



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

Pages 1207 – 1240

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, October 27, 2016****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Robert McLeod, Hon. Bob McLeod, Mr. McNeely, Hon. Alfred Moses, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Louis Sebert, Hon. Wally Schumann, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 95-18(2):  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
INTERVENTION PILOT PROJECTS**

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, one of the commitments the Government of the Northwest Territories has made for investing in early childhood development includes improving access to and outcomes of early intervention services by continuing pilot projects in the Deh Cho, Tlicho and Beaufort Delta regions. I am pleased to report that the three early childhood development intervention pilot projects established as part of the GNWT's Framework and Action Plan for Early Childhood Development are well underway.

These pilots will contribute new knowledge about regional and community-based early childhood development intervention service delivery models. Each of these three unique pilot projects was designed to address the needs of its region and the results will be applied to improve early childhood development intervention across the Northwest Territories.

To ensure effective pilot projects, the Department of Health and Social Services worked directly with three regions and two Aboriginal governments to create these pilots. Today I would like to acknowledge the partnerships and the milestones reached with each of these pilots.

Our first pilot is a partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. This pilot trains day care workers, family and child support workers, families and others working with or around children in early childhood development support techniques, starting with language and speech development strategies. The second project through the Tlicho Community

Services Agency is the Speech Language Pathologist Plan. It involves working with children and staff at the day cares and with children and guardians in one-on-one sessions. The third pilot project, in the Deh Cho Region, is an Early Childhood Development Intervention Plan. An early childhood intervention coordinator will be trained to link children and families to services and programs, ensuring through follow up that they are receiving services and programs.

I'm confident that each of these three pilot projects will further the goal of achieving the best possible developmental outcomes for children in our smaller communities, providing them with the same advantages as those living in larger centres. By investing in early childhood development, the GNWT is investing in a future where people are productive and contributing members of family, community and society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Homelessness.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 96-18(2):  
HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES**

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, homelessness in our communities is a critical issue that we need to address together. Homelessness is complex and affected by many factors. People who are homeless often have traumatic past and current lives, most struggle with mental health issues, behavioural concerns, and/or addictions that need to be addressed. Because homelessness is complex, approaches that don't include collaboration, or that are not sustainable don't work.

Collaboration begins with those with lived experience, it extends to all sectors of government, and to each of us as individuals. As Minister responsible for Addressing Homelessness, the first priority was to listen to those currently homeless and agencies providing support to homeless people. This was the objective of the Yellowknife Homelessness Forum conducted in April 2016. Recommendations were gathered and two working groups were formed in collaboration with other Government of the Northwest Territories departments, non-government organizations,

Yellowknife Dene First Nation and the City of Yellowknife.

The first working group comprised of non-government organizations, and government officials reviewed Government of the Northwest Territories policies and provided a listing of policies that impacted people's ability to obtain and retain housing. A Government of the Northwest Territories interdepartmental working group is utilizing this information to begin working on improving policy integration and better co-ordination of services, as part of the mandate commitment to review homeless supports and improve policy and program consistency between departments.

The working group is examining ways to address service gaps, duplications, and barriers contributing to homelessness. This group will also consider issues such as housing instability, mental health, addictions, poverty, domestic violence, child intervention and justice-system involvement. The policy review conducted through the Yellowknife Homelessness Forum will also be included in a full review of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation policies to begin in January, 2017, once all feedback from our engagement survey are received and compiled.

The second working group from the Homelessness Forum was headed by the mayor of the City of Yellowknife and included a cross section of homelessness stakeholders including the Government of the Northwest Territories. This group was responsible for compiling the forum recommendations, examining and prioritizing these suggestions. This work has concluded and the group's top recommendations include continued support for Housing First, creating semi-independent units in unused shelter space, extension of overnight shelter hours, a street outreach program and development of a 10-year homelessness plan. Although the work of this group has concluded, the Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to work with the City of Yellowknife and other stakeholders to address the priorities identified within this report as per the mandate commitment to work in partnership with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has already begun implementing some of the priorities identified. The Government of the Northwest Territories made a commitment in its mandate to develop program approaches such as Housing First. Housing First is an approach used in other jurisdictions that involves collaborative service delivery and avoids an organization-by-organization approach. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation supports this approach and will be providing \$150,000 to support the Yellowknife

Women's Society in implementing Housing First in Yellowknife. There is also \$600,000 budgeted to create new semi-independent units for chronically homeless individuals within overnight emergency shelters. Due to space limitations within the shelters, we are only able to provide 15 individual units at this time. It is important to note that these units will also follow a Housing First model in that they are for chronically homeless individuals, they are not transitional, and services will be offered as per the need and desire of the tenant.

Mr. Speaker, these are highlights from the priorities of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has identified, but the partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services in addressing the issues related to homelessness also needs to be mentioned. Some highlights from the Department of Health and Social Services include the agreement with the Northwest Territories Disabilities Council over the summer to expand the provision of services for the Safe Harbour Day Shelter in Yellowknife. By the end of this year, the Safe Harbour Day Shelter will be open 12-hours a day, seven-days a week.

Minister Abernethy has also directed the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority, Yellowknife region, to complete the design for a sobering centre program in Yellowknife. They are actively seeking an appropriate location, and working to identify funds from within the Government of the Northwest Territories to support this program. These actions are a first step towards responding to the road map recommendations. Other initiatives through Health and Social Services such as the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan and the Mental Health and Addictions Framework will also support an integrated continuum of services which may contribute to a reduction in homelessness.

As stated earlier, the Government of the Northwest Territories is mandated to work with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements. As such, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is lobbying hard within the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial meetings. The federal government is listening and has agreed to implement a northern pillar within the National Housing Strategy. They are also considering accessibility within this strategy. The Government of the Northwest Territories is hopeful that the roll out of the National Housing Strategy, and specifically the northern pillar, will allow us to expand on our supports to homeless people throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, no one approach will get us to where we need to be. We need to provide options, we need to implement a number of actions, and we need to work together. Only by working together

with our partners, including other levels of government and community organizations will we strengthen services to address homelessness and provide effective support to those in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 87-18(2):  
 LAUNCH OF THE UNITED WAY NORTHWEST  
 TERRITORIES GNWT WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the vision of a strong, healthy territory is shared by the Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, Northwest Territories residents, non-governmental organizations across the Northwest Territories, and by our public servants. Investing in our people through organizations such as the United Way Northwest Territories brings us closer to that vision. On behalf of myself and my co-chair Todd Parsons, President of the Union of Northern Workers, I am pleased to announce this year's staff payroll campaign kicked-off on Friday, October 21, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, United Way is committed to investing in the health and well-being of our people and our communities and building prosperity in the Northwest Territories through three areas of focus:

- From poverty to possibility. Moving people out of poverty and meeting basic human needs;
- Healthy people, strong communities. Improving access to social and health-related support services, supporting resident and community engagement, and supporting community integration and settlement; and
- All that kids can be. Improving access to early childhood and development learning programs, helping kids do well and complete high school, and supporting the healthy transition into adulthood and post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, through the annual month-long GNWT Workplace Campaign, employees and Members of the Legislative Assembly can sign up for payroll deductions. Participation is voluntary and provides an easy way to give to the United Way and other registered non-profit organizations that are based in and focus on the Northwest Territories. Many of you are donors already and I thank you for your generosity. I encourage others to think about what a difference your donation, no matter how small, can make in the lives of Northerners.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the campaign, and we hope to meet our goal of 10 per cent employee participation. I understand departmental coordinators are organizing events until November

25<sup>th</sup> to promote the campaign and to raise money for United Way. I encourage all Government of the Northwest Territories employees to consider how they could help support their departmental coordinators as they raise money for this worthy cause.

The United Way has had a positive impact on the people of our territory. Over the past five years, approximately \$435,000 has been distributed to various registered charities across the Northwest Territories. Last year, the United Way invested over \$90,000 in 20 different projects. This year, because of an increase in donations, \$155,000 was distributed to 21 organizations across the Northwest Territories.

For the first time ever, we were able to introduce a multi-year funding pilot project which provides \$15,000 a year, for three years, to the Pan-Territorial NWT Breast Health/Cancer Action/Awareness Group. This multi-year agreement will allow the organization to better plan and implement programs that will have a real impact on the lives of people living in our communities.

I want to thank all the contributors and volunteers of the United Way and to chair, Tracy St. Denis of Industry, Tourism and Investment, our Government of the Northwest Territories' Workplace Campaign departmental coordinators and all the employees that are donating and signing up for payroll deductions. Your efforts are making a difference and I am excited about the opportunity that we have to do even more. As the United Way slogan says "Change Starts Here," and we all have an opportunity to be part of the change.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [Translation] I would like to talk today about the children that are -- about the people that are giving them employment. [Translation ends] I'd like to talk about summer students. Mr. Speaker, this government and this Cabinet must step up to the plate to give our post-secondary students every opportunity for success. This means giving these students a good summer job and there are none better than a job at the GNWT. Our government must set aside money that usually goes to salaries to proactively seek our students to work for us. It

will take some effort and that seems to be the main obstacle. The Minister of Human Resources has advised this House that hiring decisions for summer students, like all staffing, is the responsibility of the department and agency managers. There is nobody leading the process and there appears to be no political will to put effort forward.

Mr. Speaker, in 2015 the GNWT hired 341 summer students out of 612 who applied. For the summer of 2017 I recommend the Department of Human Resources roll out a plan to support the GNWT to hire a minimum of 400 summer students. Every Minister in the House should be held accountable for student hiring in their departments and for meeting set targets. In addition to this, I recommend that the Department of Education create a subsidy for small businesses to enable them to be competitive in hiring students; the same pool of money can be used. Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to go into the details now but a simple \$4 or \$5 subsidy for small businesses or one that is designated to be paid directly to the student by ECE will also work.

Our government has a public service of approximately 5,100 employees and carries a workforce vacancy of 9 to 11 per cent. This means at any given time we have 500 vacant jobs. It would only take about 100 to 120 of these vacancies to complete this very important task of showing our post-secondary students that we stand behind them as a government and that we want to help them develop skills they need to succeed and work in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement

---Unanimous consent granted

Marci cho. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to hear all the excuses why we can't do this. The Ministers of Human Resources and ECE must do something different; something that will make a difference. Let's tell our students all the reasons why we can and will do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PHYSICAL LITERACY SKILLS FOR SENIORS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about seniors developing and maintaining physical literacy. Physical literacy is a long-time journey; however, it doesn't matter if you start when you're older. It is about a life choice that you need to make. Mr. Speaker, there are lot of different interpretations of physical literacy, but the one I like is each person's level of physical literacy partly depends on the fundamental movement skills, confidence level, degree of motivation and

the ABC's of movement which is agility, balance, coordination and speed.

Mr. Speaker, people believe that the term "fundamental movement skills" is very similar as physical literacy. I believe this is a mistake. In fact, fundamental movement skills are only one important element of physical literacy. According to the Canadian Sports Centre, fundamental movement skills include basic movement such as throwing, kicking, running, jumping, hopping and catching. For most, these skills are learned as a child; it creates a solid physical ability foundation. A good way to understand these concepts is to take fundamental movement skills as building blocks of physical literacy. Although fundamental movement skills and ABCs of movement can be learned at any age, it typically takes more time and practice for older adults to develop fundamental movement skills, especially compared to their childhood or teenage years. However, in saying this, it is never too late to start.

Mr. Speaker, older adults need to have a minimum level of physical literacy to gain the health and other benefits associated with participating in physical activities such as sports, exercise, work-related activities, and daily living.

People need to recognize that over time, adult physical literacy may diminish depending on factors such as lifestyle, health status, age, participation in sport, regular physical activity, workplace demands and work environments, daily habits, and preferred interests. Mr. Speaker, a person's level of physical literacy directly impacts daily living activities. It is important to start and maintain physical literacy as it helps individuals to gain associated health benefits. As important as physical literacy is, I am not sure the government is doing enough for the older adults of our population. Today I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AGING IN PLACE

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about an issue that affects everyone, either now or later. That is about aging in place, how our community responds to our seniors and elders with the passage of time. Aging in place is a concept that has a broad meaning. There is a tendency to think that it simply means putting in handrails or stair lifts or an alarm system, doing some home renovations so it is a little easier for seniors to get around. That way, they can stay in their homes for as long as possible as they get older and their needs change.



Modification and modernization of the home is certainly an important part of aging in place. Ramps, lifts, handrails are important renovations to help seniors live more safely and comfortably. But the concept of aging in place is much broader than just renovations, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't only happen in the home; it happens throughout the community. It is about how we respond to the needs of seniors and elders on many different levels. It is how we make a place for them in the daily life of our family and community. It involves how we configure public transportation services and direct transportation resources. It involves enhancing and improving accessibility to public spaces and buildings. It involves public services and recognition of specific needs for elders. It involves creative entrepreneurship, creating business services and retail opportunities designed to suit the needs of seniors. It is about health, exercise and nutrition, and the services we put in place in support of these. It is about medical services and how we tailor our health system to elders' needs. It is about communications, family and social networks, finding or creating communities of common interest and activities. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it is about safety and security for elders, providing resources to identify and avoid fraud and elder abuse.

We must honour our elders and seniors, Mr. Speaker. It is an important part of our identity. But to make a policy of aging in place a reality, we must evaluate and commit to some very concrete, practical solutions to some of the problems and challenges faced by our seniors in our communities. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MOULD GROWTH IN ELDERS' HOMES

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, skin irritation, coughing, fever, shortness of breath, night asthma, and even respiratory infections, all of these can be caused by one thing: mould in the house. As Health Canada tells us, mould is the word used to describe the fungus that grows on food or damp materials, like windowsills, carpets or walls of kitchens, bathrooms or other areas where moisture is in the air. When mould grows, it releases spores into the air, and when people breathe in these spores, their health can be affected. Infants, children, and the elderly are particularly susceptible. It is elders I want to talk about today, Mr. Speaker.

In my riding, in the Hamlet of Fort Providence, residents have discovered mould in several homes

belonging to community elders. Several elders moved out on September 12<sup>th</sup> after receiving a one-day notice to move out. The affected homes are part of old housing stock built in the 1970s, and their concrete basements provide the ideal damp environment for mould growth. To protect their health, affected elders have left the comfort of their homes to stay with family and friends. But after a long period of disruption, they are eager to return to their homes.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, they are unable to do that. While contractors are working to remediate the homes that have been affected, they are working according to their own schedules. This slow pace is keeping Fort Providence elders from living in the comfort and safety of their own healthy, mould-free homes. This must be addressed properly and completely as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NUTRITION NORTH PROGRAM REDESIGN

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my statement is in regards to the Nutrition North program, a federal initiative. It is, in all principles, a great program addressing the high cost of living in our small, northern, remote communities. However, with local, agricultural, home growers subsidizing the recipients of the program, it creates an advantage for larger retailers.

Mr. Speaker, currently the program is under public engagement process. Nutrition North reviews include town hall meetings, interviews, public input through the media between May and November 2016 to seek public input on suggestions for redesigning what is in place for a better system tomorrow. That invitation on input is what I will be addressing to the appropriate Minister later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CHANGES TO ARCTIC FISH SPECIES DISTRIBUTION AND RANGE

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local species can teach us a lot to about the past, but also the future. More salmon are appearing in fishers' nets along the Mackenzie River system and in the Arctic Ocean and earlier in the summer than ever before. One was caught near Yellowknife this past week.

Mr. Speaker, chum salmon have always been caught in the Northwest Territories, but now they are being caught farther north and in greater numbers. People wonder what this means for species like Arctic Char. Mr. Speaker, naturally, Pacific Salmon are mostly found in the North Pacific Basin, from northern California to the northwestern margin of Alaska. But more and more salmon are showing up in the Northwest Territories overall. These changes were first noticed and reported by local subsistence fishers. Many of them have since helped with research into this change in salmon habitat.

Part of this research has involved determining how salmon eggs are able to endure Arctic winters and hatch at just the right time for young salmon to reach the Arctic Ocean. Climate change could be responsible for the warmer water that allows the eggs to survive. There are many unanswered questions about salmon and other species' new relationship with the Arctic environment.

Local fishers and traditional knowledge can help answer those questions by providing firsthand knowledge of the river, the Delta and the Beaufort Sea. They were encouraged to report salmon catches to research teams. Shifts and changes in salmon distribution and range are indicators of changes to the entire Arctic ecosystem. If these changes become permanent, it may result in the salmon changing those ecosystems more and impacting other native fish species like Arctic Char. The people of the Beaufort Delta region have relied on Arctic char for countless generations.

The salmon have a lot to teach us about our changing climate, and what species can tolerate and adapt to. Understanding these changes is key to preparing for the future of the Arctic. Mr. Speaker, that understanding is why scientific research and traditional knowledge are so important. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
GROUND AMBULANCE AND HIGHWAY RESCUE  
SERVICES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was told that when it comes to eliminating programs, the departments prefer death by a thousand cuts. They take a little bit at a time, over and over again, and before you know it, there's nothing left. Well, I have to hand it to MACA. They're very efficient. They've proposed to eliminate all funding for ground ambulance and highway rescue services in only two cuts. This information was made public this morning during a briefing with Minister Cochrane. Last year the

funding was \$400,000. This year it's \$180,000. Next year, the department proposes a budget of \$0.

As I've said in this House before, no level of government is responsible for providing highway rescue services, and as a result, the communities that do provide it aren't funded accordingly. At today's briefing, we were told that the ability to provide lifesaving services to victims on the highway is a priority but not a high enough priority. Also not a high priority is addressing the fact that 27 communities in the territory completely lack any sort of ambulance services. Some communities have fire departments which can provide emergency medical services, but, according to the Auditor General's report, MACA couldn't tell you which ones.

Mr. Speaker, the line from this government has consistently been that we're broke and we have to live within our means. I agree. We have to live within our means. We also have to make sure people live, period. I hoped that at today's briefing, MACA would present a solution. I hoped that the legislation to designate authority over highway rescue was in the works or that comprehensive funding was being unveiled. Instead, we were told MACA wants to cut what little funding there is and communities will be forced to find monies from within their current budgets.

With a \$40-million funding shortfall for communities already, this proposed cut adds insult to injury. Even though it's inadequate, the funding is used to buy things like defibrillators and jaws of life, breathing apparatus, vehicle extraction training, and this year, in Hay River, a radio tower that allows fire fighters to communicate over hundreds of kilometres of highway.

These are essential tools needed to save lives. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of public safety. This government can't continue to ignore its ethical and moral responsibility to protect the lives of our citizens and visitors to the territory. Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that the Minister means well, but shame on the department if they pursue this cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
FUNDING FOR SENIORS SPORT AND  
RECREATION PROGRAMMING

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Recent proposals to transfer lottery administration to GNWT coffers have raised a number of questions regarding the future of support for sports and recreation. One critical part of this picture for me is the state of funding to better support seniors

in staying active through sports. Funding for senior sports has fallen sharply in recent years.

Seniors' representatives who have been in touch with me indicate that the ability of seniors to participate in the national Canada 55+ Games has been severely curtailed. I'm told that Municipal and Community Affairs has been in touch with a seniors' sport and recreation representative and a proposal is under development to support sport and recreation activities for seniors.

The Minister has reported to me that the department is working with organizations that currently provide sport and recreation programs to seniors to ensure that they provide the same or an increased level of programming in 2017-2018 and beyond. This would include programming through the Elders in Motion program and the Canada 55+ Games.

However, I'm told that MACA does not have any internal programs that specifically support sport and recreation for seniors. It doesn't seem that there will be any new external sources of funds for seniors' sports. Will the transfer of lottery funds into the GNWT allow for some sort of an investment in support of seniors' sports and recreation? Finally, I'm told that MACA will also be consulting with seniors and elders to see what additional sport and recreation services might be provided through communities and sport and recreation organizations. That's good, but, without the dollars, the consultations will be less than productive. I can't think of anything more obvious than the fact that active seniors are healthy seniors, which will save us big dollars in areas like healthcare for unhealthy seniors. Seniors' sports and recreation funding is a good investment in controlling healthcare costs, so how committed are we, Mr. Speaker?

I'll have questions for the Minister and trust that the old mantra of tough fiscal times and the \$150 million reduction target will not be trotted out again. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
YELLOWKNIFE DOWNTOWN ROAD MAP AND  
ACTION PLAN

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those of us who live downtown in Yellowknife have witnessed how dramatically it's changed in the last few years. I've received numerous complaints from residents who find the downtown a more challenging place to live because of a growing population of people who are homeless and/or intoxicated. According to a City of Yellowknife report, the use of emergency shelters increased 14

per cent in just one year, 2015. The RCMP decision not to take intoxicated people into custody just because they are intoxicated has produced a 30 per cent increase in ambulance rides and swamped Stanton Hospital's emergency department.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that all orders of government have come together to provide a comprehensive and coordinated response to the needs of the street people in my riding. Instead of continuing to respond to the issues on an ad hoc basis, there is now a plan for downtown Yellowknife. I want to thank the working group that produced that road map under the leadership of Mayor Mark Heyck. They've developed a suite of short, medium, and long-term actions that give me hope that downtown will be changed for the better of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, the changes proposed in this report begin with embracing the concept of harm reduction. Instead of marginalizing people who are homeless and/or intoxicated, the road map will provide services that recognize and respond to their complex needs. Once fully implemented, we will have 15 semi-independent living units in emergency shelters and they'll be available to clients 24 hours a day; we'll have central intake for people who need help with housing, mental health, and addictions issues; we'll have a street outreach program that will identify and assist people who are intoxicated and take them to a new safe place to sober up.

These interventions will not only help the people they are intended to serve but will also take the pressure off first responders, whose services are needed by all of us, not just the street people. We've gone from being baffled by the problem to embracing it, and that's a tremendous accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that investment in prevention pays off. The investment required to implement the plan is relatively modest, in the order of a million dollars a year. Stack that against the social, human, and economic cost to citizens in the community and the decision to invest is simply the right thing to do. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON MUNICIPAL  
SERVICES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General's audit of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs found that the department failed to adequately support community governments in their delivery of essential services, and, although the department monitored community governments' provision of some of these services, it

failed to ensure that these met their basic requirements, namely the health and safety of Northerners. To put it simply Mr. Speaker, the department did not do their job.

MACA has accepted all of the recommendations and committed to updating their policies and accommodate the findings of the audit, but, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time they have committed to improving their support for our communities. In fact, time and time again, they have made the same promises over the long history of this department, and they have, time and time again, failed to live up to these commitments. Northerners expect more than lip service this time. They want results and that this House will hold the government accountable to its citizens' expectations.

Over the years, MACA has centralized its policies, pulling away from the communities they serve. At one point local governments were asked to provide feedback on the performance of the department's regional offices, but this practice has since stopped, cutting off the department from crucial feedback to improve its operations. Since the New Deal, communities have been given more responsibilities and authority but without the necessary capacity building to successfully complete these transfers of power. The department has known about this capacity gap since 2009, so, Mr. Speaker, this concern is not something new to the department, nor is it new to the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the New Deal should have been an initiative to empower decision-making in our communities. Instead, it appears to have allowed this government to download its responsibilities onto local government without the capacity to manage these crucial aspects of public government. It is unacceptable to me to see our small governments overburdened and set up for failure by a lack of preparation and support on behalf of the department. Only in the face of public scrutiny, Mr. Speaker, has the department accepted responsibility. I hope that this new Minister will now rise to the occasion and clearly correct these problems without delay, for, when it comes to the health and safety of our citizens, no excuses are acceptable and it is time for this department to make things right. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the staff of the Status of Women

Council of the NWT. They are Samantha Thomas, Lorraine Phaneuf, the executive director, and Annemieke Mulders, and I'd like to welcome them to the House today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Todd Parsons. I'm not sure he's still here, but he was with us earlier. He's the president of the Union of Northern Workers and one of the co-sponsors of the United Way program here, in Yellowknife. I want to thank him for all the work that he does on behalf of our employees. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a Yellowknife North resident, as well the chair of the United Way for the Northwest Territories, Tracy St. Denis. I also too want to take this opportunity to recognize Lorraine, Annemieke and Samantha who are all with the Status of Women, for being here in the House today. Thank you and welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River South.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my wife, Lori Schumann, and I too would also like to recognize Tracy St. Denis for all the work with the United Way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Lorraine Phaneuf, Samantha Doucet and Annemieke Mulders who have done so much great work promoting women's equity in the Northwest Territories and good friends of mine. So thanks for being here today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Range Lake.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be remiss if I didn't also recognize Lorraine, Annemieke and Sammie as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I'm really grateful that you're here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River North.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the pages from Ecole Boreale that are here with us also all week, Victoria Tweedie-Pitre

and Reegan Jungkind. I want to thank them for their excellent work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Did we miss anyone in the gallery? Welcome to the Chamber. It's always great to have an audience as part of the proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Nahendeh.

### Acknowledgements

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 13-18(2): PASSING OF FREDERICK (SONNY) MCLEOD

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rise in the House to inform you that Mr. Frederick (Sonny) Williams McLeod, 82 years old, entered into peace on Thursday, September 15, 2016. Mr. McLeod's final days were spent surrounded by family and friends. Fred had an effect on each of us in some way throughout his memorable life. It is comforting to know both Fred and Violet have given themselves to the Lord. He now joins his wife, Violet, in paradise. Mr. and Mrs. McLeod are survived by their five children and their spouses, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews and extended family. He will be sadly missed. My condolences go out to his family. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Our prayers go out to the family as well. Masi. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 402-18(2): CHANGES TO ARCTIC FISH SPECIES DISTRIBUTION AND RANGE

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Earlier on I spoke about active fish species, and my first question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is how is the department involved in monitoring changes to species range and habitat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Environmental and Natural Resources.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, they do have the lead role in managing Canada's fisheries including those in the NWT. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, we're responsible for managing sport fishing regulations and issuing licenses to NWT residents and visitors. We also provide funding through the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

to conduct studies on salmon, among a number of other things. In the case of salmon, this is a partnership approach with the University of Manitoba and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine how the movement of salmon into new habitat will affect species like char and act as indicators to climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Mr. Speaker, my second question to the Minister is can the Minister explain how invasive species are different from species like Chum salmon that are becoming more widespread in the Northwest Territories.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the change in climate is causing a movement and introduction of new species in the NWT every year. The impacts of these new species are complex and will take some time to determine how they affect our ecosystem. Invasive alien species are generally species that are introduced by people and the movement of salmon to different parts of the Northwest Territories is naturally occurring, not by people, and the salmon are therefore called invasive alien species. They are considered pioneering species.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my third question is how has the department incorporated traditional knowledge into this work on invasive species?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the knowledge of your elders is essential and very important to tracking and learning about changes in our climate. There are observations of species changing ranges and habitats and the new introduction of species is how these changes will affect our ecosystem. ENR works with elders at wildlife workshops in the regions and collect this valuable information to help us with our added adaptation to climate change and the experience and the knowledge that they bring is very important to the work we do at ENR.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral Questions. Member for Nunakput

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Mr. Speaker, my final question for the Minister is does the department have concerns that species that are migrating further north with drive out plants and animals that have been the keystone of northern landscape and harvested from the land for a millennia?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the department, we share these concerns with these species working their way further migrating. However, as our climate is changing we are starting to see the movement of new species out of their natural ranges to the Northwest Territories, and it's

awfully difficult with climate change for us to stop these migrations, and it's just something that we have to adapt to and try to work with and see what type of an effect it will have on our ecosystems, and we will continue to do that work and keep Members apprised as to the work we're doing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 403-18(2):  
SENIORS SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM  
FUNDING

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I talked about my communication with the MACA Minister on the support for seniors and sports and recreation. In reply, the Minister indicated that her department is actively encouraging development of an application to support these types of services. How actively though is the department involved? That is, has the department proactively assigned an expert policy program delivery staff to assist in the drafting of proposals or is it simply asking seniors representatives to develop applications and come back with further revisions? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. There are a couple questions there. Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that'll count for two of the questions then. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is actually very active in trying to support seniors. We recognize that we need to address more and not only from seniors but from cradle to grave, and so we need to address the whole spectrum of sports and recreation within our territories.

So on that end, I mean we do provide some support currently. We support the Elders in Motion Program through the NWT Recreation and Parks Association and the Canada 55+ Games which is provided through Sport North. Of the 55+ Games, 38 athletes actually attended from the Northwest Territories. They competed in nine sports and won a total of 16 medals in swimming, bowling, cycling and darts. They received \$14,000 from Sport North this past summer and it covered uniforms and pins. But we do recognize that we still have a long way to go, and so like I had said yesterday in question period we are in the process of contacting and I know we've reached some, I don't know if we've reached them all -- we're contacting all the five sports and recreation associations to bring them to a table.

Our plan is to address all of the gaps and the duplications that these organizations are providing at this point. Seniors, youth, all of that will be put on the table to address that and then we'll be working

with them to develop a new business plan to see where they can go forward with the fiscal constraints where we are today.

So we are recognizing that we have a long way to go but we're being very proactive in actually trying to address the needs of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I think I heard a little slip there; the word "fiscal" came into the picture. I did want to ask the Minister, I've got some ideas here, but in view of that MACA only delivers their programs through third parties at the present time, why doesn't MACA include specific terms and conditions in their agreements with these organizations, requiring funding such as a percent of budgets, specific dollar amounts, or required minimal amounts be dedicated to seniors?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Currently, we don't have anything within our application process that I know that states what programs or financial amounts that we dedicate specifically for seniors. But, like stated in my previous answer, we are bringing all of the organizations together to see if we can actually address better the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories. I will carry forward the Member's comments to that meeting with the organizations and see if there is more that we can do.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Again, I appreciate the response from the Minister. I wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall in that meeting. Can the Minister commit to report back to Members the results of this meeting, identifying gaps and what sort of commitments might be made with regard to support for seniors in sports and recreation?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Like I said before, we are bringing the organizations together. It probably will be a little bit of a process to get through identifying what the duplications are, what the gaps are, who's going to take them on, how we develop that, where we go forward, but I can commit to once all of that information is received that I will put that forward to all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate the response from the Minister. The Minister sort of outlined what might be a rather lengthy process here and I'm just a bit concerned about that. Does the Minister have any sense of what the timing of these meetings are and who is going to be invited? Could she just give us a few details about that? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** So I can say that the five sports and rec organizations will be at the table. I can get a list of the five. I knew it yesterday, I'm thinking I'm forgetting a few of them today so I don't want to state and forget some of them, so I will provide that to the Members. The timeline is difficult. It's really hard to say what time that it will be finished. I am respectful that there are some issues with the groups; they might not want to hear about overlaps, there might be some contention. So I can commit, though, that it is a priority for me and that as soon as the results are in I will get that to Members, but I can't say specifically when because it will depend on the feedback and the interactions that we have with the organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 404-18(2):  
PHYSICAL LITERACY SKILLS FOR SENIORS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I spoke about the importance of physical literacy for older adults. I'm not talking about sport, I'm not talking about recreation; I'm talking about physical literacy. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs advise this House what the department is doing for older adults as it relates to their physical literacy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As stated earlier, currently the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is providing funding to NWT Recreation and Parks Association, which is one of the five, for the Elders in Motion program, and we're also providing it for the Canada 55+ Games. We do recognize that there is an issue with physical literacy and so that will be a topic that's on the agenda.

I should also state that there has been a representative from one of the seniors' organizations that has recently come forward and asked if we would consider working with them also to provide a new program for seniors. I don't have the details on that, but I do know that we have expressed more than interest in working with senior groups to provide supports to seniors.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for her answer. I guess I'm a little bit concerned. We're talking about third-party funding, so the department gives funding to the two of the partners to run events. But I guess my thing is I was looking for the department, and I appreciate that they're working with the seniors, or older adults as they want to be

called. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke about some of the benefits of physical literacy for older adults. Can the Minister advise the House if the department is willing to promote the benefits of physical literacy to the residents of the NWT?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, I think that we don't do a good job in actually promoting the benefits of sports and recreation. I think we do but we could do better, and so we will work on developing that as well. Again, it is something that we should be bringing to the five organizations because I also think that they have a role in the promotion of sports and recreation throughout the Northwest Territories. So again, like I said, I will commit to bringing that issue to the table when we meet with them all and see if it becomes solely a department issue or if it's something that all of the organizations should take part in, because, in my personal opinion, I believe it should be a shared responsibility.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for her answer, but we need leadership, that's what we're looking for, and we need the department to show the leadership then the five partners will follow in stride with it. Physical literacy is important. It's just not sports, it's just not recreation, it's about wellness we're looking for. I realize older adults and seniors cross over other departments. Can the Minister advise the House if there's a committee, Ministers, or departmental staff that work together to help provide older adults with programs to help improve their lives?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** At this time no, there is not an interdepartmental committee to look at sports, rec and physical literacy for people in the Northwest Territories. That is the responsibility of the Municipal and Community Affairs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually learned something today on this file. I thought that there would be an ECE, Health and Department of MACA working looking after seniors and that's, you know, promoting their health and that and I wish we would work with that.

Mr. Speaker, this past June I read in the news that the department provided little if no support for the 50+ Games. I've heard the Minister say that there were some pins and uniforms and that. Actually, one of your colleagues actually attended the games and did quite well, I heard, and I thank him for, you know, promoting physical literacy and a better way of life. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain to the House why is it the department provides little or no

support for these type of games for seniors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I'm going to take the opportunity to actually address two issues that were brought up by the Member. The first one was that there is no coordination within the departments to deal with seniors specifically; that is not true. My understanding was there is an interdepartmental group. There is no interdepartmental group; however, we do have a Minister responsible for seniors who works with all of the departments to compile the information supports and to lobby and advocate with us to provide supports to seniors.

The second thing I will address is the question. It was talking about the 55+. Like I said, we did give \$14,000 to Sport North this summer for the 55+ games. They used it to cover uniforms and pins. But we have made a commitment, and that was from the past Minister and it still follows through with myself as the new Minister, that every organization will receive the same amount of funding as they got last year and, if not, then maybe more. I will honour that commitment, and I do promise that there will be at least the amount of funding if not more for seniors. I have a personal stake in this as well. I am over 55. I want to make sure that we take care of ours. I don't want to be one of the people that fall off and aren't physically active. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 405-18(2):  
SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AGING IN PLACE

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health on the question of funding and support for seniors, in particular aging in place. Mr. Speaker, the Minister recently stated that while federal health funding is diminishing, there is a new funding anticipated. Can the Minister provide the status of that funding and indicate to the assembly, if approved, what will it be used for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the federal election, there was an indication that there would be money allocated to provinces and territories by the federal government, about \$3.9 billion over a four-year period. We don't actually know how they plan to distribute those dollars or what the criteria is for utilizing those dollars are. If past predicts future, and they use the same types of formula as they have in the past, which is often population-based, we could get as

much as \$3.6 million over the four years, which works out to just over \$900,000 a year.

We, and all the other provinces and territories, are working with the federal government to figure out how to distribute those funds and what those funds can be utilized for. It is clear that it is for home care but not the scope and nature. In the past, there have been some concerns about some of the federal dollars that are rolled out that have been very specific. There hasn't been a lot of flexibility. The provinces and territories are suggesting to Ottawa that our needs across this country are different, and there needs to be some room for flexibility.

One of our concerns about the dollars, when they do flow, is they are often referred to as boutique funds or short-term funds. We will get four years of money, and we have to be cautious about setting up programs or delivering programs that become expected and we are required to continue to deliver them because the federal money will end. As we are accessing these monies, we need to figure out how to ensure that we are either set up to continue programs or that they are utilized to help us design programs that we then have to come to this House to fund. But as the Member knows, we do have financial challenges here in the Northwest Territories. We need to make choices here in this building about cuts, reductions, corrections in order to invest in new initiatives. We are all going to have to work together to find out where the money is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I thank the Minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the question I would like to ask, the "Our Elders: Our Communities" frameworks speaks of the need to support seniors in aging in place in the community to delay the need for long-term care. Can the Minister elaborate on some of the steps that are being taken to support aging in place in our communities?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned it before. We are working on a continuing care services action plan, which is helping us to quantify the needs and demands out there for things like home care and other supports that we can be providing for our seniors. We hope to have that action plan done by the end of this fiscal year, at which point I will be coming to committee to have some discussions on the plan itself and how we can work together to roll that plan out and make sure that we are meeting the broad range of needs of seniors across this territory.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I appreciate the response and am looking forward to that plan. My next question, Mr. Speaker, is a disturbing trend is that of elders being neglected or taken advantage of or even abused. Can the Minister describe how the



department is collaborating with the NWT Seniors' Society in developing training for the prevention of abuse of elders?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue, not just in the Northwest Territories, but across Canada. We have made dollars available to the NWT Seniors' Society, who I do have to applaud for the amazing work that they have done on creating programs and awareness around elder abuse here in the Northwest Territories. We have made technical staff available to them, as they need, to help with information, but they have really taken the lead on the development of this. We do what we can to help promote it and to get that information out there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral Questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the Minister for his response. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my statement, an important element of healthy aging is in engagement with social circles and activities within the communities. Can the Minister describe ways the department is trying to make that happen, even in the smaller communities? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, traditionally, we have supported some of the different senior societies around the Northwest Territories who have done a lot of this work. But in our design of independent living units and other facilities around the Northwest Territories, we have actually allowed for space where seniors can get together and do programming, whether we are delivering the programming or whether it is community groups who are delivering the programs.

I would suggest that the Member or any of the Members have an opportunity to take a look at one of our new independent living units put together by the Housing Corp, such as the one at Fort Liard. Go check it out, see the space that is available, and you will get a sense of the type of space we are trying to create for individuals to do group activities and gatherings to support socialization.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 406-18(2):  
NUTRITION NORTH PROGRAM REDESIGN

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today on the Nutrition North program is addressed to the Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. The question is we have an NWT agricultural strategy, and with the Nutrition North program, I am wondering if there is a

willingness to move ahead in merging both counterparts on the program delivery and if the Minister is willing to engage in federal discussions with their federal counterpart that deliver that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, we were very pleased when the government came through with his election promises to increase the funding for the Nutrition North programming and also added four communities from the Northwest Territories to the Nutrition North program. The federal government is now undertaking a consultation process with selected communities. I have met with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Ms. Bennett, and I have suggested exactly that, that they should transfer the funding from the program for those communities in the Northwest Territories because it ties in very nicely to all of our initiatives for locally-grown, northern foods. I should also add that the Senate of the Northwest Territories is also supportive of that approach. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I am glad to hear that there are four additional communities going to the subsidy list and then also some capital to increase the program delivery. My second question, Mr. Speaker, is the Premier willing to invite Ms. Bennett so we can have some discussions with the community-based leaders that are fully engaged in the interests of the home-growing program?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I should point out that the Nutrition North Canada program is jointly funded by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and also Health Canada, and I believe that the chair of the Advisory Committee is from the Beaufort-Delta. We have had a number of meetings with Minister Bennett. The three Northern Premiers have jointly written to her to pass on what we think the objectives of the Nutrition North program is. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada is consulting with selected communities and they have indicated that they will be consulting with myself or the Northwest Territories at some point in the near future.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is I look forward to the dates placed forward for this potential meeting here and we can relay that message on to the regional interested parties there; I have several in my riding that would be glad to accept the invitation to participate and talk to the federal counterparts on how to redesign

in person the program for better delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** More so of a comment from the Member. I'll allow the Premier to answer your question.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I should point out that it's very important to engage with the Government of Canada on this issue because while the increased funding and increase in the number of communities was very welcome, it's not clear whether these expenditures are providing effective action in achieving the program's goal of increasing access to perishable nutrition. So I applaud the government for reaching out to the communities, the ones that are most affected by it, to find out how they can make a program more transparent, effective and accountable to Northerners and other Canadians that benefit from this program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 407-18(2):  
SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my Member's statement on summer students I have questions for the Minister of Human Resources. Can the Minister advise this House how many students applied for the summer employment with GNWT in 2016 and how many were hired? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

**MR. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We had 628 summer student applications in 2016; out of that 306 students were hired.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise if there's going to be any sort of strategy to increase that number for the coming summer of 2017?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** HR has begun a review of the summer student program and a review will also be undertaken with the graduate internship program, and both of these reviews are being done under the Student and Youth Initiative to further enhance existing recruitment initiatives. Our Premier has encouraged all Ministers to try and take on as many summer students as possible. The former Minister of HR has tried to encourage all Ministers to take on as many summer students as possible through their department, and I will commit to this House that I will have a conversation with the Ministers and see how we can improve our summer student hires.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, that is the same process we've been following for quite a number of years and, as a result, the number stays around 300. What I was talking about in my Member's statement is trying to find a way to actually increase that number substantially, so just talking about it more is probably not going to do that. So I'm going to ask the Minister if the Minister is prepared to sit down with Cabinet and set some concrete numbers for each department and have the departments hold to those numbers?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to just point out that our vacancy rate, we have about 231 vacancies as of June 30<sup>th</sup> -- 231.85 vacancies at June 30<sup>th</sup>, and I know the Member has said that we have been talking about this for a while and I think when we gather here next fall then Members can -- well, hopefully, we'll have a better indicator of the summer students that were hired over the summer.

As I said before, our Premier and the former Minister of HR and the current Minister of HR will encourage our departments to see how we can better utilize our summer students, because we do recognize that it's very important for our students that are attending school to get summer employment so they can be ready for school again in the fall. So, I mean, I've made a commitment to this House that I will work with the colleagues to see if we can improve on those numbers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I feel like there should be a setting of a target so that we do actually meet the target. The Minister just quoted a number of 230-something vacancies, but we haven't seen a PeopleSoft report. We were talking 900 people at one point, there's 900 vacancies. I'm wondering if the 200 vacancies are just the current number that the department is trying to recruit as opposed to the actual vacancy number of which many of them are contracts, casuals and whatnot. So again I'd like to ask the Minister: on summer students, if Cabinet can set an actual number and hold the departments to that number? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if we could set a concrete number. I mean, what I could commit to, and I've said it before, is we could either meet and beat this year's total, I think which would be an improvement, and so that's the goal we'll strive for. Again, I'll work with my Cabinet colleagues to encourage them -- to encourage their departments to bring on more summer students. So that's the direction we go, and again, as we gather this time next year I think we'll have a good indication if I fulfil that commitment or not.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 408-18(2):  
MOULD REMEDIATION IN ELDERS' HOUSING  
UNITS

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I made the statement on the mould in houses and elders moving out of their homes, so my questions are to the Minister of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Elders have moved out about two months ago, so when will the remediation of elders' homes in Fort Providence be complete? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mould remediation actually has to be done by qualified contractors. When we realized that there was some incidents of mould in the seniors' units we did put out a request for proposals. The people that were -- local agencies actually were at capacity and they didn't want to bid on it because they were already -- they didn't have the time to complete the work, so we did have to go south actually to get the specialization to deal with that.

Currently, though, what is happening now is three of the four units are currently ready for occupancy, so I believe the people are in the process of moving in. One senior, ironically, has requested an extension, they don't want to move back to their unit yet, because they're waiting for a bed to arrive that they've ordered, a special bed. So we have allowed them to actually not move back until they've received their bed that they've asked for. Then the last unit actually, the mould test that we did -- because we have to do a test before; after the remediation we do another test to make sure things are fine, the mould test results received indicated that the last unit does need to have further cleaning and testing on it, so that unit has now been cleaned. Again, we retested it on October 26<sup>th</sup>, and the results should be back within a week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** I'd like to thank the Minister for her reply. The larger question is: what is the Housing Corporation's policy to address identified health risks in housing stock? These are homes that were built in the 70s. Mahsi.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker. The policy within the Housing Corporation is that we have a limit on housing, so, when houses get too close to 50 years old, then we try not to do too much renovation. We do an assessment to see if it would be cheaper for us actually to build a new unit. When they get to the homes in the '70s, after I did

the math on my fingers, actually will be hitting that time zone so that we look at: is it more cost effective to actually renovate, or is it more cost effective to actually demolish them and put up new units?

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, the other question is: Why are certain contractors being used to complete remediation work in Fort Providence when it could be done by local people instead of bringing people from the south? Mahsi.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, as I had stated in the first question from the Member, actually I did explain that mould remediation actually is a specialized procedure and so not everyone can actually perform that work. There are two companies in the Member's area that can do that work, but they were at capacity with other jobs and so they weren't interested in taking that on. Therefore, we had no choice other than to look elsewhere because our priority is to deal with the mould. It was a priority, so we took what was available to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister reassure elders that they will be back in their homes by Christmastime? Mahsi.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Like I had said earlier, again, two of the elders actually have been returned to their units. One of them is waiting for a bed. I'm really hoping that that senior doesn't have to wait till Christmas to get a bed in there. Then the third one, we're just waiting for the final tests. I will do all within my power to make sure that these seniors have a home for Christmas.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 409-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE DOWNTOWN ROAD MAP AND  
ACTION PLAN

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I know the Minister was at the launch of the Downtown Road Map report last week and that he's been a supporter of its development. It's my understanding that the investment in services for intoxicated people falls to his department. Could the Minister confirm that the 11 priorities in the report are his priorities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we

are committed to addressing the issues of homelessness and recognizing that homelessness is a very complex situation caused by many factors. Health and Social Services is committed to working on the items in the action plan that have been identified as a Health and Social Services responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, some of the priorities in the action plan which are Health and Social Services priorities include the development of a sobering centre. Could the Minister tell us how and when priorities such as those, that come under his department, will be funded? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm already on the record, indicating that I've already directed the department to begin the work on the development of a sobering centre. In fact, we're out currently looking for a location for a sobering centre here, in Yellowknife. As the Minister responsible for Homelessness pointed out, initially, we're intending to fund that from within. We need to get it in place, figure out what the costs are going to be, and move forward accordingly.

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether he is looking at contracting a nonprofit to deliver the services of the sobering centre or whether that will be done by departmental staff? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, in the design, we're looking at both options, and we haven't yet come to a conclusion, but we are exploring, basically, all the options to move this initiative forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the most courageous and positive proposals in the road map is the creation of a managed alcohol program. Of course, implementation of this proposal will require healthcare professionals who are very knowledgeable about harm reduction. Is the Minister prepared to do the pilot project that the road map suggests? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These questions came up, very similar questions came up, a week or two ago. At that time, I indicated the Department of Health and Social Services is absolutely open to doing a pilot in this area, harm reduction, managed alcohol, but the first thing we need to do, Mr. Speaker, is get the sobering centre up and running. It will be our priority once the sobering centre is up and running.

We'll be in a better position to design a managed alcohol program. In my mind and I think the mind of others, the two of these come together quite nicely, and this would be the appropriate way to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 410-18(2):  
AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON MUNICIPAL SERVICES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the "Auditor General's Report on Municipal and Community Affairs," it appears that to correct many of these recommendations and the responses from the department, itself, will require further resources. It talks about adding additional resources for training, additional staff. Quite a significant amount of work needs to be done to implement this. Has the Minister begun the process of costing this out, and can she inform this House of what this increased funding will require of our government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the new Minister -- I've taken over the Municipal and Community Affairs -- I was aware that the audit was in the process, but it was only yesterday or the day before yesterday that the audit was shared with me. It is a confidential document and is not allowed to be distributed until it's finished. So, being that I've only just been presented with the audit by the auditors, and I'm not sure if it was yesterday or the day before but just within the last two days, I haven't really thought about all of the costing, in all honesty. I'm still looking at the recommendations and seeing what, prioritizing, where we need to move forward with that. Thank you, speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister provided a similar response yesterday, that this is the first opportunity the Minister has been able to see the report. However, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the media report reported the deputy minister at the time reporting to have seen a preliminary version of this report and to have made recommendations. In the final report from the Auditor General's office, the department agrees with all recommendations. Although I know the Minister is new in this role, the department has been working on this for at least a year, and that's from the Auditor General's office. If the Minister is not prepared to answer fully, what is the department saying? Surely the department must have a detailed and thorough plan to address these deficiencies and how much it's going to cost

so this House can know if it's going to put more pressure on our fiscal crisis.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** The Member is correct in many means. I mean, the Auditor General does work with the department very closely to address the areas. They look at the plan. They address the areas where they are going to look at. They ask questions. They ask for research. They get documents back. They ask more questions. So it is quite a process. The department does have some knowledge, preliminary, even guesstimates, preliminary, on where the audit is going to go. They are provided a draft. Then they are allowed to put recommendations in that. I believe it is a last chance to appeal any of the decisions that are made.

The Auditor General is very strict in saying that document is not allowed to be released until they are finished the report. Therefore, even as Minister, I do not get access to that document until I have met with the auditors. I am not sure if it is a legislation, but it is their rules that says that the document is not allowed to leave their hands until they are finished with it. So I have only received that document, and I am in the process of reviewing it. It is not the department's job to define what the priorities are. It will be my job to define what the priorities are. I take that audit very seriously and will be doing a thorough review of the audit.

**MR. TESTART:** I appreciate the Minister clarifying that for the benefit of the public. If that is the case then who is writing in the report that they agree with the audit and laying out action plans that include items that require cost? Thank you.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** So the auditor does work with the management team within the departments when they are looking at recommendations when they are addressing what is going to be in the actual audit. That is done by the management team, but like I said again, that information is not share with the Minister until it is publicly released. That was only publicly released to me within the last couple of days.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that case, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister then, as she does not put pen to these recommendations, does she in fact support everything that her management team has put forward, and will she find the means to pay for it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** When I met with the Auditor General, we went through the report thoroughly. I agreed with all of the recommendations, and I did make a commitment

that I would work towards addressing the recommendations that are in the audit.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

QUESTION 411-18(2):  
GROUND AMBULANCE AND HIGHWAY RESCUE  
SERVICES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have questions for the Minister of MACA. MACA prepared a report on highway rescue and ground ambulance services in 2006. Ten years ago, this was already an important enough issue to warrant a report. According to the Minister's predecessor, it is an issue that is brought up every year at the NWT Association of Communities' AGM. I have brought it to the Minister's attention in this House, outside of this House, the Town of Hay River has brought it to your attention, and I am sure they are not the only municipality to do so.

Given the desire to deal with this issue, for the funding and the legislation of highway rescue and ground ambulance services, I would like to hear the Minister's plan to address the funding and legislative issues related to ground ambulance and highway services once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs actually has done a lot of work with looking at the ground ambulance and the highway rescue services that we provide to the Northwest Territories. We do have some agreements in place where the municipalities that have the ambulance services actually are able to extend their boundaries outside of their municipalities. That is a coordinated approach that we do. The team was the Departments of Justice, Transportation, Health and Social Services, and Municipal and Community Affairs, who took the lead on that committee that we did.

I should also state that we also have air ambulance services that are provided. If there is a need, if somebody calls into the RCMP or the health centre and they need a medical response, it is sent over to a dispatch and the medical response will dispatch an air ambulance into the remote location. We have probably not the comprehensive that the Members would like, but we do have an interim plan until we can identify new funding to look further into this.

As stated many times by the Ministers, we need to ensure that we can do some reduction so that we can invest in new initiatives. This is a new initiative

that will cost millions of dollars. We need to make sure that we are using our finances appropriately and that we can look for money to provide this service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I am aware of what has happened since 2006. The previous Minister gave me the same explanation. The plan seems to be the status quo minus the funding. That is not much of a plan. I don't want this to be my white whale, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Minister have an idea of when actual steps are going to be taken to start addressing this issue, even if it is next year, the year after, the year after, if they have a plan for 2025? Is there a timeline where we can expect real progress?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** The departments have worked really hard on this issue. We do feel that we have a coordinated approach to dealing with it currently. I do hear the Member's concerns that we are not doing enough. I can't give a timeline on it, in all honesty, but I can commit that I will talk to the departments and see if we can provide a response to the Member on what kind of timeline we are looking at.

**MR. SIMPSON:** The bottom line is that no one has a responsibility to provide highway rescue services on the territorial highways. Twenty-seven communities don't have ground ambulances. That is the bottom line. I would just like to ask this: given this coordinated effort that I wouldn't really call an effective plan, would the Minister commit to at the very, very least keeping the \$180,000 in 2017-18 budget?

---Applause

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Again, public safety is a concern not only to the Member but to all of us on Cabinet as well as the Regular Members. We are conscious of our fiscal reality. But I can commit to working with Cabinet, the Minister of Finance and Cabinet, my colleagues, to see if we can address the issue.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, that wasn't a no. I will take it. I will follow-up again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. I will take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 412-18(2):  
MULTI-UNIT SENIORS' HOUSING IN SMALL  
COMMUNITIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have some questions for the Minister of Housing. Last week I spoke about the nine-plex and the seniors' complex that the Housing Corporation and the Health Department worked

together to build, a nice facility. Will the Minister please advise the House if the Housing Corporation is looking at developing a four-unit complex for smaller communities to help ensure elders stay in their home communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is really nice to be able to say yes sometimes. So yes, we are actually looking at a four-plex model that we will actually be providing. We are trying to move away from the independent units. We recognize that there is more cost effectiveness and energy efficiency with units that aren't single. Yes, I can commit to looking at a four-plex for the smaller communities. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. THOMPSON:** I should stop now. I got a yes and leave it alone.

---Laughter

I know, I know. Too late. It is on the record. Will the Minister look at maybe -- I'd like the answer "yes." Now will the Minister look at maybe a pilot project in my region in the smaller communities or one of my colleagues' smaller communities? Will she start looking at doing that? I know you're looking at it but actually let's get some action and actually do it and put some -- how do you say it? Feet to the ground and go and make a commitment to doing a pilot project next year in one of the regions or five pilot projects as you did with the nine-plex. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, I will commit to doing a pilot project of at least one four-plex for seniors in a small community. I will not commit --

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Sahtu. Sahtu.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** to it being in the Member's community

---Laughter.

in that I'm very conscious that I need to make sure that we put units based on need, not just units based on political will. So I will make sure that we look at the wait list, we look at the amount of seniors in small communities, and the small community with the greatest need will receive the pilot project.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I sort of, kind of thank the Minister for her answer. If it's a yes in my riding that would be great; however,

I'd like to actually see maybe five four-plexes in there and look at that for a pilot project. So it's just in different areas of the territory, so if it's a designated community, hamlet, town, village, across the territory. Even some of them may be communities of Inuvik maybe we could look at, you know.

---Laughter

So we could look at that. So --

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yellowknife.

**MR. THOMPSON:** -- Mr. Speaker, can the Minister make a commitment to work with us to get these projects -- at least five. I know there's a long waiting list; I've heard of a whole bunch, and I think every Member here has heard that. So will the Minister make that commitment to at least five pilot projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, I'll talk to them. I will not commit to doing five in the communities. I try to honour my word and I try to be reasonable and be able to achieve what I commit to, and so I will commit to doing one pilot project of a four-plex and after that do an assessment.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 413-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE DAY SHELTER

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few more questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. So given the fact that these new services will be introduced to the intoxicated and homeless population downtown, what is the future of the day shelter? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**MR. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we just recently renewed the contract for the day shelter in its current location. I have made a commitment to move the day shelter to a different location recognizing the public outcry against its current location but we had to renew the contract because we haven't actually been able to find another location. We're prepared to move it as soon as we find another more suitable location for the day shelter.

However, on top of that, we have also moved forward with expanding the hours; it's now a 12-hour a day from seven to seven. That should happen in the next couple of months, we're just working out the details with the provider. There has been some suggestion that we try to utilize one building for both the sobering centre and the day

shelter; there would have to be separate entrances. That might prove to be a way to control some of our spending, but we have to be aware that we may not be able to find a location that can meet both those needs.

So for today, the day shelter is in its current location, the hours are being expanded, and a few other additions are being added and hopefully we can find another location to satisfy the demands of the downtown core.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Nahendeh.

**Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills**

BILL 5:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE VITAL STATISTICS ACT

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to this Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Development has reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act and wish to report that Bill 5 is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Bill 5 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 75(5) to have Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act, moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 75(5) and have Bill 5: An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 5 is moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Masi. Reports of committee on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 178-18(2):  
STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL OF THE NWT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Status of Women Council of the NWT Annual Report 2015-2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Health and Social Services.

TABLED DOCUMENT 180-18(2):  
NWT COMMUNITY COUNSELLING PROGRAM  
CLIENT SATISFACTION REPORT 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 180-18(2):  
PUBLIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT  
2016: NWT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
SYSTEM

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "The NWT Community Counselling Program Client Satisfaction Report 2016," and the "Public Performance Measures Report 2016: NWT Health and Social Services System." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

TABLED DOCUMENT 181-18(2):  
AURORA COLLEGE OPERATING  
BUDGET 2016-17

TABLED DOCUMENT 182-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
(YELLOWKNIFE PUBLIC DENOMINATIONAL  
DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY) BUDGET,  
JUNE 30, 2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 183-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 1  
2016-2017 APPROVED BUDGET

TABLED DOCUMENT 184-18(2):  
2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET - COMMISSION  
SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE TNO

TABLED DOCUMENT 185-18(2):  
2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET DETTAH  
DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY

TABLED DOCUMENT 186-18(2):  
TLICHO COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY  
OPERATING BUDGET 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 187-18(2):  
SAHTU DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
OPERATING BUDGET 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 188-18(2):  
SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION  
COUNCIL OPERATING BUDGET 2016-17

TABLED DOCUMENT 189-18(2):  
2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET FOR  
BEAUFORT-DELTA EDUCATION COUNCIL

TABLED DOCUMENT 190-18(2):  
2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET FOR K'ALEMI  
DENE SCHOOL

TABLED DOCUMENT 191-18(2):  
2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET FOR DEHCHO  
DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following 11 documents entitled "Aurora College Operating Budget 2016/17;" "Yellowknife Catholic Schools (Yellowknife Public Denominational District Education Authority) Budget, June 30, 2017;" "Yellowknife Education District No. 1 2016-2017 Approved Budget;" "2016-2017 Operating Budget - Commission scolaire francophone TNO"; "2016-2017 Operating Budget Dettah District Education Authority"; "Tlicho Community Services Agency Operating Budget 2016-2017"; "Sahtu Divisional Education Council Operating Budget 2016-2017;" "South Slave Divisional Education Council Operating Budget 2016-17;" "2016-2017 Operating Budget for Beaufort-Delta Education Council;" "2016-2017 Operating Budget for K'alemi Dene School;" and "2016-2017 Operating Budget for Dehcho Divisional Education Council." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 192-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 331-  
18(2): NWT WATER LICENSE DECISIONS

TABLED DOCUMENT 193-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 344-  
18(2): DARNLEY BAY MARINE PROTECTED  
AREA

**MR. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 331-18(2): NWT Water License Decisions" and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 344-18(2): Darnley Bay Marine Protected Area." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

TABLED DOCUMENT 194-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE HOMELESSNESS ROAD MAP  
ACTION PLAN – REPORT OF THE  
HOMELESSNESS WORKING GROUP, OCTOBER  
2016

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document "Yellowknife Homelessness Road Map Action Plan – Report of the Homelessness Working Group, October 2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 195-18(2):  
CORRESPONDENCE DATED OCTOBER 12,  
2016, FROM THE ASSOCIATION DES PARENTS  
AYANTS DROIT DE YELLOWKNIFE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I wish to table a letter from the Association des parents ayants droit de Yellowknife to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about the lack of consultation on a proposal that's gone into Heritage Canada, [Translation not provided]. Merci.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Kam Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 196-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFER ARTICLE DATED OCTOBER 26,  
2016: ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL FEELS THE PINCH

TABLED DOCUMENT 197-18(2):  
NORTHERN NEWS SERVICES ONLINE ARTICLE  
DATED SEPTEMBER 7, 2016: AUDITOR  
GENERAL EXAMINING MUNICIPAL SERVICES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the following two documents. One is an article from the Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Yellowknifer "St. Joseph School Feels the Pinch," and the second is from the Northern News Service Online from Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, entitled "Auditor General Examining Municipal Services."

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. 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 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018, Tabled Document 163-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018 for the Department of Public Works and Services and Department of Transportation, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to continue the deliberation of Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018, and we would like to consider the NWT Housing Corporation first, followed by Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We will continue deliberation after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will now call committee back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018, and we have agreed to begin with the NWT Housing Corporation. Does the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation have witnesses she would like to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I do, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses to committee.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Tom Williams, the president and CEO of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. On my right is Mr. Jim Martin. He's the vice president of finance and infrastructure services.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister Cochrane. We will begin with opening with general comments. Do any committee members have general comments? Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, just a few comments. I usually have almost the same ones every year. As I always say, the department does do well replacing units, but the main concern in the communities is actually adding to stock. A good example is in Fort McPherson and Aklavik we have in the neighbourhood of a three-year waiting list, in Aklavik especially.

We have younger people that want to get their own place and possibly start a family, but, you know, they are having to wait in the neighbourhood of three years for a unit. It's very discouraging for them, and I know their parents, too, are concerned. They want to encourage their children to get on their own two feet, and it's really challenging in the communities. As we do move forward, hopefully, you know, we could add more units to the communities and fill the gap that's there. I look forward to that, and, hopefully, we will have some new units in the near future, here. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation and on behalf of the department, we also are conscious of the need for additional units within our communities. That is part of the reason that we're doing the engagement survey, not to identify the problems that we have; we know we have problems. We're looking to identify solutions within that survey so that we can actually assist residents of the Northwest Territories to be more independent or semi-independent so that we can invest more into public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Further general comments on the NWT Housing Corporation? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm interested in what the Minister just indicated with public housing, encouraging independence and, I guess, essentially, moving towards home ownership. I'd like to ask the Minister if the Minister has a divestment plan for public housing.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. This is general comments, but I will allow the Minister to respond. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, we haven't actually made a formalized plan on what we are going to be doing because I did make a commitment to listening to the community members, but we have talked in draft about different areas, mortgages, lease to own, a variety of different options for home ownership that we will be expanding on once the survey results are in. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as general comments, without asking questions, I apologize. In general, I know that the Housing Corporation has this infrastructure plan for, for the most part, improving the public

housing inventory that they have on hand. I think it's very good. I notice that in my community where the Housing Corporation has been slowly renovating all of their inventory. It is getting to a stage where the authorities almost have new inventory.

One of the things that has become a point of contention or a difficult one to pin down seems to be the contribution as opposed to the capital, the programs that contribute to the community's housing inventory but it is not necessarily owned or is not for sure owned by the NWT housing corporation. I know that that is something that we, at some point, need to have a dialogue between ourselves here in this open House to discuss this with the Minister, but there doesn't seem to be a place to do it. I take this opportunity now to talk a little bit about that. If the Minister doesn't respond to me -- really just opening comments.

I think that is what the Housing Corporation needs, more than anything else, is to look at their contribution programs and look at all of the programs that are repaired, that are designated for home ownership, and look at the delivery of those programs. In light, I said, it is not really a venue at this point for that type of discussion, but just my comment is that we look at the programs, if it is under subscribed, at this point, I think that the corporation should maybe redevelop the programs or renew the programs so they are really something that would be applicable for what is on the ground today in our communities.

I know that it is a difficult time for individuals for all kinds of reasons that the Minister and I have been discussing for some of these programs to be delivered. I just hope that if this is not the time and place to discuss that, the Minister and I have lots of discussions anyway, but for the record I think it is important for people to know that when they are in their home communities and they are trying to apply for programs and they are having a difficult time getting assistance because of various obstacles like I have mentioned, insurance, land title -- land tenure I guess I should say -- mainly because of those two factors, it becomes very difficult. Even the houses that were at a time owned by the corporation or even houses that were built by the corporation under the same thing.

Overall, some way the housing inventory that doesn't belong to NWT Housing Corporation, I think they are doing a good job of maintaining these units, but the housing that does not belong to the corporation are deteriorating. That is all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since 2006, the Housing Corporation has invested approximately \$50 million towards home ownership, not renovations, but actually purchasing homes. I too have issues with the co-payment allocations. That is one of the areas that we will be looking at in depth to try to assist people. Today I was having a conversation with one of the MLAs, and he spoke to me and said one of the elders actually had been paying for years and was wondering why he didn't own his house. That really resonated with me and told me that we need to look at alternatives so that people can move into home ownership. It is something I am taking seriously and will be moving to action. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you for that, Minister. Next I have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. A number of these projects are classified as affordable housing: seven units in Fort Simpson, six units in Hay River, three units in Norman Wells. Can the Minister provide a definition of affordable housing as understood by the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Mr. Testart, there are no general comments right now on the department. Would you like to hold your questions until we get into the detail? Thank you. Next I have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We agree that we have concluded general comments on the NWT Housing Corporation.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** If committee would turn to page 67 in the capital estimates, I will let committee know that this is an information item only. It reflects a 2017-2018 planned expenditures of the NWT Housing Corporation for the infrastructure acquisition plan. The financing of these expenditures include funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and various other sources. Contribution funding is provided by the GNWT by the NWTHC's sponsoring department, the Department of Finance in the annual main estimates. This information is intended for review purposes only. We will not be voting on it, but we will be deliberating. The detail is contained on pages 68 through 71. If committee has comments, please indicate which page you are talking about. First I have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize for my earlier error. This would be on page 70. Again, there are three affordable housing projects

in Fort Simpson, Hay River, and Norman Wells. Can the department provide its definition of affordable housing? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Affordable housing is defined as market housing and the HELP program, which is a home ownership program. Just to add on, the "PH" is public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are these units being constructed for the purposes of accommodating the RCMP? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct. These units are to accommodate the RCMP members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to reiterate my strong opposition to the use of affordable housing for these units. These are market housing units, and they are designed to produce revenue for the GNWT as stated by the department. I disagree with the use of affordable housing on these item lines. I would encourage the department to re-evaluate its definitions.

I have another question, however. Recently, at the City of Yellowknife's Roadmap presentation, the Minister mentioned that Housing First models were being rolled out in other communities in the form of four-plex units. Are these contained anywhere on this list? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will address both of them actually. We will change the name from affordable housing for the RCMP. That is an easy fix. We won't do it in this, but we will do it moving forward. The second question was the units that are the four-plexes. They aren't in this business plan because actually they are in this current year's business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for being sensitive to that concern. I look forward to these documents, when they are voted on, containing the correct terminology. I appreciate that the four-plex projects are now considered Housing First. I will look forward to reviewing that as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Next I have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the whole area of procurement and capitalization for these capital projects and moving forward here, does the department, as part of the capital process, look at joint land tenure with Department of Lands so it will be more identified prior to the new building coming in sort of thing? I guess my question is, is it a current process to have a land tenure workshop between Housing Corporation and the Department of Lands in all regions? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NWT Housing Corporation, as part of our annual capital planning process, does take into consideration land requirements for the next three years of actual capital delivery. So, as part of that process, we certainly work closely with the Department of Lands as well as municipalities and other interests to identify land availability.

As part of that process, we can then more accurately plan our capital delivery for the three-year cycle that we follow, so, to answer the specific question, in terms of working with the Department of Lands, yes, we work very closely with the Department of Lands and would be open to continuing to participate in workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Yes, my last question related to land-tenure workshops: are these held on a scheduled basis in each region? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff has participated in the past in workshops with the Department of Lands. To the best of my knowledge, these are not regularly held, but certainly, as we hear about these opportunities, we would certainly be participating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One more comment: I would urge the department as part of the capital planning process to have joint land-tenure workshops with the Departments of Lands and Housing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you. I take that as a comment.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Next, I have Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm looking at page 70, and I see that the community of Gameti has one unit that will be retrofitted. I know that Gameti has one of the highest core needs in housing in the NWT, so I'm wondering what the relationship is between the core need and the allocation of retrofit dollars. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I'll let Mr. Martin answer the question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with regards to Gameti, just to step back for a moment, the NWT Housing Corporation in determining its capital allocations for 2017-2018 in this case did consider a number of variables, such as age and condition of our units. In particular here, with Gameti, the unit conditions right now are quite high, and, as a result of that, there was no need to invest additional dollars into our existing housing stock. That's reflective in our current allocations for 2017-2018. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have the housing survey in front of me, so I just remember that their core need number was in the high 40s. Is the witness then saying that most of that core need is that the houses are too small rather than the houses are in need of repair? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One other point to add here, related to this, would be that the Housing Corporation, although it's not investing in additional units in Gameti at this time, our corporation is investing over \$158,000 into home ownership programs to support private homeowners, which will contribute to supporting

core need in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the witness for his response. I'm still not really sure how the core need numbers are worked into the plan for retrofits in places like Gameti or anywhere else for that matter. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Would Mr. Martin like to clarify?

**MR. MARTIN:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just to reiterate earlier comments, the Housing Corporation certainly does consider the survey when considering allocations. However, there are a number of other factors that do also need to be considered in the process. In this particular case, the allocations for Gameti were primarily based in terms of age and condition of our existing housing stock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the witness has said that the Housing Corporation considers core need but other factors, so could he confirm that age and condition are factors that are in addition and outside of core need, or does he mean something else? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So then I have some questions about page 71, which shows there is a major retrofit of 103 units, so that's about a third of the Yellowknife Housing Authority stock. How was that number arrived at vis-a-vis the core need for Yellowknife? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Chair, would it be appropriate to ask the Member to repeat her question? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm now on page 71. I'm looking at the second line from the bottom, that says 103 units will be retrofitted

this year. I'm wondering how the NWT housing survey was used to determine that 103 units need retrofitting. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Cochrane.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular case -- sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I would just like to remind the witnesses that, if the Minister would like one of her witnesses to answer, to address it through the microphone while the light is on. Thank you. So, Mr. Martin, you can please continue.

**MR. MARTIN:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the Yellowknife retrofits, in this particular case here, again age and condition of the units was considered for that investment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this variable of age and condition seems to be a very powerful indicator of investment. What I see -- my colleague has called up the survey -- is that core housing need in Yellowknife is 17 per cent but the number of retrofits being proposed are 33 per cent. Maybe I could get a better idea of how these different elements are weighted. Do they each have an equal weight, or do they have unequal weights, whatever the weights are? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Mr. Martin address that question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, there are a number of factors that are taken into consideration in determining the funding allocations for year to year. In terms of specific weighting, there is no specific defined weighting that is followed amongst the various factors, although I would highlight that the NWT Housing Corporation does maintain very close monitoring and analysis of the age and conditions of our units.

We do have this data, and that does help us prioritize the limited dollars that we do have available to invest in our existing housing stock. It is an objective approach that we do follow in terms of prioritizing those dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that answer. What I was trying to get to was that there was some evidence base to the allocation of retrofit dollars among the various needs of the housing authority. It is good to know that there is an evidence base to that. I think it would be useful to include a little bit of an explanation of what that evidence is in this capital plan in years going forward. That is a comment. I don't have any other questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Would the Minister like to respond to the comment?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree. I think it is a wise idea. In capital plans in the future, we will add an explanation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you for that, Minister. Next I have Mr. Thompson, I believe.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to page 70, in there we are talking about affording housing, seven units. I do have a couple of questions in regards to these units. Can the Minister please advise if land has been secured for these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chair

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Martin will address that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Martin.

**MR. MARTIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As mentioned earlier, the Housing Corporation is very much involved in land acquisition to support our project delivery. In this particular case here, we have gone out, probably about a year ago now, for an expression of interest for land in Fort Simpson. We did receive a number of responses. We do continue to work with the proponents in that process. At this time, we haven't secured specific lots for this delivery as of yet, but we do intend to do this in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Mr. Martin for the answer. I am very concerned that you haven't got this land settled because we lost a health centre to the process of securing lands, so I want to make sure this department does not have any issues in securing this land. I guess I just want to get the commitment from the Minister to keep me

advised when this land is being purchased and we can start these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Member is aware that we did actually purchase some land in Fort Simpson. We found out after the fact that there were burial sites on it, so that land was deemed not suitable for use for housing, although we are going to put some markers on the grave sites just out of respect. We have looked at other options within the community of Fort Simpson, but the price was quite high. We are just in the process now of negotiating those prices for land. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, and I thank the Minister for her answer. Yes, I am aware of that land because it is right behind my office. I can see it when I look out the window. Yes, I am very aware of it. My concern, though, is that we haven't concretely got the land set up. That, there, concerns me, that we are talking about seven units, which is, my understanding, seven units for the RCMP that are detached, that look after Fort Simpson and Wrigley. My question again goes back to the Minister. Will she please keep me informed, or the department keep me informed, of this land when it is being purchased, so that we know that these projects don't get delayed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can confirm that, at this point, we are in the process of negotiating seven parcels of land for these units. Once the negotiations are complete, I will update the Member. At any time the Member wants to know the status, he is more than welcome to send an e-mail as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for her answer. Now, back to the project, the seven units. It talks about materials and supplies. Is this going to be stick-built or modular homes being brought in to the community to house the RCMP? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The RFP are put out to accommodate all, so

people can bid on the request for proposal either through stick-built, modular, or panel housing. We are open to all suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank the Minister for her short kind of an answer. I understand what the process is. Has the department worked with the RCMP to make sure that we actually build what they are looking for and not what is the most cost-effective way of do it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We work very closely. We participate in a working group with the RCMP to determine what their needs are. They are very specific in what they are looking for in units, so it is imperative that we work closely with them to make sure that we meet their needs. That you can, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that answer. In regards to the affordable housing, the title, is the department looking at rephrasing it? Because affordable housing, to me, looks like it is something for somebody else. This is actually specifically for the RCMP, so people look that this plan -- that they understand that. If we can make sure it is identified so people in the community of Fort Simpson don't think we have seven more units coming in there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Would the Minister like to reaffirm her earlier commitment?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the commitment made to MLA Testart, we have committed that in future we will change the names from affordable housing for the RCMP units. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for reaffirming that commitment here in the House. I thank you very much. In regards to this building here, these seven units, is there any better ranking for stick-built versus modular, or is it whatever comes in at the cheapest? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. All the applications or proposals are reviewed on the same criteria, although we are conscious that we do want to support northern businesses and preferably businesses in or close to the communities that are providing the services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I sort of kind of heard an answer, maybe I didn't. If my understanding is correct, and this is kind of a yes or no answer, it is just the bottom line. We look at it, if you provide these requirements, it is the bottom line. Whatever is the cheapest is what the corporation actually purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that is not correct. Price is one factor that we look at. There are a variety of factors that we look at when we define who will be the successful bidder, such as the northern -- the business incentive policy process, whether they are locally, whether they are community. So there are a number of factors that we look at when we determine who will be the winning component. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister again. I think we are working forward towards an answer. I guess my concern though is with modular homes being built, whether it is in the North or down south, the tradespeople in the communities are saying they are very difficult to maintain. When I say maintain, when damages happen to them, and they don't last as a stick-built does. So is this part of the proposal? Does the corporation actually look at this as part of their proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister, there is one minute left in Mr. Thompson's time if you'd like to respond.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The lifespan that we're working towards with both, either modular, stick built or panel, all of them is a 50-year lifespan, so we are working towards that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson, 30 seconds.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that answer and I'm hoping that these units will actually stay more than the 20 years that I have been advised with the challenges out there with modular homes, and I'm looking forward to a Northerner bringing these facilities into the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Seeing no new names on my list I'll allow Mr. McNeely to speak again. Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When I look at the list there on 70, 71 and the page prior 69, in alphabetical order on capital projects for the communities I don't see the little community of Colville Lake on there. My question is: during your survey needs assessment, reviews, allocation do you take into account seasonal access?

Because a little community like Colville or Deline is not on the list because of the fact they're inland away from the river. In case there's a barge that could mobilize materials and buildings in during the summer season as well as take advantage over the winter season the only ones that are left open for a one-per-year access is Colville and Deline, so do you take that into account? Because if you miss the whole year poor little Colville Lake is not going to get a house there until year two, so does the department take that seasonal access into account? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the department does take into consideration seasonal access. Colville Lake is one community that I haven't been to yet and I want to go to. The units, though, in Colville Lake actually have a high condition rating.

So over the last ten years the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has invested \$2.6 million into capital in Colville Lake and \$826,000 into home ownership and minor programs. In the last five years we built two public housing units in that community, and this current year we're building two affordable housing units in that community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a comment, not a question. I'm just happy to hear that the department takes the seasonal access communities in their review and assessment and allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. I see no further comments from

committee. As I stated this is an information item so we do not need to vote on it, but does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of the NWT Housing Corporation?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you, Minister.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Next we have agreed to consider the Department of Health and Social Services. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, please.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me on my left is Derek Elkin, assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, and on my right Perry Heath who is the director of infrastructure planning.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister, and welcome to the witnesses. The Department of Health and Social Services begins on page 30. First I will open the floor to general comments from committee. Do we have general comments?

I see no general comments. We will defer consideration of the total capital estimate until we consider the detail beginning on page 31. Comments, questions page 31, administrative and support services with related information on page 32. I'll give committee a moment. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if the Minister can tell us whether the Stanton project is still on schedule? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, it is, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So the estimates here, there's no variance then from what we had anticipated spending on Stanton? Thanks, Mr. Chair.



**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** No, there isn't, Mr. Chair, as far as I'm aware.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I heard an interesting phrase at the end, "as far as I know." So is there a variance or not? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** No variance, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you for that confirmation. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks. That's all I had.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Further to this section. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know the Minister has heard this numerous times probably from my former Member from Nahendeh and again from me on the floor: what's not in here? My biggest concern is our health centre in our region, which is a regional centre, which works with six communities and is addressing it. So I don't see Phase 2 of this in here or has that already been voted on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the planning study for the Fort Simpson Health Centre is in this fiscal year, so there is no money showing up for next fiscal year. We plan to have that work done this fiscal year.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I'm a little bit confused with the process, because there's a Phase 1 and a Phase 2. From what I've been told they're looking for land and they found the land. Now they're looking at coming up with a diagram or a project for this facility or the creation of it, so I'm trying to understand where that is part of the capital plan process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The budget for the planning study is in Public Works and Services. We have been working on this

project for a number of years. We had obviously hoped to have this moved forward previously but we had more difficulty gaining community acceptance of the parcel of land that would be utilized for the new health centre. It took longer than anticipated, which obviously delayed our ability to do a planning study. You can't do the planning study until you have the land because, if you're talking about design, build, how the facility is going to look, what programs you're going to need, you do have to have a sense of where the location is going to be. Unfortunately, it took longer to get to the planning study than we had hoped. As a result, we will not have the planning study done until the end of this fiscal year. As I've said in the House and I've said in the committee and I've said to the Member, the earliest we could see Fort Simpson getting into the capital plan is 2018-2019. I do have to note that it will have to compete against a large number of other projects, including health centres, school projects, and many, many other capital priorities of this Assembly.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I've heard him. Unfortunately, I don't think he's hearing and listening to what the community is saying and the region is saying. This is a regional health centre. It's not a community health centre. This is regional. It's serving six communities and it needs to be built, so I'm hoping that, you know, when we're sitting here talking about a health centre and we're the last one, is it because Stanton Hospital was the one that was being built? I've heard it being said, "No," but this is the message it looks like out there, is that we're the ones that are suffering the consequences. The land was an issue. The land is not an issue anymore, so, Mr. Chair, I'm hoping the Minister understands I've heard him, I've heard him in the House, I've heard him in the communities, but it's important that this health centre, it needs to be built for the residents of the Nahendeh, which is six communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm completely aware that this is a regional health centre, and I recognize without question the value in moving forward with this facility.

The Member has suggested maybe Stanton bumped this facility. I do have to point out that Stanton facility has been in discussions and negotiations for well over ten years, probably approaching 12 years. The first time that we had a conversation about the Fort Simpson is when we

did some initial assessment on the pilings, which proved to be wrong, as a point, which was about 2012, so it's only been in the works for a couple of years.

But, as I've said before, you can't move any initiative forward like this until you've actually acquired the spot of land. If you're going to plan, you need to understand the ground you're building on, you need to understand its location so that you can incorporate plumbing and all of these things. It's all part of the planning study.

So, to be clear to the Member, we understand that this is a regional health centre, we understand the importance of this health centre, and we have been moving as quickly as we can, recognizing that you have to, you know, cross a few items on your check list before you can move forward. We've crossed those off, and we are moving forward as quickly as we can.

Unfortunately, as I've said before, the earliest we can expect to see this in the capital plan would be 2018-2019, and it will have to compete against all projects coming forward, and there are a lot of projects. I intend to push to get this onto the capital plan, but I think it's important for people to be aware of the realities. There are a lot of capital projects out there that need to get done.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Reality is reality, and I understand that. However, it seems that, when we were a hospital, the reality was we'll build a health centre and we're going to run it 24 hours. Now we're just going to rebuild you a new hospital and it isn't going to happen now. It has to compete because of land issues. I understand that, but the biggest problem is for the community. They're looking for a new health centre, the residents. I guess I'm hoping that it will be brought in here.

To move on from this topic is the Smbaa K'e Health Centre. My question in regards to that: who is responsible for this? Is this DPW, of the health centre? Because, when I talk to different people, some people say it's a Health issue, some people say it's a DPW issue, so the community is trying to figure out whom they have to work with to see if they can build it themselves or work on going to a stick-built or stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when it comes to health centres, health clinics, health cabins, those types of things, the Department of Health and Social Services is

essentially the client. We are identifying the program and the magnitude of programs and services that we need to be available through a facility, and the facility must be designed to meet those needs, but Public Works and Services is the builder.

Also, Public Works and Services, for Health and Social Services as for all other departments, has a responsibility for property management, which means they are managing leases, they're managing rent, they're doing all of those things on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. So, when it comes to something like a health cottage, cabin, whatever you want to call it, in Smbaa K'e, we have identified a need we are putting into this capital plan so that we can, you know, put some money aside to acquire the facility.

I've been to the community myself. I've had an opportunity to talk to the chief, who has made it very clear that they would like to own and rent a new health cabin exactly like they do today. We're supportive of that. We're open to that as a possibility, but, at the end of the day, it's the procurement department that will be making those decisions based on what is affordable.

I know that staff was supposed to be in Smbaa K'e yesterday. The chief indicated he was not available on short notice and the meeting was cancelled. We have indicated to them that we're happy to go in there whenever the chief can be available to discuss options on how we can move together. That meeting would obviously be with Public Works and Services, the chief, but also staff from Health and Social Services because, at the end of the day, we want to make sure that whatever is built or whatever is acquired meets our clinical needs.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I'm actually thankful we're clearing this picture up and very satisfied that you're working with the community, and the community seems to be very happy. I know that they want to own it. Does the department -- I guess this would be more for DPW questions, so I'll have to wait for that. Again, I thank the Minister for his answer. I'm done with this page. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Next on my list, I have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one question: I would like to get an update on the status of the health centre in Lutselk'e. First, it appears on the 20-year needs

assessment for 2017-2018, but I know it's not in the plan. I was wondering if the Minister could advise me when it does appear in the plan?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I would just like to remind all the Members to just indicate when you're done speaking with a "thank you" or something like that so the sound techs know when to switch the mics. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for clarity, have we finished the administrative and support services section, because all the questions seem to be related to community health programs?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** No. We have not called this page yet. Would the Members like to hold their questions for the appropriate section? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I'm okay with calling the page first.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. What I will do is call this page, and we can continue on to the next section. Health and Social Services, administrative and support services, infrastructure investments, \$84,746,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** We will now turn to page 33, with information on page 34. Mr. Beaulieu, please continue.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister will be prepared to answer the question I just asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the planning study for the Lutselk'e facility has been completed, and what it's proposing is a retrofit expansion for that facility. We are just waiting to find a way to get it into the queue when capital room is available.

It would be competing with Fort Simpson, assuming we get it done, which I anticipate we will, Tulita, Jean Marie River, and a number of other projects. We're trying to move all of these forward as quickly as we can.

The earliest that it would be in the budget would be 2018-2019, recognizing once again Tulita, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, and a number of other facilities and projects that we need to get done within the Department of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm satisfied with that response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Further for this section? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's a line item for 18 extended care beds in Yellowknife, and my understanding is some of those are going to Avens and some of those will be in the old Stanton Territorial Hospital facility. Do we have now a plan for the old facility, the old Stanton Hospital facility? That would be my question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the old Stanton facility will be managed by Venture, I believe is the name of the company, as part of the P3 Project. They're the property manager. They are ultimately the ones who get to decide what they're going to put and what they're not going to put in that facility. We have sought permission from FMB and we're seeking permission from the Members today to re-profile some of the extended care dollars and pursue an opportunity to put the 18 extended beds that we were going to build in the old building.

So we can to make a case to Venture that that would be a logical inclusion within the old facility. In the savings, we're hoping to utilize to negotiate with AVENS towards the construction of long-term care facility here in Yellowknife on the AVEN compound. So we're taking the old extended care project, trying to re-profile a little bit to move forward with extended care in the hospital and long-term care.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do recall during the election there was lot of discussion about what to do with that facility and whether it would be extended care, whether it would be a treatment centre, those kind of options. So can we expect any further expenditure on the old facility or will that now rest with the P3 partners? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once again, ultimately all the decisions on the old hospital are decisions that would be made by the P3 proponent in the property manager which is Venture. From my perspective, from the

perspective of Health and Social Services, we see a great opportunity to work with Venture to, you know, hopefully obtain more space for possibly more long-term care space.

We will obviously be pursuing to see if there's a business case in that; we'll be working with committee if there is. We will certainly pursue more space in more space in Stanton recognizing that ultimately the decision is not ours, it is the property manager of that building. But we believe we can make a solid case. Looking forward to committee's support.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Has this information got out to the public that this is -- apart from today's proceedings, but has that announcement been made public so people have an awareness, a sense of what's happening at the old facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We haven't done too much in the way of getting that information out there at this point because we haven't actually had any budget approved indicating that we can actually, you know, conclude or move forward, and we haven't got a fully formulated plan on putting in long-term care or any of those types of things in that facility, and we're working on a development of a plan to accommodate 258 beds in the Northwest Territories and we're pursuing lots of different options and research that'll allow us to support the 250 beds across the Northwest Territories. It's many pieces of the puzzle until we have a better sense of what the full picture is. We haven't done too much communication with the public at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Do I have anything further? I see nothing further, I will call the section. Health and Social Services, community health programs, infrastructure investments, \$10,725,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Will committee please return to page 30. Anything further? Last kick at the can. Seeing nothing, I will call the departmental total. Health and Social Services, total

capital estimate, \$95,471,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the witnesses. Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee agrees that consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move to report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favours? All those opposed?

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member for Hay River North.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018. I would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion carried. Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 6:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT  
ACT, 2016

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South that Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** I would like to request a recorded vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member is requesting a recorded vote on Bill 6. All those in favour please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** The Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please stand. All those abstain, please stand. Masi. The results of the vote: 16 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstention. Motion carried.

--- Carried

Third reading of bills. Minister of Justice. Motion is carried. Bill 6 had its third reading. Bill 8. Minister of Justice.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act, be read for the third time. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Member has requested a recorded vote on Bill 8. All those in favour, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** The Member for Thebacha, Member for Hay River North, Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please stand. All those abstention, please stand. The vote for Bill 8: 16 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstention. Motion is carried. Bill 8 had its third reading.

---Carried

Masi. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** Orders of the day for Friday, October 28, 2016, at 10:00 a.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 Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports 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
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018
  - Tabled Document 163-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 for the Department of Public Works and Services and Department of Transportation
  - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 28, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:03 p.m.