everybody's got to know about it. Everybody around me is going to know about it, but Premier McLeod is not exactly a walking billboard for what he's doing or what he's accomplishing at any given time. Every time I hear about things in little bits and pieces, I'm amazed. I tell him that and I tell other people that. I'll say it again in this House that the devolution file was one that I doubted I would see in my time as a politician in the Northwest Territories. I doubted I would see it get to this point. But through a culmination of events and the support of his staff he has around him, the support of his Cabinet, it seems like the stars have aligned for the Northwest Territories on the devolution file. But I do say that I don't think it could have come to this point without the leadership of our Premier that we have here. I'd like to thank him.

---Applause

One thing that's always been very curious to me is, after all those years in the senior levels of public service and having a front row seat to what goes on in this Legislature, that he actually wanted to come here. That kind of surprised me about him too. Again, from a small community perspective, when he does not forget his roots in the small communities, and that is something that, when we do talk to him about the challenges, he understands.

Next I have Minister Lafferty. Again, I'd like to thank Minister Lafferty for his genuine caring about education. For him, I believe, it's not just an assignment. Like Health and Social Services, it is a big and very challenging department with many things to be accomplished, but we chip away at it. Mr. Lafferty is not as quick in his responses and in verbal dialogue as some, but he does take our issues seriously and to heart, and sometimes he processes them and, maybe a day or two later, comes back with what he's had a chance to think about and process and talk to his senior staff about, and then has a response to us at that time.

He's had some really good success on some really innovative things in education, and let me just mention a few of those. The residential school curriculum, which we just had a briefing on today, is something that is very new. No other government

has ever spearheaded that and has ever been able to bring that along. The Aboriginal student achievement. I mean, how many years have we stood in this Legislature and said that we have to level the playing field, we have to bring Aboriginal students along, we have to affect those graduation rates that Aboriginal students are not as well represented in. Those were things that we wanted to effect change in. Also, with the revitalization of the education program. I'd like to thank Minister Lafferty for his work on that.

Minister David Ramsay. We were seatmates so we had the advantage. But I think that Minister Ramsay really wanted in the Cabinet, even in previous governments, but hadn't quite made it there. But once he got there, I could see that he came into his realm and he's a natural in that. He's very enthusiastic about his issues and his departments, sometimes a little too enthusiastic, like the Inuvik-Tuk highway, but that's another whole story. I do appreciate, very much, his intelligence and his responsiveness to the issues. And like Minister Abernethy, a Yellowknife... May I say this? It's a long time from elections. It's a long ways off, elections. But again, another Yellowknife Minister, like Mr. Abernethy, who, when he says he cares about decentralization and the sustainability and the viability of communities outside of Yellowknife, I believe that when he goes to the Cabinet table, he brings that message there. We have seen the results of that and I appreciate that very, very much about him.

I know that he does travel lots to represent our government because of the portfolios that he does have, and I'm absolutely confident that he does so in a way that generates a great deal of respect for the Northwest Territories and creates awareness about the issues that we face here. I think he is a very good ambassador in that regard.

Last but not least, our Minister Robert C. McLeod. Someone just said this morning, and I don't think this is committee confidentiality, that the NWT Housing Corporation has never been in better shape than it is today. Housing is one of those departments, again, where you have to find that fine balance between understanding the issues that Northerners face but still be pragmatic about the realities of when government coddling ends and personal responsibility kicks in. That is something that takes walking the line.

We want to do good for our constituents, but at the same time, we don't want to enable them not to take responsibility for themselves. So I do appreciate that common person, common sense, pragmatic approach that Minister Robert C. McLeod brings to his work in the Housing Corporation and in MACA as well. It's obvious, from the work with his senior officials, that they work very well together and that they are there to see things get done.

I'm not used to having all this time. Sorry. I have to slow down a little bit.

As I started off saying earlier today, in consensus government maybe we need to think about the varied skills that we all bring to the table and how we bring that together to get the best results possible. No doubt we do have frustrating days at times, but this group of 19 is what we have to work with. Maybe it would be interesting to see what we could accomplish. The type of government we have is necessarily, at times, adversarial. Like I said, it's that little hybrid of partisan politics that seems to creep in here, but it would be really good to see what we could accomplish together by encouraging each other. When we see things that could be done better or things that could be done differently, if we could find ways to communicate those in a way that's encouraging, that is supportive both ways, that we can say that, and maybe somebody can see the way I'm doing my job and could offer critiquing or suggestions that would help me do my job.

At the end of the day, the work that we do here in this Chamber, and with our constituents, and in our offices and everything we do, is not about us, but it's about the people of the Northwest Territories that we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Moses.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 30-17(4): ARTICLE ON THE MAD TRAPPER OF RAT RIVER, ALBERT JOHNSON

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very honoured to be tabling the following document today. It is an insert from the Inuvik Drum dated Thursday, February 21, 2013. I will be tabling the front page as well as page 3. The front page says, "Father in Posse, Son Recalls How Dad Involved in Mad Trapper's Death 81 Years Ago." The other page is, "Mad Trapper Chase Recalled – Inuvik Man is Son of RCMP Officer who Took Down Albert Johnson."

This document is part of NWT history. It tells a story of Winston John Moses talking about Constable John Moses, who fired the fatal shot of the Mad Trapper of Rat River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 5-17(4):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO MARCH 4, 2013

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 28, 2013, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 28, 2013, it shall be adjourned until Monday, March 4, 2013;

And further, that any time prior to March 4, 2013, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the times stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 6-17(4):
GASOLINE PRICING REGULATIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 28, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Government of the Northwest Territories investigate and evaluate the possibility of regulating gasoline prices;

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 4-17(4):
FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR SAHTU
JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS there are over \$630 million in financial commitments attached to existing oil and gas exploration leases in the Canol shale formation;

AND WHEREAS oil and gas exploration activity has increased significantly in the Sahtu over the past two winter work seasons, and there are strong indications not only that exploration activity will continue to increase, but that a long-term

production field employing hundreds and possibly thousands of workers will become a reality;

AND WHEREAS all levels of government stand to benefit from increased resource development in the Sahtu, which could potentially become a major economic driver for the territory;

AND WHEREAS recent events have proven that the existing Mackenzie Valley winter road infrastructure is already inadequate to support current traffic bringing supplies into the region, and will not stand up to even higher traffic levels as exploration activity increases and production activity begins;

AND WHEREAS many potential workers in the Sahtu and elsewhere in the Mackenzie Valley and the NWT are lacking in training and skills needed for employment in oil and gas and related sectors;

AND WHEREAS a substantial capacity-building effort is needed in the near future to ensure Sahtu and NWT residents benefit from employment opportunities arising from the Canol shale play;

AND WHEREAS there is precedent for significant federal human resource development assistance in the Voisey's Bay area of Labrador which in recent years saw rapid development in its mining sector;

AND WHEREAS it would be tragic if the tremendous potential benefits in terms of jobs and economic growth from the Sahtu oil and gas exploration and development were not realized for want only of a timely and relatively small upfront investment in capacity building and transportation infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately initiate discussions with the Government of Canada to prioritize funding for an all-weather Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley into the Sahtu;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately initiate discussions with the Government of Canada to seek federal investment in human resource development initiatives along the lines of the Voisey's Bay model;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say a few words on this motion here. I thank the honourable Member for Nahendeh for seconding it and Members for allowing me to feed it through the P and P and to bring it to the floor where it is today.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been hearing from different Members and different Ministers on the Sahtu recent oil and gas exploration activity that's going on up there. Norman Wells is the oldest oil-producing wells in Canada. It started in 1920 or 1921. In 1943 the Canol pipeline was built right from Norman Wells into the Yukon Territory in regard to the war initiatives by supporting the U.S. Army.

We are no strangers to pipeline. In 1980 Enbridge built a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley to take our resources out. There have been record-breaking sales of leased lands in the Sahtu 11. As the Minister has stated, it's over \$630 million, and two more parcels recently got taken up by Shell Canada in the Fort Good Hope area. That makes it close to \$700 million that's supposed to be committed to be spent in the Sahtu. There's been encouraging results from reports that we've been getting from the oil companies. Income assistance has certainly come down quite considerably in the days and winter months of this oil and gas activity. Then it will come back up again in April.

There's a new technology happening and the people in the Northwest Territories are finding out it's called hydraulic fracking. Once this hydraulic fracking issue has been given the green light, there will be ample opportunity for people in the Northwest Territories to benefit from the Sahtu play. The companies from Yellowknife, Hay River, Simpson, Inuvik, Tuk, all over, are going to come to the Sahtu to see how they can benefit. It's not only people in the Sahtu, but everyone. It's taking a piece of pie that everyone can work on.

The point that I want to make here is that the play is happening now. It's going on. The activity is there. This winter over \$100 million is being spent in the Sahtu. Over 350 workers are working on seismic, driving, camp catering; you name it, they're working. We recognize this in the Sahtu and we want to know when is this government, the federal government going to look at it and say there's encouraging results. We could put in some funding like the Voisey's Bay model for training people in the Sahtu, training people in the North to look at some of these long-term activities. There's going to be activities such as the hydraulic fracking. We need to get involved in that. There's environmental protection like wildlife and monitoring. We need to have proper training in that. We need to put together a comprehensive social, economic strategy. We need to put together a strong – and we do have it already, as a matter of fact – the Sahtu people put together a wellness strategy that came out of funding from the \$500 million that was targeted by the federal government. They told us to go to work. What would you do if you had a piece of this \$500 million? In the Sahtu, over a period of a number of years, sat down and said this is what we want to do.

We know it's an issue with us. The Minister of Justice and I have been in contact. We know the number of liquor seizures that have been happening on the winter roads. Nobody carries 50 bottles of mickeys for the pleasure of an evening of drinking. We know there's stuff happening. The RCMP are happening, they're doing their job. We've got to do our job in being responsible for our region. We know crimes have been increasing because of the activity and because of the unrestricted liquor sales in Norman Wells. The Minister of Justice and I have been talking about the sharp increase in crimes related to alcohol, a sharp increase. We know that people are getting hurt. We know that the government has responded and we want to thank you, from the Sahtu, for responding to the needs. The government put \$1.2 million into programs and services. They have heard the people, but we need to do yet a little more. We're looking for some help in the health and social services and we'd hope that the Minister would have some more discussions with his colleagues to look at some of these issues.

We've got to start working with our people. Once these developments happen and production happens, these oil companies are going to want certified people to work; pipefitters, welders, they're going to want them to be unionized because of liability insurance and safety. So we've got to look at how we work with the union, because they're the ones that are going to be contracted to do this work. The days of shovels and thick wheelbarrows are over. So we've got to look at some strong training programs.

Of course, protection of environment, the baseline, the air, the water, the animals. I've heard it somewhere and I've read it, that if we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. That's so true. Under the ground we're standing on there's rich, rich minerals. I think the Government of the Northwest Territories did an estimate of over 600-some-odd billion dollars of resources that we have. We're a rich nation, a powerful rich nation and we've got to get ourselves ready for that.

The people in the Sahtu want to be wealthy, they want to be prosperous, want to have the opportunities, but like every other region in the North, they also want to save things. We've got to work on how we change our thinking. With this motion, hopefully that will start changing our thinking. So this is the direction that we want to be in now so we can prepare for the opportunities that we can be ready for and we can work with the other regions to get their people ready. I have seen people in the Sahtu from the Beaufort-Delta, the Mackenzie Delta, people from Nahendeh, all over. So this motion is to tell this government that if you can set some time aside, help us with the federal government to look at these things that we want to pursue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to second this motion by my honourable colleague from the Sahtu, Mr. Norman Yakeleya, only because when we talk about development in the Northwest Territories, I think initially we were talking about a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, the huge development that we were going to have. The federal government was going to actually kick in a \$500 million impact fund to help us address our issues, and this is like a new and emerging issue that often jurisdictions are faced with, especially ours. I know that we had very successful NWT Days in Ottawa and we were all there lobbying for our seven priorities that we had but, regretfully, we didn't have the time to explain that the Sahtu shale play is having a big impact just with exploration alone, never mind development.

I spoke with the Minister of ITI about some of what Mr. Yakeleya was talking about, you know, let's ask the federal government for an impact fund similar to the Voisey's Bay model, but the Minister was saying, well, we've got to wait until the reserves are proven. My experience in talking with the industry, as well, is that it is pretty much proven, because they're building a \$50 million road to test some wells. To me that says they're not going to invest that kind of money and infrastructure just to say it's unproven.

So I like this motion only because it speaks to our government to say, look, start working with the federal government, we've got to get some impact funding and, most particularly, when it comes to my riding, we saw in January when the road was shut down going up north how much of an impact that had on the communities of Wrigley and Fort Simpson. It backed up all the way to Hay River as well. So it just showed me the impact of how huge that Sahtu shale play is, how much investment is going in there and how much industry is impacting our communities.

As well, the Minister of Transportation made a Minister's statement on February 22nd and talked about how CanNor is supportive of the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the development of it. I'd certainly like to see it proceed. Other regions have their projects. Tuktoyaktuk is developing their road, but there's no reason why the road cannot be completed north of Wrigley concurrently, at the same time. I know that sometimes we've got to wait to release funding, but at the same time with some hard work and lobbying of the federal government to get investments from programs such as CanNor or others. Once we convince our federal counterparts that in order to really support industrial development of this nature, they will have to contribute a similar type of impact fund. I really urge that and that's what this motion speaks to, as well

as many other areas that have to be addressed. We have to pay attention to this. We cannot let this development just run on its own. We have to be aware, we have to work with it, we have to work with our federal counterparts, and at the same time, we have to mitigate the impacts on our communities.

I've spoken many times about having nursing in Wrigley and it was almost imminent when we had the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline discussions because that \$5 million impact fund spoke about developing the hospital in Fort Simpson and increasing nursing in Wrigley and developing our highway infrastructure north.

I think we still need that type of impact fund and I would urge our Cabinet to begin discussions with Ottawa. Once again, the Voisey's Bay model comes up time and time again. That's the type of thing that I support in this motion. I urge all my colleagues to support this motion and urge our Cabinet to begin working with our federal counterparts and to show them the impact this development is having in our North.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a few brief comments with regard to the motion. I am in support of the motion. I think it's important that we go back a bit in history and to the beginning of the 17th Assembly when we set priorities for this Assembly. At that time, we set those priorities based on the way the world was at that time. There was a big focus on the Inuvik-Tuk highway and we still have that focus. Times change and I think we have to roll with the times, so to speak, and I think we have to recognize that we currently have a huge amount of activity in the Sahtu region and I think we have to recognize that we have to do something about that. As times change, I think we must also change. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and ignore what is happening in the Sahtu. I'm not suggesting that the government is, but we need to do more than what we're currently doing. We have to be forward looking and I'm not so sure that we are as forward looking as we should be, and this motion speaks to looking forward.

I would like to give kudos to Mr. Yakeleya and Mr. Menicoche for bringing this motion forward. They are both looking after their constituents, and regions and constituencies. It's going to be a benefit not only to the Sahtu region, not only to Nahendeh, but I think it's going to be a benefit to all of the NWT. I think we have to recognize that and, as a government, we have to do something about that.

I am in support of this motion and I would urge the rest of my colleagues to do the same.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the work being done by my colleagues here. This motion asks for the government to initiate discussions with the Government of Canada on the Mackenzie Valley Highway into the Sahtu. It asks us to begin working a lot more seriously on capacity building so that we can nail down benefits from development activities. That's a start. Obviously, this is only a start and I hope that as we get into assessing what the impacts are and what the responses need to be, and we need to get on this, we need to think about some of the hard, cold realities that are coming out. Those have to do with the ephemeral nature of oil and shale gas reserves. They've been found to have a much shorter life than predicted. They rarely work out. The oil shale plays, for example, two out of 20 oil plays worked out in the U.S. So there's some serious looks needed so that we can develop appropriately. I'm trusting that the government, as we move forward on this, will be astute in staying on top of what is actually happening. I will be supporting this motion but it is only a beginning.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called, but I will allow Mr. Ramsay to speak to the motion.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the concern over what is happening in the Mackenzie Valley. Certainly the developments occurring in the Sahtu region are significant and substantial. The Economic Opportunities Strategy Advisory Panel has held several meetings where the developments occurring in the Sahtu have been raised. I've been assured that the panel will be bringing forward a number of recommendations for consideration by this government, which may include a discussion regarding the establishment of a special economic zone.

As industry moves forward to a positive decision to produce oil in the Sahtu, the GNWT will continue to be diligent and position ourselves to respond to ensure the greatest benefits possible come to the residents of the Sahtu and the NWT. The government has directed significant resources to enhance our programs and efforts in the Sahtu region, and if the current exploration program becomes a significant long-term development, we will be ready to step in and support the region as required.

We will continue to work with the federal government to ensure they are aware and ready to assist us in whatever means necessary for this development to move forward. The level of government response in the long term will, of

course, be in alignment with decisions by industry on possible production scenarios in the Sahtu. Recent discussion with industry have indicated that if drilling occurs in a timely manner, no production decisions could be made before at least three years from today and no production in the Sahtu with concurrent sustainable activity would be possible before 2020.

We do not want to get ahead of ourselves. While the exploration program that is happening in the Sahtu is significant to the region, it is the tip of the iceberg that may be coming at us. When the time is right, as signaled by industry investment and decisions to produce, then we'll be looking at even more significant response by this government that will allow us to gain the most benefit from this opportunity.

If I could, just a few comments on the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. This has been identified as a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly and remains a priority of this government. An all-weather highway up the Mackenzie Valley to Tuktoyaktuk support Canada's sovereignty goals and territorial aspirations for resource development and other economic opportunities. The Mackenzie Valley Highway is expected to help reduce the cost of living, improve health care and education opportunities, support families in communities in the region, and provide significant long-term employment and contracting opportunities to residents of the NWT. The construction of the Inuvik to Tuk portion of the road is an important first step to realizing the vision of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. We are, at the same time, working to move forward on the southern portion of the highway.

The Department of Transportation recently submitted an application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board related to the Wrigley to Dempster portion of the highway. This is the official start of the environmental review process and marks an important milestone for an all-weather road through the valley. The federal government, through CanNor, has committed \$600,000 of the \$8 million estimated cost of the environmental assessment for the southern portion of the proposed highway. The completion of the EA is the first step towards the completion of the highway and we will continue to look for opportunities to fund this work, including seeking out additional federal funding.

Over the past 10 years, working with our federal partners, the GNWT has invested \$120 million in incremental improvements that will contribute to the eventual construction of the highway. We will continue to work with the federal government and industry partners to advance the project and support the interests of NWT residents.

The Mackenzie Valley Highway Project is important for economic development in the Northwest Territories. It is being planned so as to maximize business opportunities, training and employment. This requires a strategic, incremental approach, which we are pursuing.

The Department of Transportation is currently developing an update to the 2005 proposal Connecting Canada Coast to Coast to Coast. This document will update the progress we have made in moving the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project forward and identify proposed next steps to continue to advance the project. At the same time, and in anticipation of a new federal infrastructure program, the Department of Transportation is also developing a new strategic investment proposal titled Corridors for Canada: Building for Prosperity, which sets out our priorities for federal transportation infrastructure funding. Opportunities for continued investments into the Mackenzie Valley will be considered. We are also investigating opportunities for collaborations and partnerships using successful, proven models to emphasize local training and employment as well as ongoing benefits for communities.

This government has taken many steps to continue on the path toward achieving the goal of a Mackenzie Valley Highway. The government will be abstaining from voting on this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I will allow closing remarks on the motion to Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. Just in closing, some of the oral history in the 1920s when the people, the Blondin family had the oil and they were burning it and it was flaring up. They knew it was something special but they didn't know the value of this product called oil.

Today we've come a long way. We have the ability and adaptation to learn and move. It takes years to become a journeyman through training and apprenticeship, and that's why we asked to start the training program, to start looking at things that take years. You want to be a worker on the pipeline or that production, they're going to make sure you're certified and possibly that you're with a union company. We're going to have to get ready for that. The days of picks and shovels are over for the Sahtu people. We want to ask this government, because of the enormous amount of record-breaking dollars set in the Sahtu ever, the government should really look at this as a special economic zone and say, yes, they have something here. There are hundreds of millions of dollars spent in the Sahtu region. We should take a look at it. That shale play is being compared to the Bakken field. There are billions of barrels of oil. The Bakken is estimated at 20 billion barrels. The Sahtu Canol

shale play resources, they're saying, are even better than that. That needs to be proven. Those are just words we're hearing from the area.

We have the duty as Members here to do the right thing. The right thing right now is to put pressure on our government so that they can put pressure on the federal government to say things are happening. As one of the Members said, that's our duty. Because if this goes, we're going to leave a significant mark on our land. On the land and water, the oil and animals, the production. If we're really ready – and I'm glad the Minister said the possibility of a visit down to some of the areas where fracking is going on – we're going to leave a mark on Canada in the Northwest Territories. We're leaving a mark now. Companies in Hay River and Yellowknife are looking at the Sahtu. I know there's companies south of this lake, like I said, Hay River, are doing business up in our area. That's good. We take our money, we shop here in Yellowknife and we shop in Hay River. There are even companies up in Tuk and Inuvik coming into the Sahtu. There's lots of work. That's good for everybody. We want to see our people working. We also need to know that there is treasure in our culture and to look at those areas that are important to us. That's what sustained us. It was before us, it's going to be after us.

I just want to close with the oilfields from 1920-1921, what happened when Imperial Oil came in, later the federal government negotiated a treaty, to today. I'm just saying we've come a long way, baby, because today our people are taking charge of the land and the wealth and prosperity. We are not being fooled. Maybe we are, but we know now what development means and what it can bring to us. We have come a long way from the days when those treaties were signed to what we have today here in our land.

I want to ask if we could have a recorded vote. Thank you very much to the Members for allowing me to speak. Thank you for this motion this afternoon.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member has asked for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bouchard, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolyunny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. In favour, 10; opposed, zero; abstaining, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014, Health and Social Services and Public Works and Services, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014, and the continuation of Health and Social Services, and as well as Public Works and Services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. At the prerogative of the chair, we'll take a break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

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

Before I call for the report of Committee of the Whole, I have been informed that your wish is to sit late today beyond our daily adjournment. By the authority given to me as Speaker, by Motion 1-17(4), I hereby order you back into Committee of the Whole and authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, and report when the committee deems appropriate. I would like to ask Mrs. Groenewegen to take the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters (Reversion)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Where we left off yesterday, we were dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, I would, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

For the record, Mr. Beaulieu, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right is Debbie DeLancey, deputy minister of Health and Social Services. To my left is director of finance, Jeannie Mathison, Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We were on page 8-31, community wellness and social services, operations expenditure summary, \$89.259 million. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a committee motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Please proceed.

COMMITTEE MOTION 9-17(4): IMPLEMENTATION OF CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT MODEL, CARRIED

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify the funding necessary to fully implement the chronic disease management model. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, I wish to speak to this motion, in favour of this motion, by using the soothing words of then Auditor General of Canada, Ms. Sheila Fraser. My reference is to the tabled document of March 1, 2011, in this House from the Auditor General with respect to this motion directly.

Page 14, paragraph 39, "Recommendation: Department of Health and Social Services, in collaboration with health and social services authorities, should identify a course of diabetes education, prevention and treatment programs; monitor implementation of programs across the

Northwest Territories; identify and collect data to measure program results; and use this data to improve program delivery.”

The department’s response: Agreed. “Establishing a chronic disease management model for the Northwest Territories is currently identified as a key action contained in the Foundation for Change, the Department of Health and Social Services system action plan for 2009-2012. The recommendations related to diabetes will be addressed with the overall model of chronic disease prevention and management delivered through primary community care teams. The first draft of this model has been developed and is to be completed in 2011-2012.”

Madam Chair, as I said, this was a tabled document in 2011 and it’s substantiation of the results of this audit from the Auditor General of that time was completed in September 2010. We are now in 2013 and we believe that the time has come for the Department of Health and Social Service to fully implement this chronic disease management model. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we are on page 8-31. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 10-17(4)
IMPLEMENTATION OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND ADDICTIONS PLANS AND
COMMUNITY WELLNESS PLANS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a committee motion. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to increase overall funding for addictions and mental health program delivery initiatives, including funding needed to implement the mental health and addictions plan and community wellness plan.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order and is being distributed. To the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. This motion is as a result of committee deliberations that we never felt the government really achieved the 3 percent expenditures for mental health and addictions prevention and promotion, and this is one aspect of it. As well, I am pleased to move this motion because during my recent constituency tour in January, many of the community wellness plans were being approved by the communities of Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Jean Marie

and, for the most part, Fort Liard as well. What this spoke to me about was that they’re very pleased, they worked so hard and worked with the Department of Health and Social Services working towards these wellness plans. However, they found that once they started combining their wellness plans in all aspects of health and prevention, addictions and mental health, that the funding pool wasn’t really enough.

So what this motion speaks to me about, and I’d like to champion and put on the record, is that more money has to be delivered to the communities on the ground. I’ve spoken in this House; as well, I’ve done a Member’s statement for the community. As an example, Trout Lake gets their community wellness planning, they get their addictions and mental health funding, I think there was one pot, it’s about \$5,000, but almost \$2,000 of it is used for travel. So as a result, they only got \$3,000 for on-the-ground programming for the community and it doesn’t go very far. So by combining the pots, it’s still there, but at the same time we’ve got to take into account that travel into remote communities. Of course, there’s still travel for specialists for Hay River and Yellowknife. At the same time, when you start going to remote communities, you’re talking about air charter, higher costs of accommodation in those communities.

So that’s why I like this motion, I champion it and I’ll look for full Regular Member support as we move forward with this motion, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we are on page 8-31, Health and Social Services, activity summary. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 11-17(4):
IMPLEMENTATION OF YEAR TWO ACTIONS
IN MENTAL HEALTH AND
ADDICTIONS TO SUPPORT
SPECIALIZED (WELLNESS) COURTS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I also have a motion and I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate steps to accelerate the implementation of year two actions identified in the Mental Health and Addictions Plan that will lead to a more robust mental health and addictions network better able to support the timely establishment of specialized wellness courts. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is being distributed. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think everyone is aware that we have very serious issues of mental health and addictions in the Northwest Territories, some of the highest rates in the country by far. We also have very, very high rates of recidivism, and in our corrections these are obviously the results of our history and some of the major events there. Some examples of that are residential schools and the trauma that that entailed and still does to this day, a lack of early childhood development. As a result of these sorts of things, many people are still struggling and, unfortunately, we currently have a system that simply dumps many of these people into our jails.

It's well recognized, and I think supported by our government, that we need to do something about that, and that there are demonstrated models out across Canada and North America and now the world, often termed mental health courts or wellness courts. We're aware that the feasibility study being done by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Social Services will be done the end of next month, and committee wants a wellness court or the equivalent mental health court on the ground and operational for our people sooner rather than later. This is particularly so in light of the federal legislation that is causing more and more people to be jailed as it slowly gets implemented. There has been some assessment work done on that that demonstrates there is very serious and significant costs associated with that and prevention is the way to go.

So a major consideration that enables a wellness or mental health court to be in place is the astute observation of our justices, that we need the assurance of mental health and wellness services to be in place so that such a court can be enabled. This motion is meant to highlight that and to demand a timely action on it. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Yakeleya.

COMMITTEE MOTION 12-17(4):
FUNDING FOR YOUTH ADDICTIONS
EDUCATION AND
PREVENTION PROGRAMS,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a motion. I move that this committee strongly recommends the government take immediate action to supplement funding that is currently identified for youth addiction education and prevention programs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. It is being distributed. To the motion, committee. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Chair, with the support of the committee, this motion is on the floor to talk about the funding that is needed for our youth. There is a high population of youth in our community, and education around addiction and prevention programs needs to be fully supported and recognized for the amount of issues that the young people are dealing with and the harmful effects, the community effects, the impact of addiction and prevention programs that have taken our young population, and that this motion comes from the committee to see the priority in our funding of these types of programs, especially for our young generation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Moses.

COMMITTEE MOTION 13-17(4):
ESTABLISHMENT OF A TERRITORIAL
DETOX PROGRAM MODEL AND
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/CREATION FOR
FOUR DETOX BEDS,
CARRIED

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a motion. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify the funding necessary to develop and establish a territorial detox program model and implementation plan that will lead to the creation of four detox beds – two each in the northern and southern parts of the Northwest Territories – during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. A motion is on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I continue on with this motion, I do want to put on the record that during the current sitting of this session the Minister of Health and Social Services did commit to implementing two detox beds in the north and two in the south. I would like to make sure that we do hold him to that commitment as the people of the Northwest Territories did hear that and are expecting that in this fiscal year.

Detox beds are something that are truly needed in the communities and hospitals. We do have a policy that anybody who wants treatment does, in fact, need to be sober for, I believe the policy states, or even if there is a policy, but what is known out there is 30 days. When people who do need the treatment and can't be sober for the 30 days, and that when our emergency staff let these people back out into society or on the streets after sobering up after being in the emergency ward, that's where our government starts failing and is not seeing the appropriate need and help for these individuals. It's putting an added stress on emergency staff, it's putting added stress on our RCMP staff who deal with a lot of these cases in terms of the jail cells, and we need to find a way to help the people that are recurring in the emergency rooms as well as recurring in the jails.

Speaking to nurses and RCMP officers, they say the same thing, they support the idea. We can free up some of our staff to do other important work rather than continuing to deal with an issue that has been not addressed and overlooked for so many years. I commend the committee and the hard work that the committee has done to support this idea, and I commend the Minister of Health and Social Services for committing to this, as well, during this fiscal year.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 8-31, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social services, operations expenditure summary, \$89.259 million. Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 14-17(4):
ESTABLISHMENT OF ONGOING
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS FOR THE
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF
DAY SHELTERS,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify the

funds necessary to allow for the establishment of ongoing contribution agreements for the management and operation of day shelters.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. A motion is on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Certainly it's a pleasure to move this motion. This is about two particular issues at large, if I may speak to it in that manner. Our committee believes in supporting the shelter that has been established here in Yellowknife, but at the same time we said in a plural form, which is we believe that the communities deserve these much needed opportunities of day shelters as well. This motion's intent is to extend ongoing services to the Yellowknife day shelter, but at the same time, we think it's critical that the communities and the regions cannot be forgotten because this problem doesn't always exist here and they need full support from this government as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do support this motion. I like how the motion was worded, because it was for the management of day shelters, which really talks about not just the requirement in our major capital city here, which we all like to refer to as more of a territorial day shelter, but the operation of future day shelters across the Northwest Territories. We need to always remind ourselves of that.

It's obvious that the approach that we've done for day shelter management has been piecemeal at best. The continuity and ongoing stewardship that we require from people who do our programming need consistency and we need to have a strong message collectively from this government, that we're supporting this on a long-term basis and not year to year. I do support this motion and I look forward to my colleagues doing the same.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-17(4):
FUNDING FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify

additional funding for health promotion and education initiatives in areas such as healthy eating, active living and early childhood development.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. A motion is on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. This motion clearly indicates that we need to focus on some better initiatives in the education and promotion of healthy, active living. I just want to share a couple of key statistics with you to put a light on this motion.

Life expectancy is six years lower in the NWT than the Canadian average, and I think that's why this motion has been brought forward. Sixty-three percent of NWT residents 15 and over are overweight or obese compared to only 51 percent of Canadians. It is clear and obvious that we need to do a better job in health promotion and education so that we have much more healthy residents in the years to come.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Active living and physical activity levels is one area where we in the North are challenged. I think there needs to be some additional attention. It's demonstrated that is so important, even during early childhood to the brain development, but also for health throughout life. The committee has repeatedly asked, as one specific example, for some form of milk subsidy. We, apparently, haven't done that because parents need to take responsibility for raising their own children. Our employment rates are as low as 30 or 40 percent in some of our communities. This is not a matter of them not wanting to take care of their children. That's one example. Let's get that done. I still get requests for that and I know other Members hear about it occasionally as well. I will be supporting the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to briefly touch on this motion here. I think committee members and residents don't have to look any further than some of the key findings in the Health Status Report that was brought forth in August 2011 and some of the key findings that need to be addressed to protect and increase the healthy living of our residents of the Northwest Territories. Obviously, with my background, and seeing the effectiveness of health promotion and education initiatives, and putting more dollars into that and investing into our people, I will be supporting this motion. Like I said, you don't have to look much further than the Health Status Report of residents of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 8-31, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social services, operations expenditure summary, \$89.259 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to ask a little bit about the family violence and counselling. I know we've had our third, sort of, Phase 3 recommendations on this area, and this year we weren't able to advance on all of those but I think there was general agreement to them as priorities. Could I just get, maybe, an update on what we're proposing to do in this fiscal year under consideration here in the way of addressing family violence and the Family Violence Plan, Phase 3.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are continuing the work that was being done under the family violence prevention initiatives in 2012-2013. Social Marketing Strategy, \$82,000 community protocols, \$120,000; community response teams, \$90,000; recovery and support programs for children, \$75,000; for a total ongoing contribution of \$367,000.

MR. BROMLEY: That sounds like a good response. Can the Minister confirm that that addresses all of the recommendations of Phase 3 based on the recent review?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The information I have is that it does address the recommendations and that we are working with the Coalition on Family Violence to address the recommendations in the original plan.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for those remarks from the Minister. I know Health is working with the Department of Justice, as well, and there are some other programs in that department working on this initiative.

I guess, just on the mental health side, I was happy to see that there is now some attempt to fund the Mental Health Action Plan that resulted from the extensive review that was done. Can this Minister tell me if that will address the needs for assessment and diagnosis and care that would be required out of mental health court, the services that would be required for a mental health court in the Northwest Territories.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would just have the deputy minister read through some of the

information of the programs and information where we're spending the money to try and address that issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money in this budget to start implementing year two of the action plan does start to address some of the requirements that were identified in order to address gaps and services, most notably the continuing support to the Stanton Hospital/Dalhousie Psychiatric Program which provides both psychiatric treatment in Yellowknife and also telehealth. That also involves working with Dalhousie to document the after-care and follow-up programs, because right now one of the gaps in our service is very much that when people are dismissed from Stanton, especially when they go in for outpatient psychiatry, they often don't have a fully developed care plan or there's not proper communication back to their authority. So a big part of the project with Dalhousie is to put those in place. That's married with – you've heard about the Chronic Disease Management Pilot Project on Mental Health Care Pathways; these two initiatives are marrying. That's a big part of it.

Another part of it is putting in place some staff to continue the work on standards, updating the manuals – this is an outstanding commitment – so that we do, again, have consistent standards of practice for follow-up in every authority. To that extent the budget does start to address those service gaps.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: That is positive news. But, of course, I think the committee is looking to fully address all of the gaps. What would it take? What is left to be done? These are the sorts of things that will be useful in discussions to come.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that response we'll go to Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a lot of the detail here on the gaps in order to fill all the requirements that are needed and the work that's needed by the department in order to meet the needs of the development of a specialized court. What we have and what we will work on – and, of course, that motion was passed today – is that we have some work being done with the development of a youth and detox program models as one of the pieces. We are looking at hiring some mental health specialists in the professional development and also in the quality assurance. Also, looking at some other positions. Chronic disease management that we spoke of a bit will also have a relation to that since mental

health is also considered a chronic disease. During the development of the chronic disease, the department will see, and there will be some correlation between the development of the chronic disease on the mental health portion of the development of the Chronic Disease Strategy and also the finalization of the specialized courts. In addition, we'd have to work with the Department of Justice to do, sort of like, the final gap analysis or assessment in order that we could be prepared to fill the gaps for the specialized court.

I will ask for the chair's indulgence to have the deputy fill in some other information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just two final pieces of information. The work with Justice on feasibility assessment is ongoing. I believe the Committee on Social Programs has had a presentation on that, and part of that is the final assessment of gaps. The other piece of information we have as part of the partnership with Stanton and Dalhousie University, Dalhousie has worked with all of our authorities to identify gaps in service. We received a report on that very recently. We do need to marry those two pieces of work together in the coming couple of months and then we would have a much more complete sense of where the gaps in service are.

I guess, in summary, what we've got in year two of the action plan is addressing those things that were already identified and we're now doing the final work to try to identify anything outstanding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister and deputy minister. I think those comments are very useful and help fill in my understanding.

I guess my last question is, you know, I frequently heard that we need... I'm sorry. I don't know the terminology, but is it a forensic psychiatrist or somebody who's able to do the assessments and so on for a mental health court to be workable. Where are we on that? On having those talents ready and available within our government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. With that, we'll go to Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be addressing that through our collaboration with Dalhousie psychiatry work that we're doing. I guess it would be the Dalhousie psychiatric telehealth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Bromley, your time is up. If you want to get back on, just give me a cue. Moving on with questions on page 8-31 I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A few questions here. I'll start with, hopefully, a relatively easy one. I know that the Minister has committed in the House that funding for the Yellowknife Dene Ko Day Shelter will continue at least for another year. I haven't managed to find where the budget indicates that funding, so if I could be directed to the spot in the budget that indicates where the funding is for the day shelter and the amount. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That budget is in the contribution to YK Health and Social Services. The overall contribution and the total amount is \$175,000.

MS. BISARO: At the risk of going beyond this page, there is an amount on page 8-32, at the very bottom, for mental health and addictions authorities, \$125,000. Could I know what that references?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay. Ms. Bisaro, I will allow it, but we'd like to keep on page 8-31 for further questions. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It looks like the Yellowknife homeless day shelter and the Canadian Mental Health Association are the money that may be going to Health and Social Services, but we have agreed to an additional amount of \$50,000 because of the withdrawal of BHP. If this is the actual same number, but we don't understand this to be the same number. Our understanding is that it's within the overall contribution to YK.

The deputy has just advised me that within the \$1.463 million that's within the department, that a separate contribution agreement aside from the grants and contributions that are issued to the authorities, that this, within the \$1.463 million, is where the \$175,000 sits.

MS. BISARO: Thank you all for that explanation. I think I'll just leave the \$125,000; \$175,000 sounds a lot better, so I'll take that. Thank you very much.

I have another question. It's more of a concern, really. The Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness, I think it's now called, has been going on for some time. When the forum was first designed, it was a forum on mental health and addictions, and the terms of reference were designed under that title, and then the title was changed.

I have a very difficult time discussing addictions without also discussing the issue of mental health. The forum, in dealing with addictions and community wellness, when you just listen to the name or when the forum goes into any community, they are suggesting that mental health is not part of their whole discussion. I know the Minister has sort of explained that mental health is part of it, but I

guess I would just like to know from the Minister, when these recommendations come forward, if they don't deal with mental health, if they deal simply with addictions and/or what community wellness, whatever that is, is it the Minister's intention to look at addictions in concert with mental health issues and any recommendations will involve both of those issues. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I think a fairly common thing has been that people sometimes end up with mental health issues as a result of addictions. Sometimes people with mental health end up with addictions. That's why we see the two items fairly linked. We're trying to give the forum the ability to, as we appointed them as experts in the community, that they are well known in the community and had good community knowledge, that they felt that removing the mental health from their forum would net better results and better consultation at the community level by using the term addictions and community wellness as opposed to mental health and addictions. They chose that term, so that when they go out, individuals are addressing them in the community level were addressing them with their addiction issues and their wellness issues. They felt that there was a bit of a stigma attached to mental health and they chose to stay away from that as a part of their title.

However, when we do evaluate their report and determine that the work that we're going to do as a result of their report, we're not going to separate the two. We are going to, wherever it is necessary to work on the mental health in the community level and where it is necessary to work in addictions or wellness, and also where it is necessary to work in all of those three areas in concert, that's what we intend to do.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate the Minister's explanation, but I have to disagree with his assessment because I don't believe that you can separate the two. I think, by the forum and the Minister agreeing that there is a stigma on mental health, we are simply making it worse. I think, until we start talking about mental health and accepting that it is an issue, some people refer to it as a disease, but until we start bringing that to the fore and accepting that is a problem that we have, we won't adequately deal with it. I think it's unfortunate that the forum members wanted to remove that particular phrase and replace it with community wellness. I will just leave that as a comment.

My last question has to do with the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River. It has been quite a while now. It has probably been since the 16th that Standing Committee on Social Programs members have been concerned about the usage at Nats'ejee K'eh. My understanding of the latest statistics, that

Members received, it was anywhere from a 50 percent occupancy up to maybe 60 or 70 percent. I don't believe it was any better than that. Sometimes it was less than 50 percent occupancy, from what I understand. I believe we have had conversations with the Minister about whether or not something will be done with that facility to bring the occupancy and the usage to a much higher percentage.

I would like to know from the Minister whether or not a review has been done. There was talk of a review probably at least a year or two years ago now. There was going to be an analysis of what the centre was currently doing, what we needed as a territory to deal with, what we needed in a treatment centre and how we were going to change the centre, and use it better and have a greater occupancy rate.

I'd like to know from the Minister whether there has been any review of the centre, whether there is any intention on the part of the department to try and revise the programming at Nats'ejee K'eh to make it better utilized by our people. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I find the questioning rather interesting since the Member indicated it was difficult to separate addictions and mental health and that Nats'ejee K'eh has moved solidly into the area of counselling mental health patients, and that the councillors have a background in mental health.

Knowing that, we looked at the amount of the capacity, I should say, of the individuals, the capacity of the building as they are doing their intakes. The capacity is actually around 46 and dropped to 43 percent, so lower than 50 percent in the last two fiscal years that we've looked at.

I met with the board. I went down to Hay River and met with the board. The board asked me if they would be allowed to develop a plan on how they think the program should work.

It's a rather interesting thing because this is a long story. The need for Nats'ejee K'eh could be an essential part of the overall recovery of people with addictions issues. What they had asked was... We went in there and were basically of the thought that there was not much capacity and low success rate. And that is true. But the more we work with the department, within addictions of all of the communities and so on, the more we're seeing a possible role for Nats'ejee K'eh, an important role for Nats'ejee K'eh.

One of the things we are doing in addition to allowing the community, that group, the Nats'ejee K'eh to develop a plan to provide to the department, is we're going to move Nats'ejee K'eh from Deh Cho Health and Social Services under Health and Social Services, the department. Right now we are looking at it as perhaps an opportunity for addicts to

go to Nats'ejee K'eh to get educated. We looked at it from that perspective.

I had discussions with other Members in here. They thought that might be an opportunity to use Nats'ejee K'eh to maximize Nats'ejee K'eh. Right now we're thinking that we still come away with the understanding that addressing addiction issues is a personal responsibility, so that we can provide as many aids as possible to individuals, and Nats'ejee K'eh being one of those aids that we can provide to an individual to go through an intensive 28-day educational process on the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs.

Meanwhile, the whole spectrum, if we can call it that, of issues to address addictions is largely a personal responsibility. Nats'ejee K'eh is in there. How we are going to use Nats'ejee K'eh, we are not 100 percent sure at this time, but we are going to use Nats'ejee K'eh in a different way. We're not sure that the right move would be just to shut Nats'ejee K'eh down, because there seems to be some utilization and there are still individuals that are saying that they would like to go to Nats'ejee K'eh for treatment.

Also, the Nats'ejee K'eh could be a complementary type of treatment to all of the other personal responsibilities, on the land treatment, supporting parents in the communities. Some of those ideas are initial ideas that we're getting back from the Addictions Forum. Once we have that report, we're going to be able to then, we think, slot Nats'ejee K'eh into the overall spectrum of addressing addictions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee, we're on page 8-31, and continuing on with questions I have Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, I had my questions focused around chronic disease management and dollars that are being allocated to that. However, the Minister did make a comment there to my colleague's previous question and one of her concerns was why the Addictions Forum doesn't contain mental health, and the Minister did mention that he feels that addictions is a personal responsibility. But when you get into the frontline work and you work with individuals that are battling addictions, and you sit down with people that are having a hard time and they can't get out of the rut of addictions, a lot of it deals with mental health issues. A lot of it is more than just a personal responsibility.

Some of these guys need education; they need an education into personal life choices. You can't just assume that because they're a young adult, that they're an adult or even an elder, that they can make those personal decisions on their own, or those choices. I think that's where my colleague was trying to go with why we're not focusing on mental health with addictions, because they do go

hand in hand, and we just have to go down and walk into some of these communities where we'll see people who are battling with addictions that need that extra support.

I don't agree with the Minister's comments that it comes down solely to personal responsibility because this government has a responsibility to offer those services to help those that need that help. If you go and talk to somebody who might be battling addictions, they don't have the education, they might not have had education.

We're going through a curriculum right now where we're going back to residential schools. People's lives are traumatized at an early age and they can't make those decisions on their own. So I disagree with what the Minister had said to my colleague, and that is a personal responsibility because there are some people that can't make that decision or choice on their own. So I just wanted to, for the record, state that, and I will make sure that there will be questions asked in the House and get it on for the record when we're trying to help our residents of the Northwest Territories, because comments like that really do upset me, Mr. Chair.

Moving forward on to my initial questions and I'll allow the Minister to respond to that comment. As well, I would like to get more clarification on his thoughts.

In the NWT, 70 percent of all deaths and more than 50 percent of the number of days spent in hospitals were related to chronic conditions. Also, I wanted to throw a couple more stats in there. Approximately 200 new cases of diabetes are diagnosed each year, which are a direct correlation to nutrition, active living and, as stated earlier today, that 63 percent of our NWT residents are overweight and obese. Then when you look at the chronic disease mortality rates, 23 percent are related to cardiovascular deaths. I want to know what the Minister is doing to decrease any one of these statistics that we see, that the public sees that we've got to be making plans to cut these down, whether it's the 70 percent of all deaths, the number of hospitalizations related to chronic disease.

We've got to set performance measures. We've got 200 new cases of diabetes. How can we set a performance measure that next year we'll only get 150? That would be success. Or even better, how do we not get any at all? That all leads to prevention and promotion, and that's where we're not focusing our dollars. How do we cut down on the 23 percent of cardiovascular deaths that we see each year?

I want to know what the Minister is doing and if he's looking at providing more dollars into the prevention and promotion so that we can start addressing some of these issues that are clearly stated in the 2011 Health Status Report. I don't want to get into

asking him questions again if he's read that report, or not because I'm doing my homework over here and I hope the Minister is doing his. He's got a big stack, he's got a big department and, honestly, I was just going to ask a nice question, but his comments to my colleague earlier really got me hot under the collar here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. For that we'll go to Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't indicate that addictions was the responsibility, solely a personal responsibility. I'd indicated that addressing addictions was a personal responsibility and what we're trying to do is to try to provide some supports, and mentioning the Nats'ejee K'eh would be one of those supports in addition to some of the community programs like on-the-land programs, also, in addition to some of the early findings of the forum of maybe addressing some parental issues, putting in programs to assist parents at the community level and so on.

So it wasn't to take all the money out of trying to address issues with addictions and writing it off as a sole responsibility. That, I didn't say. I said that it was a personal responsibility. A lot of people with addiction issues have gone to complete sobriety on their own. That, we know for sure. That's a fact. Many individuals that have addressed the issue on their own are sober.

There are people that need assistance. That is true. If you're into the counselling business you have people coming to you. The Community Counselling Program, we're spending \$6 million in the Community Counselling Program. We're continuing that. We recognize that people come to get assistance, but if you make a personal choice to try to address your addiction issues, then all of the support that can be provided by the department, by the Community Counselling Program or any new programs that are recommended through the addictions forums, will all be aids in place to be able to help people address those issues.

Just on the management of chronic disease, I think what the Members are trying to get from the department is to zero in on having a specific Chronic Disease Management Strategy, but in reality it is throughout our work. If we develop a Chronic Disease Strategy, that's okay, because it can refer to all kinds of programs that are in the system, but in our system the areas of prevention and promotion, which is an area where the Members don't agree with the amount of money that we're saying we're putting into prevention and promotion. So we encounter that. We see prevention and promotion throughout the entire budget. We see chronic disease management throughout the entire budget. We're looking at the whole area of anything to do where we're working with like, one example is TAMI, Talking About

Mental Illness. That program, as an example, is a program that we're working on. So we're not doing nothing at all, we're working there. We have Mental Health First Aid, we're putting money into mental health and addictions, we're working on three separate pilots right now, a cancer strategy, healthy eating pilots, and renal is the other one. Then we're piloting three, I guess, that we were going to use as a base, renal, diabetes – and I don't remember the locations, but we could have the deputy provide the locations – and mental health.

There are lots of different things happening in the department. I go through a lot of reports that were there before I started. I don't memorize the reports. I've got a huge job trying to move this department forward, trying to address the issues. I think issues that are important to the health of the people in the Northwest Territories. If Mr. Moses asks me questions specific to whether this is in the report or whether you read this report, he talked about several reports yesterday that he mentions again today. One of the reports I hadn't heard of but the reporter had it. When the guy opened it up and showed me the consultation of it and so on, it was a bit different than the consultation that we're doing under the forum that we're doing now. I had indicated to him that we are trying to get more of a community, people going out there doing consultation with the communities and trying to develop something from that. It is costing a bit of money, \$300,000, but we think that once we get that report and once we action the report, we will gain that money back in the long run.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Are you concluded? Just one more question I will allow for Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that both comments were pretty long there, and I do understand the Minister does have a very big department and a lot of responsibility to be working with, he and his staff. When I do refer to reports I refer to it from a ground-level worker, which I've done for many, many years, and some recommendations when I left a conference or a workshop feeling good knowing that those recommendations were to be addressed or looked at and they never, ever did. Now that I'm in a position to see if we can try to get those addressed, I feel good about it because I'm saying stuff here now that I've been saying for the last 12 years sitting on committees at the ground level working with community members, people who have the challenges with the lack of funding trying to help people that they genuinely care about. So when I go to reports and talk about recommendations, I'm coming at it from a true working level from the ground level. I just want to make that comment to the reports.

Based on the stats, can I ask the Minister why we are piloting three projects when I listed all the stats, and the stats show that we need something concrete. We don't need pilot projects; we need something concrete. Whether he's going to allocate specific dollars on an ongoing, year-to-year fiscal budget process to address all these stats that I had mentioned earlier, and not keep them as pilot projects, and not focus on just three communities, but try to find a way to make it a territorial project that addresses all residents of the Northwest Territories, and not just three communities in terms of piloting because it is an issue. I read out the stats earlier. People are dying. People are suffering. We can't just go out and do a pilot project and say we might be able to help you out, we'll see how these projects do first in these three communities. As we've said, all regions are different. Demographics are different. Costs of living are different throughout different regions. That's just my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. For that we'll go to Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're using pilot projects as exactly what they are, pilots. They will end, those projects. The information gathered from those programs, those specific programs would probably continue, but not as pilots. They would continue as the regular course of business that we do in the chronic disease management.

As a result of those projects, we're going to be able to expand into other programs we're seeing that we need to address the chronic disease issues. We know that initially when we forge into this work, we do the same thing too. We look at the stats. That's what we use as a starting point. We know that diabetes is growing at 200 persons per year in the Northwest Territories. We know that diabetes is higher among Aboriginal people than it is among non-Aboriginal people. What we are doing is dealing with, really to address the diabetes issues, we're saying exercise and eating healthy.

Then we talk about people that, when we talk about cancer, we're talking about not smoking. We're trying to get out there and work on prevention programs and smoking cessation programs. Also drinking. Heavy drinking seems to have a very negative impact on a person's health. So we're trying to address that issue, too, so we're talking about that and that's why we're doing our addictions work and so on.

We are looking at the stats and trying to put programs into effect and dealing with the authorities, through the authorities, through social services, through the health authorities and so on, health and social services authorities, trying to address these issues, as well, by looking at the stats.

I don't know if the trend has been where diabetes is growing by 200 persons per year in the Northwest Territories if we're able to get people starting at the schools, trying to start at the schools, we thought that would be a good point to start healthy living, healthy eating and exercising. We're able to curb the new diabetes in the Northwest Territories, if we can turn the curve down that would be something we want to achieve. Same with cancer. Cancer rates are very high. The various different types of cancer rates are very high, so we're trying to address those issues by developing a cancer strategy, by piloting that through two communities in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We're on page 8-31; however, before we continue, I'm going to ask committee members, as well as the department, if we could just tighten up the questions a little bit and maybe tighten up the answers a little bit as we can move on this activity summary. Moving on with questions I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a page where, obviously, prevention is big. We've talked about it on just about every topic that comes up and I just want to stress, again, that that's often where I'm coming from. I know the Minister is too.

I view early childhood development programming as the number one opportunity we have in prevention. We have Dr. Corriveau with the Minister's department working away on a framework. I hope we're going to come up with a really community-based focus on young families, that sort of approach. We have what we have for resources and as we really go to implementation, we will expand those resources. It has to be done well and intelligently and so on. Wherever the Minister sees an opportunity to support that work, I hope he will do that.

My question, just on the Child and Family Services Act and the previous report, I know the Minister is seriously interested and concerned in that area and has attempted to get community child and family services committees up and running and has found it to be challenging. He's going to continue to focus on seeing that. All other Ministers we've had over the last six or eight years have had that same challenge. What are we doing, what is the focus on implementing the recommendations, both in terms of on-the-ground programs and in terms of the act? Can the Minister – I don't know if he would have this information – give us an update on what number of children we have in care in the Northwest Territories and outside of the Northwest Territories? Let's back off the specifics and go to the trends. Are the trends increasing or decreasing in those couple of parameters? I'll start with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll just give the department a minute to retrieve that. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have the numbers of the children that were apprehended. Actually, I guess better yet, the children that are working with the child and family services people or a social worker. Some of them are in a voluntary agreement with the family and some are placed in foster care. We do have a total – I'll just need to bring this a little bit closer. I would pick a date, Mr. Bromley, because it changes all the time. As of November 30, 2012, we had 582 children receiving services. Of that, 356 of those children were receiving services like counselling, respite services, at the request of parents. Parents do not lose custody of these children of that group. Some are in the custody of foster care but the majority, I guess, 61 percent of the children receiving services are receiving services in their home.

Then we do have the trends as well here, but we're just pulling up the information. We have so much information here we need to locate the information.

Maybe I could talk a bit about our work with trying to develop child and family services. We had one committee, that committee quit functioning. We're trying to get that committee up and running again. The community has actually asked that committee be functional again. We had gone to beginning the work in the recommendations of the Child and Family Services Act review, and that recommendation was to try to place child and family services committees in all of the communities where there were children that were receiving services. We were not able to do that. It is my opinion that it would be a matter of sustaining the pressure, I suppose, on the communities to try to get them to come up with a committee from the Department of Health and Social Services or from the health and social services authorities across the territory. An example, I went into the Sahtu, I guess a year after the recommendations were made, and there was no work done on developing the child and family services committees but there was work done in Healthy Families, another recommendation. Which we had direct control over as a department, the money is coming through the department and that was one of the other key members.

As far as the 73 recommendations within that report, what I think we would have to do is show a response to the report. We recognize that in some places we'd have to do the change in the act in order to carry out the recommendations. Some of the recommendations we have acted on and carried out. We can provide that report but it would be difficult to go through each recommendation in this forum. Our information here, the statistics show

that there is a very slight decrease in children receiving services from Social Services.

MR. BROMLEY: I realize that there are a whole lot of aspects to this subject and so it's not possible to discuss it all in this format. Maybe just one last question. The Minister will recall the recommendations that we move from a confrontational, almost legalistic approach, to a more dispute resolution, negotiation counselling approach. Has the Minister found opportunities to work in that direction in the area of child and family services?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The department has provided training to the workers but we're looking for the specifics of that training, or we can also provide, I suppose we can provide that. We can continue to look for it and then provide the information further on down or provide it in writing, one way or the other. But the department has done some training with the social workers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Committee, we're on page 8-31. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on Mr. Bromley's questions on the child and family services committee and the response back from the committee's recommendations on social programs from Minister Miltenberger, they talked about the communities wishing to play a role in the Child and Family Services Act. However, the current structure of the committee doesn't support that. Is that still the case today, in regard to removing this barrier, so that communities can set up their child and family services committees? I know that was a really good initiative when the Minister and I went in there. What happened?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. For that we'll go to Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The act is specific in one area that the Member may be referring to. I will have the deputy minister just talk a bit about the specifics of that act and whether or not we have made changes there to remove that specific barrier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if this is what the Member's referring to, but my understanding is that the act is somewhat restrictive in terms of what community body actually has the authority to establish a child and family services committee. In our consultations with communities, this was seen as a barrier, so we are looking, in reviewing the act, at ways to make that more flexible, but there has been no change to that to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you for the clarification, Deputy Minister. That is my point here. When? Because the Minister and I toured the Sahtu and people were quite excited about having this child and family committee set up, and we're finding that that's not the case today. Is there anything in the plans that we're going to rectify this issue and continue on with some of the great things that the previous government heard about apprehension of children and how the community can be involved in removing those barriers? Can I ask the Minister as to when this is to be expected? Maybe we have to go back in the Sahtu and do a round two on this issue here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We are on track to submitting a legislative proposal to amend the act in this fiscal year as a result of that 2011 review. One of the key amendments in the act is to remove some of the barriers that the communities had encountered in the development of child and family services committees.

MR. YAKELEYA: That gives me some hope that we're working towards some of the wishes of the community. I want to ask the Minister, in regard to the Sahtu, because I know some of the communities were quite keen, and I'm not too sure if they're going to get stung once, and I don't know if they want to get stung twice. Those are...(inaudible)...in those communities, because that's what we told them when we went there and now they're kind of figuring out if we should really trust the government on this issue here. I'm going to ask the Minister to, again, put together this piece of work that would see the Child and Family Services Act serve the people and take down the barriers that are preventing them from being part of something that the 16th Legislative Assembly heard in their consultation with the communities.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would commit to giving very clear direction to the authorities that we would like to strike the child and family services committees. The Member and I had travelled together in the Sahtu and they were very, very clear on exactly what it is they wanted. They wanted to make sure that the children of their community continued to reside in their community. Their issue was that they felt that once a committee was put together, that they would be able to develop some foster homes within the community and place the kids within the foster homes, and that they had the knowledge and they knew their children. They were very unhappy that children were down south and in Yellowknife. At the time the Member and I travelled together, there were children from the Sahtu in BC, Alberta and in Yellowknife and the community was extremely unhappy. They had a fairly high incidence of child protection issues as well. The

three communities of Good Hope, Deline and Tulita all had approximately the same number of children receiving services.

The community did ask us to find a way, remove the barriers so that they could have a committee, and it appeared as though those barriers were there. If it means a legislative proposal to make an adjustment to the Child and Family Services Act quickly, then that's what we want to do. Meanwhile, though, we want to be able to try to work with what we have to be able to try to put those committees in place.

I will make it a mandate of mine to go back to the authorities. If I have to travel back to the authorities again to have this discussion, then that's what I wish to do. In addition, I will also commit to talking to the Joint Leadership Council, which is the chairs and the public administrators of the authorities, and put this item on the agenda to talk about ways of trying to create these committees.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I look forward to the Minister's provision on the piece of work that we just finished talking about.

I have one final question. When they're done with the community consultation on addictions that, yes, people went out to the different regions and communities, does the Minister and his department look at, from those consultations and recommendations, something that he would have in place and plan with his department to implement some recommendations or direction from Paul Andrew and his people coming back to us and report this is what the people are saying? Nats'ejee K'eh's on-the-land programs, youth or whatever, family programs, we don't know what they're saying. We kind of understand a little bit of what they're saying. Maybe that is the new shift of wellness in the North. Is that something that the Minister is going to advocate on our behalf, to say we have Minister Miltenberger, who probably knows the number of days left in this House, do we have the will and the guts to move this into place where the people are saying we've have been heard, we see it. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chair.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, the timeline for us responding to the forum's report is we're going to try to do a roll-up of their recommendations in April, and then during the May-June sitting of this Legislative Assembly, we are hoping to be able to present, and that's again targeted to do it at that time to present the recommendations and how we see those recommendations fitting into our Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan and moving forward to address those issues that are identified by that forum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Page 8-31, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social

services, operations expenditure summary, \$89.259 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will combine 8-32 and 8-33 together. Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social services. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Very quickly, Mr. Chair, the Minister mentioned the \$175,000 going to the Yellowknife homeless day shelter. That's an increase, I believe, in recognition of the pulling out of another partner, but the City of Yellowknife has very graciously put in extra dollars on the condition that the dollars that they're putting in are met by this government. Does this amount, \$175,000, meet the conditions and thereby enable the City of Yellowknife to contribute their full amount? Do we know offhand? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because there hasn't been a change in what the contractor is providing in there, and that we've been offering with the specific budget for the last fiscal year only, and it's just from that one source now, ourselves, but in addition to what the city is providing, but then we are taking over for what BHP was providing, so there is no change in the programming. We understand, from our initial discussions with the John Howard Society, that this would be sufficient to carry on for another fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Okay, committee. We are on 8-32 and 8-33, combined pages. Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social services, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$443,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Just before we leave the community services, the Minister may be aware of the increase of oil and gas activities and the justice stats. They have been increasing. Clearly, that is going to happen.

I want to ask the Minister what type of response he is going to plan for the Sahtu in terms of the alcohol use, possibly family violence, that show the Minister the increase in the crime stats related to alcohol. It's going up in all the five communities. I want to know how we are going to support our health centres, our nurses. We do need additional staff, as the other Ministers have identified, certain personnel to be into the Sahtu. I heard from the Minister the other day that at that time they weren't concerned about any type of additional support. I would ask the Minister to reconsider and re-evaluate the situation in our region. It's going to get busy. So far we have seen the criminal stats that

say it's going to get busier. So what do we do? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, the plan was to continue to work with the CEO, then the CEO continues to work with the health centres that may be impacted. Based on the actual impact on the health centres in as far as the number of health concerns or health issues that are brought to the health centres, or a number of social services type of issues that come to the forefront in her dealing with social workers within the communities and within her region, we will have that discussion with her again to ensure that, although we are having discussions with her, I think we were waiting for her to come with a case to say that we need more attention placed here, more attention placed there. What we would do is, we will commit to having contact with the CEO at Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority and run through each of the health centres, each of the social services operations at the community level to see if there is a change in there and change that we are unable to address with the current staff complement.

MR. YAKELEYA: Fair enough, Mr. Chair. The Minister laid out a reasonable process and path to argue for additional staff. He has to go to the Cabinet and the Financial Management Board. You have to justify.

I believe some information that the Minister has on the criminal activity with justice, I'm not too sure how that closely relates to the health centres or medical service or social services types of work. We need some kind of baseline, I guess. I would again encourage the Minister to keep in contact.

I am going to go back into the Sahtu and I will hear people on the streets talking about it. I may even talk to some of the nurses there to see how they're doing with the window of opportunity, oil and gas activity and see if there were impacts. It might quiet down after. We don't know. We might begin with the residue after the companies are gone out and the big cheques are coming into the communities once in a while. I will leave it at that. I will take the Minister's word on that, that he's going to continue monitoring them. If there is a good case to put more to the Financial Management Board for additional support, then I am with the Minister 150 percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Members, we are on 8-32, 8-33, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community wellness and social services, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$443,000, contributions, total contributions, \$70.955 million, total grants and contributions, \$71.398 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 8-34, Health and Social Services, information item, community wellness and social services, active positions. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 8-35, Health and Social Services. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one question here with regard to deficits for authorities. Over the years that I've been here, we've had a number of authorities which have been in deficit on a regular basis. Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority is one, Stanton is another one and, I believe, the Beau-Del Health and Social Services Authority is also basically underfunded. I know that the department is working, particularly with regard to Stanton, to try and revise how they're funded to try and determine which activities should be done by Stanton and which should not. My first question is: Which of our health and social service authorities will be in a deficit position in this fiscal year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is all of them.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. To the Minister, well that's very clear. My next question then is: What plans does the department have to make sure that these authorities will not continue to be in deficit year, after year, after year, after year? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. We recognize that part of the issue in some of the authorities is the result of just not having the right budgeting for some. For some it's the costs of doing business the way that each of the authorities do their business, bringing locums in from across the country. So as we move towards dealing with a governance issue at the health and social services authority and trying to change the way we manage our physician resources across the territory, trying to bring the physician resources to the Northwest Territories, we're hoping to address these issues.

So I'll just read some of the stuff that we're doing. We're continuing to work with individual health and social services authorities to get a clearer picture of the trends and the pressures. We'll eliminate the ability to retain surpluses and then require that surpluses be reallocated so that we get a balance. Although the authorities are in deficits, they will not always all be in deficit. At some point some were in deficit, some had surpluses and were able to do reallocation.

We have taken the first steps towards the back office approach of financial management, which will allow the authorities to share resources to move to a common financial system. That was another thing

that we found was a bit of an issue, was that everybody was off creating their own financial systems and we'd be doing it leaner, and probably more efficiently, if we just had the one system. As a first step we're implementing a shared procurement approach that would have the common accounts receivable right across the entire system. So we think there are some savings there, as well, where we would all do our procurement. All, not us I suppose, but all of the health and social services authorities, including Stanton, would be doing the joint procurement. Then maybe we'll have better ability to bulk purchase as one example of a way of saving in the future.

So we're looking at things differently in many areas with a goal of reducing these ongoing deficits that have been going on for many, many years.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. I appreciate the explanation from the Minister, but it is, unfortunately, things I've been hearing about for quite a while and it sounds as though we are starting to move to take some serious action to try and increase efficiencies, and that's great.

I note that the budget has an increase of about \$4.5 million from the 2012-13 revised mains to be budgeted for '13-14. So to the Minister, is \$4.5 million increase in the total budgets for all the authorities enough to allow them to meet their targets in '13-14 or are they going to be in deficit again? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The authorities will likely be in deficit again at the end of the '13-14 fiscal year.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister, but I guess I'm getting a little frustrated with the fact that our authorities are, in most cases, consistently underfunded. So when is the Minister and the department going to be able to adequately fund these authorities so they will not be in deficit? I realize it may be an increase to our budget, but we as Members should be hearing from the Minister that you need X number of millions of dollars in order for our authorities to operate on a breakeven situation and we're not. So when is it that we're going to get our authorities adequately funded? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. I will ask the deputy minister to provide a more detailed response to that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the difficulties is that we still are in, as the Member noted, a long-term process of analyzing what is driving the deficits. In some cases it's clear, there are physicians programs, medical travel, some unfunded payroll benefits, pension buybacks and some unique staffing pressures of staffing a 24/7

operation are driving these deficits. One of the problems we have, though, is to go forward to the Financial Management Board for base funding adjustments. We need to have a very well-analyzed and compelling business case, again, because authorities have capacity challenges because they use different financial systems. In some cases we have not been able to do 100 percent accurate analysis of where the deficit is, due to underfunding as opposed to some other pressure.

So by way of example, last year one authority that was projecting a deficit ended up with a surplus after our staff were able to go in and provide some assistance to their finance shop. This is why the Minister emphasizes the need to move to a back office where we have a set of staff that can do the financial analysis and projections for all authorities. Every year as we are able to come forward to FMB with a very compelling case for certain areas where we have clearly demonstrated there is a structural deficit, we have been successful in getting forced growth. So we are slowly addressing those items. Then, ultimately, we are working with the authorities and Department of Finance, as we talked about the other day, trying to move towards more of a predictable funding allocation model that would be tied to performance agreements. Once we have real clarity, then we can take the final steps to ensure that the authorities and the budgets are right sized or that they do have budgets that will allow them to operate without going into a deficit. It is a long and difficult process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. We'll continue on with Minister Beaulieu.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment at this point. I appreciate the explanation from the deputy minister. I know it's a long and involved process but I hope FMB is listening, because what my experience is, is that when authorities go into deficit we as a government turn around and FMB approves the supplementary appropriation that wipes away the deficit. I don't quite understand, and I know it's not just the department at this point dealing with a possible solution, but I don't understand why we cannot adequately fund our authorities. That's just a comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Unfortunately we did cut off Mr. Beaulieu. He'll have a chance to reply.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add, that is why our work on the Integrated Service Delivery Model is so essential. Once we decide what services we need to deliver, we would cost out those services, then build in a funding formula. That would be the most accurate way to build the funding formula. As Ms. Bisaro had indicated, in developing the proper budget, well,

this Integrated Service Delivery Model will help us to build a proper budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Page 8-35, Health and Social Services, information item, details of funding allocated to health and social services authorities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 8-36, Health and Social Services, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Oh, sorry. Page 8-36, you said?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Yes. I'll repeat that again. Page 8-36, Health and Social Services, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 8-37 to 8-41, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the Minister could provide some details on the NWT National Diabetes and Chronic Disease Surveillance System.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to have a few minutes to see if we have the information here with us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We'll give you a couple of minutes there, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, but we would like to hear the question on that item again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Absolutely. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted some detail on the NWT National Diabetes and Chronic Disease Surveillance System. We have \$177,000 committed to it, and I'm just wondering if I can get some details as to what it is and how it works.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We'll go to Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of national surveillance systems set up under the Public Health Agency of Canada. These are systems where we enter information into national systems so that the Public Health Agency can track trends and diseases nationally. I believe I would have to get back with more detail if the Member wants more than this, but this just supports our staff position to participate in this national surveillance program.

MR. HAWKINS: I think that's enough of a cursory intro to know exactly what that is. Just one other last question. Under drug treatment funding program, Nats'ejee K'eh Centre Youth Treatment Program, are there any deliverables under this particular section? We have a section worth commitment, requiring \$345,000. I'm just wondering if there's any reporting or deliverables that we see sent to the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been no deliverables on this budget. It was again, Nats'ejee K'eh being part of the Deh Cho Health and Social Services that we are reviewing Nats'ejee K'eh as we indicated earlier that we're pulling the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre under the department and just need to do some logistical work, I suppose, with reserves, since the treatment centre sits on the reserve, they have not spent their budget since 2011-2012.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: I have to admit I didn't quite understand the Minister's response. We, in 2011-2012, funded them \$430,000, in 2012-2013 we gave them \$345,000, there's a request for \$345,000 continuing and he's saying they're not spending their money. What I was asking was, is there a report or deliverable done on this research. It looks like it says it's funding provided by Health Canada to research, design and develop the intervention treatment services module that would have both residential and community components, and enhanced capacity, yada-yada-yada. I mean, I'm sure they have it in front of you. I'm just wondering what the deliverable is and what do we get to see.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I'll have the deputy provide the detailed response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was funding that was provided by Health Canada through a contribution agreement which went to the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority to do the work outlined by the Member to develop a youth treatment program. The authority did not receive the full amount of funding indicated here because they did not produce the deliverables, as I understand it. As the Minister indicated, we are taking over responsibility for this and whatever work was done we will draw upon to inform our own development of a youth addictions treatment program, but there is no formal report or deliverable that can be shared at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: That was the missing component there. Can I be sent a copy of the report once it's been done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if we do get a report, we will provide it to the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Page 8-37 to 8-41, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, I draw your attention to page 8-7, department summary, operations expenditure summary, \$363.856 million. Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-17(4):
DEFERRAL OF DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the department summary for the Department of Health and Social Services 2013-2014 Main Estimates on page 8-7 at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): This concludes the Department of Health and Social Services for today. We would like to thank our witnesses, Ms. DeLancey and Ms. Mathison. Thank you for your efforts. Also to the Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. We will start Public Works and Services but we will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we will come back to order. We are going to start the Department of Public Works and Services. Mr. Abernethy, do you have opening remarks?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I am pleased to present the Department of Public Works and Services' main estimates for the fiscal year 2013-14.

The department's main estimates propose an operations expenditure budget of \$104.5 million for 2013-14, an increase of 11.5 percent over the

2012-13 Main Estimates. This increase can be primarily attributed to the following activities:

- one-time funding for the demolition of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik; and
- ongoing funding for the transfer of responsibility and funding for the administration of Health and Social Services leased space to the Department of Public Works and Services.

The demolition and removal of the old school buildings in Inuvik also represent an important part in the department's Risk Management and Safety Program by helping the GNWT address its aging infrastructure problem while reducing our deferred maintenance deficit.

Our building infrastructure continues to age and requires ongoing investment to ensure continuity in the delivery of government programs and services in all of our northern communities. As in past years, Public Works and Services' Deferred Maintenance Program is an essential part of our overall strategy to address our building infrastructure needs and is coordinated with capital planning, energy investments and regular preventative maintenance programs to maximize its effectiveness. For 2013-14 this department will have \$3 million in operations and expenditure funding and another \$5 million in capital expenditure funding, for a combined total of \$8 million to spend towards reducing our government's deferred maintenance deficit. By the end of 2013-14, through a combination of direct program expenditures, reductions from building demolitions and integrating deferred maintenance with the corporate capital planning process for major and minor capital projects, we are projecting the deficit to reduce to \$290 million.

The transfer of responsibility and funding for the administration of leases from the Department of Health and Social Services to Public Works and Services is a significant change for this department in 2013-14. This transfer represents an increase of 46 percent for the number of leases managed by Public Works and Services and a further increase of 20 percent in its base lease funding for 2013-14 and beyond.

To effectively and efficiently manage this initiative, the department has created a new leased property administration position based in Hay River to support and coordinate the management of the health leases with the department's overall property and accommodations portfolio.

I'd like to focus now on some of the other activities that the Department of Public Works and Services has planned for 2013-14.

With the implementation of the new digital communications network, or DCN, now complete, the department is actively monitoring its performance to ensure effective and efficient

communication services are provided to all communities throughout the Northwest Territories. The new DCN was a key part of the 2008-2012 Enterprise Network Strategy, and the Technology Service Centre is now engaged in developing its next five-year strategy to ensure there is continued support for the government programs of today and the e-government requirements of tomorrow with a particular focus on health care and education applications.

A new initiative for the Technology Service Centre in 2013-14 will see its services to government expanded by assuming desktop support services for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority and its approximately 325 employees, joining the Sahtu and Deh Cho Health and Social Services authorities already supported by the Technology Service Centre. While support for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority will increase operational costs to the Technology Service Centre, those costs will be offset by the equivalent recoveries provided through the current chargeback model without an increase in rates.

In support of this government's ongoing priority to increase employment opportunities where they are most needed, Public Works and Services continues to use a combination of in-house resources, including settlement maintainers and apprentices and locally contracted services, to assist in delivering its ongoing preventative and deferred maintenance programs for government facilities in every NWT community. These front-line positions enable the department to better manage maintenance activities and the availability of resources at the community level, while promoting and strengthening the economy and our northern workforce.

The Capital Asset Retrofit Fund program continues to be an important initiative for this department, and our government in 2013-14. It represents a multi-outcome Energy Management Program that aims to improve performance and reduce the costs associated with operating government infrastructure while supporting this government's objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and our reliance on fossil fuels.

Assessing GNWT facilities to prioritize and target program funding to achieve the greatest return on investment remains key to this program's overall effectiveness. The Capital Asset Retrofit Fund program together with other energy conservation initiatives implemented by the department, have helped reduce government greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 25,000 tonnes since 2007-08. Up to the end of 2012, the department is estimating the cumulative energy savings since 2007-08 have reached \$3.9 million while displacing 9.2 million litres of fuel oil over this six-year period. This program is producing positive results which

have allowed this government to re-profile ongoing savings back into the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund to support additional investment in energy conservation and alternative energy projects in many communities.

Finally, in keeping with this Assembly's commitment to be effective and as efficient as possible, Public Works and Services is moving ahead with implementation of a Procurement Shared Services Centre during 2013-14 and we will continue to support the Department of Finance in their efforts towards completing implementation of financial shared service centres throughout government.

Through these and other programs and activities, Public Works and Services will continue to provide the high-quality services that support the public infrastructure our clients and the public rely upon in delivering our government's much needed programs and services.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for this overview of the department's 2013-14 Main Estimates. I look forward to discussing them with you in further detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, Minister Abernethy. Committee, are we agreed to bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Abernethy, if you could introduce your witnesses to the Chamber, please.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With me on my left is Paul Guy, deputy minister of Public Works and Services; and on my right, the director of Technology Service Centre, Laurie Gault.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. We are on the Department of Public Works and Services, page 7-7, operations expenditure summary. We will leave this page and defer it until after we have considered all the other activities. We will move to page 7-8, Public Works and Services...

AN HON. MEMBER: General comments?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Yes, that would be a good idea. I thought we were going to get this done tonight. Committee, are there any general comments? Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome to the Minister and Public Works

delegation. Madam Chair, there are just two areas I want to open up in general comments because they are really hard to see where they fall within the scope of the budget.

The first comment I have for the Minister is I took it upon myself to do a fairly intrinsic post-mortem of the Inuvik E3 School in the fall of last year, and was challenging the same for the department to follow up with their version of a post-mortem.

The rationale behind that is not to undermine or point fingers at whatever we could have or should have, the point is this is one of our largest pieces of infrastructure. In fact, even after the completion or, as we know today, the completion of the Inuvik-Tuk highway, the E3 School will still remain as probably the second largest infrastructure on our books behind the Deh Cho Bridge. It is a very important part of our history. I think it's a history that we've got to learn. There were lots of new factors that went into the E3 School. This is where the birth of the Class C estimate program and the use of market escalators in their calculations, so I may want the Minister to comment as to where the department is at with respect to their post-mortem on that piece of infrastructure.

The second comment I have here, again, is in relation to the infrastructure that we find here in Yellowknife, the new 10,000 square foot office building that's currently in construction. I would probably like to get a bit of an update as to where we are with that project. The concern I have is that I'm always nervous when we have a project of that magnitude that's spread out over a number of different budgets. I know we're talking more operations and this is a capital, and I completely understand that, but I think it goes hand in hand with some of the operational expenditures that we see in today's budget. A bit of a recap as to where we're at, are we on budget, everything's working, and then maybe an estimated time of completion.

Really, in general, just two general questions to open up. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I thought we were doing general comments. However, we will save our response from the Minister until after we've heard from everybody who wants to make general comments. I'll go now to Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I, too, just have some short comments about Public Works and Services' operating budget.

I think one of the first things that struck me, becoming a new MLA, is the issue of deferred maintenance, and learning more about that and finding out that we're so far behind in our maintenance programs that we actually don't have any kind of a plan to get back into just a regular maintenance. Everything's deferred maintenance. I

know the department has been able to depreciate that amount. I'm just wondering if I can get details on where the department assesses our deferred costs are at this current time. I know they were at, I think, \$470 million, and they were down to \$375 million, I think, before. I'm just wondering if the department can provide that kind of information on the deferred maintenance.

The problem with deferred maintenance is, obviously, we're not putting maintenance into some of these buildings that we're currently even building. I've heard that there are actually costs to our capital costs for this, because if you're not maintaining buildings, buildings don't last as long. Buildings that typically should last us 25, 30 years are only lasting us 18, 20 years, 22 years, because we're not maintaining them as often as we're supposed to be. Then we have to replace them, capital-wise, more often. The numbers and the cost of this deferred maintenance is just overwhelming, and I'm just wondering if the department, at some time in the near future, will have some sort of plan in place to get rid of deferred maintenance to be able to say that this is the end of the tunnel, we're going to catch up here by putting in an extra \$75 million a year or \$50 million a year into deferred maintenance so that in some point in time we can say, even if it's 10 years down the road, we know that we're going to be caught up.

Obviously, I am happy to see the new lease manager position in Hay River. I think that's something that's going to help the South Slave as far as the implementation of leases. I, too, would also like to see an update on where the YK office building is at. First coming into the Legislative Assembly and seeing that this is on the budget, it would be nice to see what's happening with that. I have some major concerns in the fact that I think the reason that it was built for market economies and stuff like that, I think it's going to cause a vacancy that that's going to create once we build that building and vacate some of the downtown. I think there's going to be a lot of private owners that own buildings that are going to have complaints about the government basically affecting the markets that way. Especially with devolution and the federal government doing cutbacks, I think you're going to see some downtown core of Yellowknife see some vacancy and we're going to have to deal with those issues.

My concern is that when those demands come up that they're going to want the government to invest more in the downtown core and maybe even fill them with positions. One of my mandates here is to make sure that we get jobs out to the regions and out to the small communities, and I'm just concerned that this building kind of defeats that purpose. That's definitely an issue I have. Those are all my general comments right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think we're getting some nice crunchy comments here. Thanks to the Minister for the opening statement here.

We recently took over utilities for all government infrastructure, and I didn't hear anything on what the real opportunities and efficiencies are that we're realizing here, locating problems where utilities are clearly over what they should be and so on, reducing costs, so what have we learned on that front.

The \$8 million on operations and capital expenditure to deal with our maintenance deficit; somehow that's magic. We're only spending \$8 million and suddenly we're down to \$290 million. That's pretty miraculous to me, so I'm not sure I understand all the aspects of that. I assume this is just for building infrastructure and doesn't include our highway infrastructure which, I'm sure, would be in Transportation where the deficits are increasing in leaps and bounds.

What work has the department done on employing – on the bottom of your page 3 – employment opportunities where they are most needed? You know, that's an easy statement to make, but some of the members of committee have done research on this and had research work on it, so we need to be careful when we say statements like that. I'd like to hear how that's being defined, or what the Minister will do to make sure that's defined in the realest sense possible, so that we actually do capitalize on what we're trying to do there.

I'm also interested in what we have achieved in terms of settlement maintainers and apprentices. What sorts and numbers and what communities. That could come out in specific comments later, if the Minister prefers.

The 25,000 tonnes sounds really good in terms of reducing government greenhouse gas emissions, 9.2 million litres saved, but the real question is: What is this in relation to our total emissions? That is, combined with new fuel demands of new infrastructure, what is our net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and what is our net reduction in fossil fuel consumption?

I didn't hear anything about the Green Procurement Policy. I, idealistically, look for this every year. Commitments have been made repeatedly to get this from a hollow couple of sheets of paper to an actual meaningful policy that's implemented and enforced, and helps us to realize the opportunities we can for efficiencies and so on when we're purchasing materials, supplies and small equipment.

Also, I'd be interested in any comments the Minister might have on our contracting practices. How are

we dealing with things to be more clear so it's a fair playing field? How are we preventing over-specifications for contracts that unfairly shift the bias towards one supplier because he couldn't meet a brand name or whatever? And, of course, sole source contracts. I don't know how much the department deals with that sort of thing, but that is an issue that I hear a lot about in the public and see concerns myself from the stats we do have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just in regard to general comments, my colleagues have pretty well hit on all the areas that I was going to speak to, but one specifically that I think needs to be brought to the attention is with contracting and procurement practices. Maybe when we get to the detail I'll ask the Minister about change orders, the practice for this department to do change orders within a contract when it's been awarded. Also, supplementary appropriations, how often does the department have to come back to government asking for more money if the contractors did not meet the dollar figure to complete a contract?

More specifically, with the one-time funding for the demotion of Samuel Hearne Secondary School and the new one coming up for Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, I have some questions in regard to that and whether or not change orders were administered and supplementary appropriations might be coming back to government. When we get into detail, there will be a lot of questions on some of these other areas. Deferred maintenance has always been a big one as well. Just some quick comments and I'll wait for detail. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. We are on general comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Just quick comments also. Thank you, Minister, for your opening comments. I, along with Mr. Bouchard, probably are going to ask some of the questions on deferred maintenance costs, because that ties into one of our goals for having safe and reliable facilities that are available to support the delivery of government programs and protected \$290 million. That is by the end of this government here.

We have a lot of assets in our communities that certainly need taking care of and need some tender loving care. I guess it's pretty tough, with the funding that we have right now, in determining which ones are going to be looked at from a priority level. I just want to make note and be consistent with my messaging, that there is increased development in the Sahtu. Some of our assets are an emerging issue here, and some of the needs that we see in the Sahtu need to be looked at. I

want to make note of that for the Minister, of the increased development that we're having and that PWS will look at that as an emerging issue, something that should be carefully looked at when they're planning out their strategies to work within their department.

I do want to thank the Minister for the work that is being done to handle the Norman Wells natural gas situation by putting in some other alternative methods of using energy. I certainly know Inuvik is also probably in more dire straits than we are. However, those two communities need some close attention.

The situation in Norman Wells, the gas line was cut off in Norman Wells about a month ago or so, where the town of Norman Wells was pretty close to evacuating some of its residents. Those kinds of situations, we look at. I ask the department if they could continue working with the town and the residents. This year the businesspeople of Norman Wells will be cut off of natural gas and next year will be the residents, so there is some time there for us to look at what can be done. We have some assets there that are being looked at right now. However, in thinking about the residents, we are going to have to also make that changeover. I think they're doing that as we speak.

I understand that one of our goals is to meet the basic community needs for heating, transportation, power generation and fuel through the safe and reliable provisions of fuel services. Again, I notice you look at the town of Norman Wells under that goal under the department.

My last comment would be on the work that is happening in the communities on apprenticeships, the type of work that is with PWS. I'm going to again remind the Minister that there's an old DPW garage that was built in the '60s by the federal government and that turned over to the GNWT. I know, again, that stacks up against other facilities, especially for our small communities such as Tulita. I think that facility, that garage should be looked at. I have been here for eight years and still nothing has been moved on that or any type of indication, unless you can fill me in as to what your plans are for that DPW garage in Tulita. I have been there. It was built in the '60s. It's no different than the old Department of Transportation garage up at the Yellowknife Airport. I'm not too sure if there are safety checks and hazardous material in that old garage. I just want to know what their plans are for putting a new garage in that area.

The last point I want to make is asking the Minister about the procurement of the work. I know the Minister and I have worked on several projects that certainly saw the benefits for going into the Sahtu, and the communities that could do the work or partnering up with other companies outside of the Sahtu to do some of the community work. I

appreciate his flexibility. Knowing the circumstances, sometimes a one-size cookie cutter doesn't fit everything. He is open and flexible on those issues.

I thank the Minister and his staff. Those comments came back from my constituents in the Sahtu. There is some flexibility with the department. I look forward to going through the mains with this department. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We are on general comments. Are there any further general comments, committee?

Before we go to detail, I will go to the Minister for response to general comments, if he wishes.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks to my colleagues for their comments. I will go through them as quickly as I can.

With respect to the Inuvik school, one of the first things I did when I became the Minister, I think it was April 2012, somewhere around there, it was about the time the school was getting ready to open, the Inuvik East Three School there. I saw it as one of the largest projects this government had been working on and I asked the department to do a comprehensive review on that. They have been doing it ongoing throughout the whole process of the build. They have a lot of information pulled together now, but there is still some work to be done on that school. Once the other two schools are torn down, there is still some site remediation and whatnot. So we won't be concluding a comprehensive review of that project until it's done, until that last bit of land work and whatnot has been done.

A lot of work has been done to monitor the process, to collect the data, the budget information, how we did the whole capital planning on that. There will be something to share with Members, once we have completed the post-mortem.

Two Members talked about the office building in Yellowknife. The project is on budget and on time. It is in a slowdown right now. Nothing is happening on it right now. We did a bunch of the cement foundation work prior to the dead of winter setting in. It does go over multiple years, but we have a contract for the build, and we expect the project to come in on time, on budget. Right now we are expecting to have the majority of the build done in... The completion of the base and building construction is scheduled for November 2014. We expect to hit that target. Completion of tenant improvements and ready to move will be April 2015. The budget includes both of those things.

Another one of my colleagues, Mr. Bouchard, talked about the vacancy rates in Yellowknife and the concerns about the new building. I would be happy to share the comprehensive report that was prepared in the 16th Assembly talking about

vacancy in the capital. We are still confident that that information is going to hold true. We have already seen some of that start to take place. At the end of the day, the building is going to save us \$100 million over the life of the building that we can roll into programs and services for different areas of the Northwest Territories. Right now we are confident that it's going to be as is outlined in that report.

Deferred maintenance was another question that was raised. Deferred maintenance is the practice of postponing prudent or non-essential maintenance activities to capital assets as a result of a shortfall in any given fiscal year's budget. If we go back in history in time a long way, prior to the life of this government, prior to the life of the previous government, even prior to the government before that, there were a lot of midlife retrofits that weren't being done by the government due to financial resources. As a result, a lot of the buildings ended up not being in as good a shape as they would have been had we done a proper midlife retrofit on them. That's one of the main reasons that our deferred maintenance is so high.

We continue to pound away at it, we continue to do work. We do our risk assessments on the different assets that we have to determine what needs to be done now, in order to extend the life of a building. But at the same time, my colleague Mr. Bromley wondered how, with an \$8 million investment, did we drop deferred maintenance from \$470 million to \$290 million in this fiscal year coming up and we're tearing down a couple of buildings, we're tearing down Samuel Hearne, we're tearing down SAMS, we're also shutting down the Blueberry Patch in Inuvik. By shutting down these assets or tearing them down, a significant amount of the deferred maintenance is gone. Oh, and we completed Diamond Jenness, which was also part of the deferred maintenance, but by finishing that school, we're going to have significantly less costs in the deferred maintenance area.

So by doing those things, by doing our risk assessment, by determining what assets can be fixed and then fixing them or which ones need minor things, we're able to bring some of that down. So that \$8 million may seem small, but between that and the other things that are happening, we're seeing a pretty significant drop in deferred maintenance this year.

Some other areas, we took over utilities and the Member asked how that's helping us reduce costs. There's a number of different ways that taking over the utilities has been helping us to reduce costs, because we're able to purchase more things in a bulk situation. The department has real familiarity with the technology that's out there that some departments may not have who are responsible for it on themselves. So by having it located, we're

learning about best practices within government ourselves. We're learning what's working over there, we're learning what's working in different departments and we're able to bring that information all together. We're also learning where things like pellets and other heating systems could be utilized effectively and efficiently. Obviously, we'd like to continue to have successes in there. We'd like to have greater successes.

Another thing that we can do as a government that we weren't doing great, I think, when this was a unique responsibility of different departments, is we're able to track consumption, we're able to evaluate the buildings more thoroughly for energy consumption and put that sort of in a central brain trust, if you will, that is able to compare it to other areas. So it's about learning the information that's out there, making sure that the right people are looking at it and reviewing it. We have three years of data now which we didn't have before. So although the Member asked for some specifics on numbers about what our total emissions are, I don't have that information at my fingertips, but I will get that information for the Member and committee.

The Green Procurement Policy, the Member said he didn't want to hear again that we're working on it, but we're working on it. I see a real opportunity coming to actually have some real progress in this area and that's going to come with the procurement of shared services. Right now so many things are happening all over the place and we think that this is going to be an opportunity to actually get some real headway on it. We've got information, but when we bring it all together, we think we can make some progress and I'm going to keep my eye on that one. I know the Member will be as well.

The Member talked about some contracting policies, and our sole-source and our standing offer agreements. There have been challenges with standing offer agreements, there's no question. In some areas of government they work really well, other areas of government they're not working particularly well. There have been some situations in Yellowknife recently where a number of people were concerned with, let's say, the video production standing offer agreements. We've had a sit down with the individuals that are affected to get their side, their input on what wasn't working and what needs to be fixed. The comptroller general is doing a comprehensive review of standing offer agreements and how these things roll out and then, when they come into a shared procurement, we're going to be able to apply more consistent standards and application across the Government of the Northwest Territories. So there are challenges there, but I believe we're getting them done and we're engaging with our clientele, the contractors out there that are utilizing them to get good, solid information on how we can prove those standing

offer agreements and other opportunities that exist for us.

Mr. Moses asked some questions about contracting and change orders. In particular with the school in Inuvik, we have a contract for the teardown of the Samuel Hearne School right now, and we believe there's sufficient budget to cover the cost of the contract and any change orders that may come in. I don't believe there will be any supp appropriations for this project. I know there's going to be some specifics. So maybe I'll leave them for detail.

The next couple of questions were from Mr. Yakeleya and they were on deferred maintenance. I think I've addressed those already in how we prioritize them. With respect to some of the challenges of Norman Wells and the natural gas situation, in addition to working with our partners in ENR and ITI in the community, we are making some changes in the community itself, which will help us get some of our assets off of gas, which means that it would put less of a demand on the community. For instance, the school and the airport we're planning to change over to pellets. The new health centre and long-term care facility that will be built in Norman Wells, the primary source of heat will also be pellets. I think those things are a step in the right direction. It goes to keeping our footprint down and helping us control costs, and not making or creating additional reliance on gas, which may or may not be available.

The Public Works garage in Tulita, it's in our needs plan. I hear what the Member is saying and I will have further discussions with my department on that to try and address those concerns. With procurement I've already talked to some degree on some of the changes that are happening, the comptroller general review of contracting policies and procedures in the government, and we are going to be bringing a shared procurement services into the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Committee, are we ready to move to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Okay, page 7-7, Public Works and Services, department summary. We will defer this until we have gone through the various activities. Move to page 7-8, Public Works and Services, information item, infrastructure investment summary. Questions? Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My questions have to do with the changes during the budget year. The line entry I refer to is assets put into service during the year. It appears that the main estimates for 2012-13 had a \$16 million entry. The revised came in quite a bit higher at \$27.640 million and we're going back down to the 2013 Main

Estimates at \$12.552 million. If I could just maybe ask the department to give me a bit of a narrative as to what transpired in this and why do we think that the main estimates are accurate. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are Public Works and Services' assets. So we put more assets into service that year than I think we had initially planned, but I think for some specific details I'll go to the deputy minister on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In 2012-13, under amortization and asset management, we had 55 assets that we were amortizing. In addition to that, we had 15 assets that were under the area of the Technology Service Centre and we had 42 assets in the petroleum products division. Because some of those assets became fully amortized, the number of assets remaining that are projected for 2013-14, we had 41 assets. So that was a decrease of 11 in asset management, the Technology Service Centre we had 14 assets, a decrease of one that just became fully amortized, and petroleum products we had 39, which was a decrease of three.

So, overall, we have a net decrease, is what we're forecasting for '13-14, which is why we see a reduction in the amortization there. In addition, we do have some work in progress which hasn't been booked for amortization yet. Those are things like tank farms that are under construction, the work that we have completed on the office building here in Yellowknife and some of the work that's ongoing in the area of deferred maintenance. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. I caught probably about 60 percent of that explanation, but the concern I have is in 2011-12 we had \$25.891 million in assets in service. In the mains that came down, there was almost a decrease of 70 percent. Then the revised in 2012-13 we put them back on. Now, if I heard correctly, there is amortization. I would assume it's straight line amortization, items came off the books, but yet again I'm not understanding why we saw large revised estimates in 2013 and now we're assuming that we have depreciated or amortized almost half of that in one year and are back to \$12 million.

Can we get a bit more of an explanation of how we can yo-yo those amortizations which are really straight line spreadsheet costs? Maybe an explanation why we're seeing the ups and downs, especially over the last three years.

MR. GUY: I believe that, as we're calling it, the 2012-2013 Main Estimates is really an estimate of what we thought we would be putting into service. The revised estimates we show there now have shown some of the work that has gone from work in progress into service.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm going to leave that one and ask the department, at their convenience, to maybe let the Member know what those calculations are after this process. I have to get a handle on that number. I'm sorry. The explanation I'm getting here today is just not entirely giving me the clear picture of what's going on, and I've got a couple nods on this side of the House as well. Maybe I'd ask if they could share that with all Members here.

My second question on this page, 7-8, refers in the large capital projects category, we've got a revised estimate of \$16.043 million in 2012-2013 and we've got a main estimate of \$21.97 million. If my calculations are correct, that's about a 36.9 percent increase on that line entry. Could we get an explanation of that entry?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to the Member's first question, we will put together a more plain-language explanation of what that is so that the Member and committee has a better understanding of what that is.

With respect to the large capital projects and the change from the main estimates to the revised estimates, I will go to the deputy minister, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The number in the capital plan, again we had large capital projects, actual projects and tangible capital assets for 2011-2012 and we had the work in progress. I believe the difference shown in the main estimates was the work in progress going into service.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Guy, could you repeat for the record? You got cut off there.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe the difference, again, is the work in large capital that was held over work in progress being put into service, but I would have to confirm and get back to committee.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We'll commit to getting a plain-language explanation of this one for the Member and committee as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: No other questions on this page.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 7-8, Public Works and Services, information item, infrastructure investment summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 7-9, Public Works and Services, information item, revenue summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 7-10, Public Works and Services, information item, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 7-13, Public Works and Services, activity summary, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$8.988 million. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again under this heading, I'll go back to my initial questioning in terms of contract and procurement where I made mention of it in the general comments. Specifically, when this department does any contracting procurement, and awards contracts through the RFP process, and does look at awarding contracts to whomever it may be that get the winning contract, whether they're a northern contractor or a southern contractor, how often does this department conduct change orders?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The department administers contracts on a huge scale from small standing offer agreements, sole-sourced contracts for small amounts of money like \$25,000, \$30,000; \$5,000 and up. We also do major builds such as the East Three School and the new office building in Yellowknife. We have change orders on a regular basis on any number of these types of things, these types of contracts.

In particular I can talk a little bit about the teardown for the school in Inuvik. We have a contract which is well within budget. There are going to be some change orders on that building. We had an assessment on that building that identified all the contaminants in the building, all the things that needed to be taken into consideration when doing the demolition of that building. We awarded that assessment contract to a local vendor here in the Northwest Territories who did that work. Based on that work, we went out for a request for proposal and got a number of bids. We awarded the contract to the lowest bidder who met all the conditions of the request for proposal and moved forward. Then once demolition began, it became obvious that there were a number of items that were not identified in our original assessment by our first contractor. As a result, we are going to experience

some change orders on that. We believe that all the change orders that are going to come on that, based on the formulas provided by the proponent on removal of certain items, we're going to be well within the budget that was allocated for that project.

MR. MOSES: In the initial assessment, is it common that when the department does get initial assessments on big projects that... On big projects, how often are those assessments not up to standard or up to par in terms of looking at providing the right contracting services to get the project done?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'll go to the deputy for some specifics on that, but by way of example, on this particular contract we knew we were doing a teardown on a building and we knew we needed to know what the risks were in that building by way of contaminants such as asbestos and whatnot. The contractor we hired to do the assessment so that we would have the information that we needed to go out for proposal for tender on that project, missed a number of items which, unfortunately, resulted in a couple of the change orders. This isn't something that happens to us on a regular basis. We usually get pretty solid information that helps us build our requests or tenders. In this case, some specifics were missing, but for the exact detail I'll go to the deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, background on change orders, contracts, we do have change orders on a regular basis. In our performance measures, we do try to track change orders and try to keep the number of change orders as small as possible. We do track that on all our projects.

In this particular case, as the Minister said, we did an ESA, we had a consultant to do ESA work on that project initially a number of years ago before the school was vacated, so that we could get some overall general estimate of the cost of doing remediation work on that building. Once the building was vacated this summer, we went back and hired a consultant to do a detailed ESA which included destructive testing, sampling, lab work and detailed quantities. Unfortunately, as the Minister said, that consultant did miss some of the materials in there.

We've had a process in place for a number of years. We've done a number of these demolitions, starting back I think with Akaitcho Hall, we've done Deh Cho Hall, we've done the Tulita school and the Fort Good Hope school, and in each one of those we've had some lessons learned that we've tried to apply going forward.

In this case, we have another lesson here with the consultant and his ESA, and we've decided that at

this point, before we proceed with SAMS, we're going to go back and do another ESA with an independent third party to verify, so that we don't get into the situation on the next one. As the Minister said, we believe that the change orders that are before us are manageable within the budget of the project and we're confident that we are going to complete that project within the funds that have been appropriated for it.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Just one last final question here. Is there any type of clauses that are put into the initial contract for big projects like this when we get an initial contractor doing the assessments? Are there any clauses that would put any change order costs or additional costs on the contractor to ensure that they do a completely thorough assessment of the project that needs to be completed? Is there any type of clause in the contract and, if not, would the Minister be willing to get one completed? Or adding one?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a clarification question. There are two things happening here. There was the ESA which was done originally, which was intended to identify the items in the building so that we could actually get a proper price and that people who were bidding on contracts for the teardown could be informed. Is the Member talking about that contract or is he talking about the contract that was awarded based on the information which... The first one, okay. To Mr. Guy, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. That is a good question and it is something that we are following up with right now. We're looking at the terms and conditions of the contract. We have put the consultant on notice that there's been what we believe to be a miscalculation in the assessment and the quantities of the building. They've been put on notice and we will be seeking advice, through both the terms and conditions of the contract, what the provisions are. If we need to go further than that, we will be also looking to contract legal advice to see if we have any recourse there. Certainly, we are pursuing that.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: No further questions. Mr. Guy clarified that and I'm glad that the department is actually looking into something like that that might prevent us from continuing with these change orders and possible supp appropriations. Thanks for the clarification and the answers.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I had questions, too, on contracting and procurement. Certainly, there is a very high rate of sole-sourced contracting. I believe it's close to 25 percent; almost 50 percent when we throw in negotiated contracts.

The last time we looked at these processes, I discovered some shabby processes. For example, two contracts with identical work were issued to two different providers with, again, identical reasons, that reason being there's only one contractor to provide the work. Obviously, that's not satisfactory and I think there's been some work done since then.

There are other concerns about, for example, should there ever be an inappropriate relationship with some suppliers which might give an unfair advantage to those suppliers. The management being contracted out to someone who then ignores the Minister's direction and doesn't give fair weight to local providers.

Another practice that the Minister mentioned was changing policy or deciding to implement policy without prior notice to suppliers. And finally, overly specific requirements in contracts right down to the brand name, often based on some individual in a department, when, obviously, an equivalent would do the job, and does in many cases. These are just issues.

I believe the Minister indicated the comptroller is doing a review. I hadn't been aware of that. I appreciate that information. Do we know what the terms of reference is for this review? Maybe I shouldn't be asking this Minister that question, but I'd be interested if there are terms of reference for that review, if he knows, and when that review is due. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Right now contracts are administered by not just Public Works and Services, they're administered by every department to some degree. Within Public Works and Services, the contracts awarded in '12-13, by way of summary, to date, the Public Works and Services has only done 59 sole-source contracts, which is about 2.2 percent of all the contracts; 82.2 have gone out for request of proposal, and in 2013-13 none have been negotiated and we've got 199, or 14.3 percent, tendered. So very, very few within Public Works and Services are actually sole-source.

There are criteria for sole-source contracts. The goods and services or construction that are urgently required, and delay would cause injury or be against the public interest, only one party is available or capable of performing the contract, the

contract is a consulting service, the contract will not exceed \$25,000 in value or is another type of contract that will not exceed \$5,000 in value.

I think what the Member is talking about, and the Member can correct me if I'm wrong, I mean, clearly there isn't total consistency across the Government of the Northwest Territories, which is just another reason why the shared procurement model is valuable and that we need to continue to do the work on the shared procurement.

With respect to the review, the comptroller general is working with the Procurement Procedures Committee to look at these challenges that are coming out of the woodwork, and talk to vendors, talk to the individuals that we're attempting to contract with, regardless of the method that we're contracting, to figure out what's working well and what's not working well. I have had a number of examples brought to me by Members over the last year and we are sharing those with the comptroller general and the Procurement Procedures Working Group, and we hope to see some improvements on how some of these things are administered.

It's interesting. As I indicated in my opening comments under standing offer agreements, in some areas we're finding they're working really, really well. In other areas we're having challenges. It's important for us to identify why we're challenged in some areas and why we're working well in other areas. That's the type of work that's being done right now in anticipation of moving forward with shared procurement.

MR. BROMLEY: I certainly can confirm that I have constituents who have had a number of issues. I've brought them forward and I, generally, am satisfied that they are being taken seriously and efforts are being taken to address them with possibly the exception of the overly specific requirements, which I still have not reached satisfaction yet. I guess we don't know when the comptroller's review is going to be done, and maybe I'll save that for Finance.

In terms of the Green Procurement Policy, if I can make a little leap and then I'll try and bring these two together. Trust me. I mean, I'm looking for the pudding, obviously, right? I've asked this a lot of times. When does the Minister think this is going to come forward, the Green Procurement Policy? He sounded pretty positive and actually could see some of the things I'm talking about in terms of potential. Is work actually happening yet on the ground?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Work is happening. I don't believe it's gone as far as the Member would like it to go. I would like to see it further along, as well, but given that we're moving forward with shared procurement, we've had to make sure that everything's going to line up and we need to get the shared procurement down and in place before we change too many other things.

The greening policies, the green procurement I think is important. I think the Member has made a significant number of comments about it and the value of it, so we will move forward on it. I will commit to having something for the Member to look at in the '13-14 fiscal year, probably closer to the end than the beginning.

MR. BROMLEY: I'll help the Minister remember that. I guess my last one is with general procurement policies and practices. We have the opportunity to have a green element. In fact, we are bringing that lens to our own work now and enjoying, as the Minister reported today in his opening remarks, some significant savings.

Will this Minister work to get the environmental aspect into our general procurement practices so that when we're asking for something to be done, an important element in the RFP is the environmental practices. An efficient product, how will greenhouse gases be handled in terms of mitigation or offsets, and so on?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I think, as a government, we're already doing much of that. If you look at the buildings we're building, we're building them to meet or exceed some of the national building codes. We're utilizing technology that is available to us to help us control costs and leave less of a footprint. But I hear what the Member's saying and as we move forward with the Green Procurement Policy, I will make sure that his comments are considered and utilized where possible.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. Next on my list, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. There's just a question about the Inuvik school and the removal of the old Inuvik schools. I'm just wondering on some detail on that. One of the complaints I've received recently was the fact that a southern contractor was used. Could I ask, maybe more so on process, as to what the department does to write our contracts to ensure that southern contractors don't seem to have the edge or seem to just, by default, get these things. I'm noticing a bit of a trend here.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Obviously, we'd like the work, as much as possible, to stay in the North, but the NWT is a signatory to the Agreement on Internal Trade, which is a national binding agreement. A key component of the AIT is non-discrimination which establishes equal treatment for all Canadian persons, goods, services and investments. Further, with respect to the GNWT Procurement Policy, demands that the GNWT, in its commercial dealings, observe the highest standards. It must

stand the test of public scrutiny in matters of prudence and probity, facilitate access, enhance supplies access to contracts, encourage competition and reflect fairness in spending of public money, and we must comply with the government's obligations under AIT.

We do have the Business Incentive Policy that provides an incentive to NWT-based businesses that recognizes the higher costs of operating and doing work in the Northwest Territories, and the BIP must comply with intergovernmental agreements such as the AIT, to which the GNWT must adhere, as I've already indicated.

In this particular contract, we had the assessment done on the work that was required. We went out for tender and we had a number of submissions submitted. We had five, in total, submitted. We assessed each of them based on the criteria that was outlined in the tender. BIP was applied and adjusted, and the winning bid was for \$1.25 million, which was in budget. That company identified under BIP that 55 percent of the work was going to be done by locals, 3.2 percent was going to be done by NWT, and 41.7 percent was going to be done by southern. In total, over \$500,000 is scheduled to stay in the North based on the contract provided.

MR. HAWKINS: How do you validate those types of things when they create those formulas? Do you do a follow-up or an audit throughout the process to ensure that they're complying with their BIP document? I mean, quite often we hear that someone lowballs a bid but then they turn around and, you know, right after they get the bid and they sign their contract for that particular project, they then submit a claim for an adjustment. How do we make sure that they're delivering on what they promise?

The other question at the same time, I guess, is what does Public Works do specifically to try to foster an opportunity that really looks like or draws out a northern partnership to ensure that we do get people on a better footing? You may not be able to write the contract to say you can only be a Northerner to bid on this, but in the same token, it can be written in a manner that means they have to use hotels, local labour, a lot of local things that are open for anyone in a fair, open market bidding process can comply to.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That's what BIP does. Under this particular process, we have to apply BIP, where appropriate, and the contractors or potential contractors, when they're submitting their bids, must identify the local vendors that they're going to use in all situations. If they are going to be using local hotels, they have to identify the companies they are using, that they qualify under BIP.

As far as monitoring, we require regular reports from the vendors, the successful proponents on

compliance with the contract that we sign with them, which makes specific reference to the individuals they would have identified in their tenders which gave them the BIP adjustment.

MR. HAWKINS: Madam Chair, I have a different view on BIP on how it's used in that regard. But that said, how do you ensure that the compliance of those types of commitments are when they're not BIP? What you're saying is that BIP is the almighty tool, but it isn't because if a southern contractor said that they would use some northern labour force, how are we ensuring that they're tackling and using that type of force and how do we make sure that they comply as well? It's easy to say, well, I think you mentioned 55 percent local, I think, labour. I couldn't write as fast as you were talking. The point of the matter is, this company that's doing the work there isn't local, so how do we know that they're complying with these so-called local initiatives that their bid originally comprised of? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In proposals, the company that submits a proposal indicates the companies that they intend to work with, the work that they plan to have those individual companies doing. We have contracting staff and Public Works and Services staff – sorry; this was a tender – in the community who is reviewing their compliance with the contract that was signed. The contract makes specific reference to the individual local companies and NWT companies that they will be utilizing for services.

By way of example, on this particular project, 50 workers in Inuvik were enrolled in the training course arranged by the successful contractor. On the first day of work, 30 were present to start work on that facility. Twenty-five, from what I understand, are still working on that project. They made a commitment to use local resources. They identified the local resources that they intend to use. We monitor, on a regular basis, their compliance with the contract that they have signed with us to make sure that they are in compliance. That would be true whether BIP applied or not in this particular case.

If we sign a contract with an individual for a project, we monitor those projects to make sure that the individual company or provider is staying true to the contract that they signed.

MR. HAWKINS: What type of public reporting do you do when you monitor the compliance of the commitments that some of these contractors make? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, can I get the Member to repeat his question? Is it specific to this project or is it overall? I'm not sure I understood completely.

MR. HAWKINS: I guess, in this case, what I'm getting at is, you say monitor these types of things. Where is that reported and where is it publicly reported? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, we do general contract reports. It is not always a public document, but I'm happy to share the information on individual projects with committee, at the appropriate time, on a requested basis.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. How do you monitor deficiencies sort of in the same stroke? When you do all of these types of reviews and you monitor these contracts in the context of compliance and follow through, do you do any particular follow-up, in a public reporting sense, as to how contracts have been fulfilled, whether they've been fulfilled properly, whether we had a fight with them, whether they complied? What I'm getting at is, is there any type of public disclosure that the public would be able to say, when they did this project, they wanted, we will call it fair and square, they did this project but the public doesn't know of how many problems were done, were they a good contractor, did they fulfill, or did they walk away from the project, so those types of things. Is there any reporting, and if there isn't, has there ever been any consideration of reporting that publicly? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, there is literally thousands of contracts going on, but I think the Member – and correct me if I'm wrong – is talking about the larger build contracts as opposed to the smaller contracts that we may be administering. As I've indicated previously, with the East Three School, by way of example, we will do a complete post-mortem. We are doing a complete post-mortem on that project. It is a significant project. That will certainly be shared with committee and whatnot.

Other projects, ones that are certainly brought up or people are questioning, we are happy to do reviews of those to make sure that we've learned best practices and that we learn what has worked well, what isn't working well on any of our contracts. This particular contract for the teardown of the school, we have identified some challenges that we faced. We had some difficulty in the beginning with the initial assessment of the review. So I'm happy to do a review of this one and share it with committee as well.

MR. HAWKINS: Madam Chair, I am very curious so I will certainly see that. Sidestepping this, but sort of along a similar vein, does Public Works ever drop a bit of, and I will just use the term – it may not sound friendly, but – the black listing sort of process where we have had contractors who have been unable to fulfill their obligations, whether they're architects, engineers, contractors and construction, for major projects? I'm not talking about delivery of stationery. I'm talking about meaningful ones. How

do we report on those types of things? Do we have a way of ensuring that we just don't keep hiring the same people who make the same types of mistakes on and on? That is a critical concern when we get to large projects. Do we have any enforcement tools that can create a list? I hate to use the word "black list," but I'm going to say create a list to say, look, you screwed up on three projects in a row. We've just had nothing but disputes with you. Yes, you're the low bidder, and yes, theoretically you can say you comply, but at the end of the day it creates a nightmare for us, you can't do this project. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, we are a public government so we can't actually black list contractors. In many cases, in problems that exist, the GNWT is not always a party to contractual agreements between general contractors and their subs. A lot of the times, issues are coming to me about subs and the issues that a primary contractor may be having with some of their subs. These subs are contracted to the person we're contracted with. Our relationship is with the contractor, not with the subs.

The GNWT procurement policies and contract regulations do not permit the government to actually black list contractors from competing on public tenders as a result of unsettled disputes that subcontractors may have with other suppliers.

On larger projects, the GNWT requires that the general contractor provide a labour and/or material bond. This bond is specifically in place to provide protection to subcontractors and suppliers with outstanding claims against a general contractor. The GNWT is not in a position to interfere with this legal process established in our contracts for the protection of our subcontractors.

We make sure the bond is there so that subcontractors are safe. If we have an issue with a contractor on the actual delivery of a contract, there are mechanisms in place for us to seek remedy on an individual contractor. But as far as dealing with their subs, and this is where I have seen a number of people have concerns about a primary based on something that a sub is concerned about, and we can't do that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thanks, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Hawkins, your time is up. I'll put you back on the list, if you wish. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is the sixth department that we're in the middle of process review for main estimates and I'm always haunted by the voices of our Minister of Finance, baton down the hatches, fiscal restraint, and yet when I look at this directorate in terms of what we're doing just in compensation and benefits and changes to the overall structure of number of personnel, I find myself at odds with what I'm

hearing from the Finance side of our government versus what we're seeing in this department.

Madam Chair, since 2011-2012 we've seen with the main estimates today an 18 – if my calculations are correct – an 18.9 percent increase in compensation and benefits, and even since the revised estimates of last year, we're seeing a 14 percent increase in our compensation and benefits. Can I get a rationale as to why we need to see such growth given the fact that this exceeds, far exceeds forced growth and where we've had issues with some of our other budgets where we can't even get forced growth in program development, but yet we seem to have more than enough money to deal with more personnel? Can I get a comment on that, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Unfortunately, we go page by page, if the Member were to go a few pages in, he would see that we have done a reorganization within the department. Asset management has gone down, the positions in asset management have moved into the directorate. There is zero change at the bottom line of the department other than some forced growth as a result of salary, UNW levels, but we moved a number of positions that used to be in asset management into the directorate. The increases that the Member is talking about are a direct result of that move, not a change in a giant addition of positions into this department.

MR. DOLYNNY: Okay, I'll give the Minister that benefit. Maybe I'll ask my questions more so on the net change in the directorate. We've seen an increase in the number of positions in Yellowknife with 70 positions. There's been a net increase of six positions overall. My question is: Why Yellowknife? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thanks. If the Member goes to page 7-18, which is asset management, he'll see that six positions have been taken out of asset management, and if he then turns to page 7-14 he will see that six positions have been added into the directorate. These positions haven't changed their location, they haven't changed their job. We've changed the reporting relationship. There was a restructuring in the department. It isn't an addition of positions to Yellowknife in any way, shape or form. The positions existed, the incumbents are still sitting in their seats, they're still sitting on the same floor and they're still doing the same job.

MR. DOLYNNY: Okay, strike two for the Member. Alright, I've got one more bat here and I'm going to put everything into this swing here. The concern I have is we don't see any positions here, and I know I'm jumping one page and I apologize, because I'm talking about the directorate here, no representation

of directorate in the Sahtu. I found that to be quite odd, given the economic activity in the Sahtu area that we would have seen directorate positions. Now, has that been looked at with respect to a reallocation in decentralization of directorate personnel? Why aren't we seeing the Sahtu mentioned in this capacity? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I'll allow you to jump ahead a page. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are committed as a government, not just as a department, to getting positions decentralized where appropriate, and in the Public Works and Services we did create one new position and we located it in Hay River.

With respect to the Sahtu and Public Works and Services, the Sahtu is actually administered out of our Inuvik office, and we do have employees in Public Works and Services in the Sahtu and we'll continue to do that. As work increases, we may find that we're in a position where we have to consider additional resources in the Sahtu, but right now the requirements for deferred maintenance, the requirement for the build with respect to the new health centre and long-term care facility, those are being dealt with by our regional office in Inuvik.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. One of the questions I wanted to continue following up on in a similar vein was general contractors not paying their subs. Although I know that the department will have a, I'll say a canned answer where they'll say, well, it's hands off and it's not their problem, but that sort of speaks to the diligence I talked about earlier. I realize we're a public government so we cannot necessarily blacklist per se, but how do we deal with that when we have general contractors not fulfilling, well I'll call it their moral obligation but by all means their financial obligations by paying their subs? The bond will be the answer, but yet in some cases as of recent, I'm aware that one particular one had signed off and said that they did pay them. So what remedies does the GNWT have if we lose our rights under holding their bond in place? I mean, do we have any down-the-road rights to deal with these types of organizations? That's a major concern. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Claims between contractors and their subs could range from a huge, huge variety of situations. A bond is a time-sensitive tool, and if a subcontractor with a legitimate claim fails to take action under the bond on the assumption that the GNWT will intervene for some reason, they may

jeopardize their ability to pursue relief provided by the surety. We make sure that the large projects have bonds in place to protect the subs and we make sure that those are adhered to, but individuals have to make sure that they utilize them as well.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. In large public infrastructure projects, and I dare not attempt to define what that may or may not be, but has there ever been any consideration that instead of writing the general to sign off on the fact that they paid their contractors or subcontractors in good faith, has the government ever considered writing the subs to ensure that they've been up to speed or paid up to date? Now, I realize that every dispute can't be a simple yes or no, saying yes, we've been paid up to date or no, we haven't. So I suspect and I recognize the difficulty there, but there would be ways of ensuring that they are paying, so when they're signing off that that's part of the compliance agreement to ensure that leads to their bond being released. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thanks, and I'll go to the deputy for some more specifics, but at the end of the day we require our contractors to have a bond in place for their subcontractors and our contract is with the primary. The project that we're getting is from the primary, and our dealings and our negotiations are with the primary. Their contracts are separate, independent legal documents between them and another party and it would be inappropriate for us to interfere with a separate legal contract between two other parties. We want to make sure that everybody is protected in the process. We make sure that the bonds are in place for these large projects, but for some more specifics I will go to the deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, just following up on what the Minister has said and in response to the question, there are a number of checks and balances along the way in the process where the progress payments, and through the final payments, and through the processing of statutory declaration of those things, where information is gathered to provide some confirmation that subcontractors have been paid for the work that has been done, many cases there are disputes between the general contractor, the subcontractor, there can be claims and counterclaims. Perhaps the subcontractor didn't do some of the work he said he was going to do and the general contractor had other work done. There's also money that is held up in the holdback, which the government may not release until all the work is complete, or it may be held until final completion or substantial completion of the project. In addition, there are also

funds owing to a subcontractor that may be tied up in unresolved change orders.

So there's a number of ways those funds would be there. But when a subcontractor does come to us with concerns, we do provide the advice, guidance and what's available, and what their options are through the contract. We do give them that information and direct them to the bonding company or whatever other surety is in place. Certainly, if there are mechanisms where we can use the leverage we have with holdbacks to help resolve the problem, we would look at that wherever we can, but we must look and follow the rules and the terms and conditions of the contract that we have with the general contractor, as well as protect the public's interest. We can't be necessarily diving into issues between two other parties that may increase the liability of the government. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Is it normal for the government to be named in disputes when subcontractors have problems with the general? Thank you.

MR. GUY: There have been cases in the past where there have been disputes that have included naming the government. Obviously, the owner is an option that somebody might try to pursue, particularly an owner with deep pockets. In many cases, we are included in any litigation that may happen, and in many cases it takes years to resolve. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to litigation, individuals looking to bring a lawsuit against somebody tend to throw large nets and try to capture as many people as they can. They'll write as many names on the list as they can, hoping to catch somebody. We have bonds in place, we have contracts in place and our dealings are with the primaries.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: That's okay for now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014, and would like to report progress with eight motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The seconder is Mr. Abernethy.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Report of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014
 - Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, February 27th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:03 p.m.