



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Monday, February 20, 2017**

Pages 1801 – 1858

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**  
(Monfwi)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

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*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*  
*Minister Responsible for Seniors*  
*Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities*  
*Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board*

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(Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Hon. Caroline Cochrane**

(Range Lake)  
*Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs*  
*Minister Responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation*  
*Minister Responsible for the Status of Women*  
*Lead Responsibility for Addressing Homelessness*

**Ms. Julie Green**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Bob McLeod**

(Yellowknife South)  
*Premier*  
*Minister of Executive*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations*

**Hon. Robert McLeod**

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*Deputy Premier*  
*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*  
*Minister of Human Resources*  
*Lead Responsibility for Infrastructure*

**Mr. Daniel McNeely**

(Sahtu)

**Hon. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)  
*Minister of Education, Culture and Employment*  
*Minister Responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Mr. Herbert Nakimayak**

(Nunakput)

**Mr. Kevin O'Reilly**

(Frame Lake)

**Hon. Wally Schumann**

(Hay River South)  
*Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment*  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*  
*Minister of Transportation*

**Hon. Louis Sebert**

(Thebacha)  
*Minister of Justice*  
*Minister of Lands*  
*Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation*  
*Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency*

**Mr. R.J. Simpson**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Kieron Testart**

(Kam Lake)

**Mr. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendeh)

**Mr. Cory Vanthuyne**

(Yellowknife North)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>1801</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1801</b>
138-18(2) – Slave Geological Province Access Corridor (Schumann) .....	1801
139-18(2) – Education, Training and Youth Development: Education, Culture and Employment Progress Statement (Moses) .....	1803
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1803</b>
Expanding the Economy through Investments in People (Vanthuyne) .....	1803
February Statutory Holiday Proposal (Testart) .....	1804
Return of Fort Providence Minor Hockey Program (Nadli) .....	1805
Regional Benefits of Mackenzie Valley Highway Construction (McNeely) .....	1805
Status of Transboundary Water Agreements (O'Reilly) .....	1806
Territorial Marine Resupply Services (Nakimayak) .....	1806
Proposed Elimination of Aurora College Social Work Program (Green) .....	1807
Overflow Water on Beaufort Delta Highways (Blake) .....	1807
Connie Loutit Memorial Soccer Tournament (Thompson) .....	1808
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>1809, 1821</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1809</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>1818</b>
<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>1818</b>
Bill 17 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act .....	1818
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Health and Social Services Professions Act .....	1818
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>1818</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>1857</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>1857</b>



## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, February 20, 2017

### Members Present

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

The House met at 1:20 p.m.

### Prayer

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Transportation.

### Ministers' Statements

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 138-18(2): SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE ACCESS CORRIDOR

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding to improve access into the Slave Geological Province. Today I would like to provide an update on the department's progress on this project.

Improving road access into the Slave Geological Province has been a long-term objective of the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories. This long-term vision includes connecting to an all-weather road and deep-water Arctic port in western Nunavut. Partnership with the Governments of Canada and Nunavut, as well as Aboriginal governments and industry, will better enable us to achieve this vision.

Climate change is increasingly affecting the Northwest Territory's transportation system, and investment in all-weather roads is one of the ways we can address those impacts. There is increased uncertainty regarding the feasibility and capacity of the existing winter road into the Slave Geological Province. This is due to warmer temperatures, more unpredictable weather, and the increased traffic projected to resupply the region's mining industry. Already, recent shortened operating seasons for winter roads have resulted in significant additional transportation costs and operational difficulties for mining developments in the Slave Geological Province.

The development of the Slave Geological Province

access corridor provides an opportunity to boost mineral exploration and development in this resource rich region and support our mining industry, which continues to directly contribute more than 30 per cent to the territorial economy.

An all-weather road to the Slave Geological Province will stabilize the resupply system to existing mines in the area, making it feasible to extend mine life. It will also enable new mineral exploration and development opportunities by increasing reliable access to resources.

Mr. Speaker, there are significant base and precious metal prospects in the Slave Geological Province that require all-weather access for exploration and development. By increasing access to the Slave Geological Province, the Government of the Northwest Territories will increase investor confidence and enable our territory to reach its full economic potential.

In addition to collaboration with the Governments of Canada, Nunavut, and Aboriginal governments, the development of an access corridor into the Slave Geological Province requires significant inter-departmental collaboration within the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Transportation has conducted numerous studies on this corridor over the last two decades. Based on the results of mineral potential and route option studies conducted by the departments of Transportation and Industry, Tourism and Investment, a corridor has been identified that will provide the greatest economic benefit to the region and the NWT. The departments of Transportation, Finance and Industry, Tourism and Investment are jointly conducting a P3 business case assessment of the chosen corridor. This business case is expected to be completed in mid-2017 and will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to make a better estimate of construction costs for this road, as well as determine an appropriate funding model.

In the meantime, the Department of Transportation continues to focus on next steps, including undertaking environmental studies and finalizing engineering and design work for the road.

The Department of Transportation is also working with caribou subject experts from the Department of

Environment and Natural Resources to identify any gaps in knowledge and opportunities to support the mandates of both departments.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut have set up a joint working group to collaborate on advancing the project from both territories. Both of our governments look forward to new opportunities to fund further planning and construction of the access corridor.

Improving territorial transportation infrastructure will remain one of the priorities of this government. This supports our commitment to improve the quality of life, lower the cost of living of our residents, support business and employment opportunities, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and maximize opportunities to realize our economic potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Education, Culture and Employment.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 139-18(2):  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT - EDUCATION, CULTURE AND  
EMPLOYMENT PROGRESS STATEMENT

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly has identified education, training, and youth development as one of its priorities, and the Government of the Northwest Territories has made several commitments in its mandate to advance that priority. Work in these areas is foundational to the future success of our territory, and we have seen some solid progress on many initiatives in education, training, and youth development.

Mr. Speaker, one of our mandate commitments is to implement the Education Renewal Framework, which is guiding multiple initiatives to improve outcomes for NWT students. We have established working groups comprised of multiple partners from across the NWT, including students, teachers, parents, elders, contracted experts, and staff from many agencies and GNWT departments. All of the groups are focused on designing a better learning and working environment in our schools and communities, as well as a more responsive education system for all students.

Education renewal is grouped into four focus areas:

1. Improving student and teacher wellness;
2. Strengthening teaching and learning;
3. Strengthening culture/language programming and student sense of identity; and
4. Increasing system-wide accountability and

results.

One of our mandate commitments was to expand the NWT distance learning pilot project to increase access for NWT senior secondary students in all communities. I am pleased to report that we have built on the success of the distance learning program from the Beaufort Delta and expanded into four additional communities. This is one of a number of initiatives flowing from the four education renewal areas at various levels of development and implementation, many in pilot projects. For example, the Elders in Schools program and Residential School teaching resource have also been well received over the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories currently has the highest number of instructional hours across Canada, resulting in our teachers working approximately 52 hours a week, and yet our education system continues to struggle to dramatically improve student outcomes. Research shows that teachers have the strongest impact on improving student outcomes. There is also substantial research that indicates that, by providing teachers with more time to plan, assess, collaborate, and engage in professional development and training, student outcomes improve.

For this reason, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Northwest Territories Superintendents' Association, have agreed to focus on both improving and strengthening teacher instructional practices, as well as reducing teacher workloads by participating in a three-year pilot beginning in the 2017-18 school year. This pilot will allow interested schools to redirect a portion of their current instructional time. All schools participating in this pilot will be evaluated to determine if the redirected hours do, in fact, improve student outcomes and improve overall teacher workload and wellness.

The GNWT has also made a commitment in its mandate to develop options to increase the pathways available to students who lead to graduation and provide greater linkages to post-secondary education, training, and employment opportunities. High School Pathways is another education renewal initiative under way. Many jurisdictions have implemented versions of this initiative, focused on redesigning their high school curricula, making stronger connections between high school and post-secondary entrance requirements, connecting labour market needs with high school course offerings, and aligning workplace expectations with students' competencies.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting initiative, as it has

the potential to lead students down pathways that they have strengths in, are interested in, and want to explore. This will provide them with a clear path into fulfilling careers and meaningful work. This work will be connected to the changes that Alberta Education is currently making within their High School Redesign program, and I am very pleased that our department staff have been participating in various Alberta Education curriculum working groups which will help to inform changes within our senior secondary programming. This initiative will connect well with the work we are doing on Skills 4 Success and our Apprenticeship Strategy. We are committed to increasing northern participation in all job categories in demand in the NWT, including the skilled trades, to prepare residents to be first in line for the many jobs that exist and that will be coming in the future.

Another of this government's mandate commitments is to work with stakeholders and communities to explore options for free, play-based care for four-year-olds. Further to the independent review of junior kindergarten implementation and subsequent report, we engaged with communities, early childhood operators, and education stakeholders for the better part of 2016. We have committed to fully fund the implementation of junior kindergarten in all remaining NWT communities and have identified \$5.1 million dollars in the proposed 2017-18 budget for this. We look forward to seeing junior kindergarten in all our schools across the NWT beginning in the 2017-18 school year. As all Members are aware, we have been using the Early Development Instrument, which provides a snapshot of children's school readiness at age five. We have been using the instrument for five years, and we now have a year of data which gives us some information on children who attended junior kindergarten. The Early Development Instrument measures vulnerabilities in five different domains of a child's development and shows us where we can focus our efforts. Though our results are preliminary, they are very promising. They indicate that children who have attended junior kindergarten show improvements in many aspects of their development.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT also made a commitment to promote and improve Student Financial Assistance to support NWT youth in developing the skills and abilities to meet their potential, as well as territorial labour demand. The NWT has one of the most successful and generous Student Financial Assistance programs in Canada. In the 2016-17 academic year, we have paid \$12 million dollars in benefits to 1,286 students thus far. As well, over the past 18 months we have increased our benefits for applicants, which have been very well received. These improvements include:

- Up to \$2,950 per semester for basic grant funding for tuition and books, an increase of \$625;
- Increase in loan remission rates;
- Reduction of interest to 0% for students who are residing in the NWT;
- Removal of the 20-semester funding limit and re-introduction of the revolving loan limit to further support continuing students; and
- A new Northern Bonus for students residing in the NWT for a year since ending full-time studies. They are eligible for \$2,000 per year to a maximum of \$10,000. Southern students are also eligible.
- Since September 1, 2016, we have received 110 applications for the Northern Bonus.
- As well, we support students with permanent disabilities, providing the option of studying at a reduced course load, a \$2,000 yearly grant to assist with educational expenses, and up to \$8,000 per year to assist with extraordinary expenses like a tutor.

These improvements, combined with the national marketing campaign promoting the Student Financial Assistance Program, are providing vital support for our students. We are hopeful that we will see more students remaining and/or returning to the NWT, and that we will begin to see some successes from our national campaign that will support the GNWT's population growth objectives.

Mr. Speaker, education and training are the cornerstones of healthy, fulfilled residents, and a robust economy. We will continue to ensure our youth, residents, and communities have the programs, services, and opportunities they need to achieve their goals. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to one of the pages who are here with us, just starting today. I would like to highlight Denae Lafferty. She is my daughter, of course. We have such a fantastic page program that this is my third child in the page program. Masi.

Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXPANDING THE ECONOMY THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN PEOPLE

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about the need to invest in the biggest asset of the Northwest Territories -- our people.

Mr. Speaker, for many years we have focused on the resource sector, mining and oil and gas. In the last 20 years, we have turned to diamonds. Our natural resources are world class, and they have done well for us. As much as 30 per cent of your GDP comes from these resources, but nothing lasts forever.

In Yellowknife, where famously the gold was paved with streets, the two founding gold mines are now closed. Imperial Oil wants to sell off its Norman Wells assets after a hundred years of operations. Fossil fuel prices are low worldwide. Corporate headquarters are moving South, and we are entering the declining years of some of our diamond mine projects.

These prospects all sound pretty gloomy. The challenge for us as leaders is not to be discouraged by the bad news, but to creatively seek new opportunities for growth.

That means focusing on our greatest asset. As I mentioned, that is our people. Our people are expanding the economy into new areas every day. We have a growing agricultural sector, with a new agricultural strategy on its way.

Our new film rebate program is encouraging Northerners to create original, ground-breaking works of art, including an original award-winning feature film and a couple of new television series. We have newly published authors and musicians releasing original works that are turning heads at the highest levels across the country. We have entrepreneurs investing in tiny homes. Our tourism numbers are at an all-time high and climbing and our fish and furs end up in markets around the world.

There are many areas with great potential for diversifying the economy. So we, as leaders, have to make it possible for people to thrive in these areas.

That is why we must take every possible step to drive the cost of living down. We must develop our transportation infrastructure so goods and services can move freely and more cheaply.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we must build a made-in-the-NWT education system so our young people are equipped with the real skills to succeed and our businesses receive the capacity they seek in these alternative economies.

Mr. Speaker, in changing times the outlook can be bleak, but times of change are also times of opportunity. We in this Chamber can lead the way forward towards new days and new opportunities, by investing in our greatest resource: our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY STATUTORY HOLIDAY PROPOSAL

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there can be no denial that Northerners are resolute when it comes to surviving the cold winter months. We are tough, and we can take whatever February throws at us. Whether it is digging out vehicles buried beneath thick layers of snow or trudging through icy cold wind with a coffee in one hand and a frozen cell phone in the other, Northerners know the winter and it does not break us. We also know that it does not give us any breaks, but our government can, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think it is about time Northerners deserve a holiday in February!

Mr. Speaker, across our great snow-covered nation are statutory holidays occurring on a Monday in February. In the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan, a holiday is observed on the third Monday of February. British Columbia began observing Family Day on the second Monday of February in 2013. Even in the Yukon, one Friday in February is deemed Yukon Heritage Day. That means two thirds of Canadians live in a province or territory that observes a February holiday.

A mid-winter holiday is something many Northerners want, but more importantly deserve, and we in this Legislature can make it happen. This new holiday will give Northerners more time to spend with family and friends, just like the majority of their fellow Canadians, Mr. Speaker. Who would not want an extra day to spend time with the family, kick back with a cup of coffee or spend an extra day at the cabin?

Mr. Speaker, although a holiday in February may not seem like the most pressing issue facing this Assembly, a day of respite during the coldest of



months is one way to improve the mental health and well-being of Northerners. Stress takes its toll on each of us, Mr. Speaker, and leading research shows that taking a break from work improves our personal relationships, creativity, job satisfaction, career development, sleep quality, general mood, blood pressure, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, consider this a call of action to the honourable Members of this House: it is time for us to take the initiative in order for Northerners to have that well-deserved day of inaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RETURN OF FORT PROVIDENCE MINOR HOCKEY PROGRAM

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, minor hockey brings people together in communities across the Northwest Territories and Canada.

Fort Providence has not seen organized hockey for children since the late 1980s, but it has recently made a comeback thanks to the efforts of the Parents' Minor Hockey Committee and its newly elected president, Mr. Tim Cragg.

Mr. Speaker, many Members of this House and people listening to our proceedings today have good memories of growing up with minor hockey. Some of us still play hockey, thanks to participation in minor hockey leagues.

Mr. Speaker, minor hockey led to the development of players like Jordin Tootoo, who once played for the local team, and the eventual formation of the Fort Providence Bulls, a dynasty that defended the Kingland Ford Tournaments champions' title for years.

This past year, Deh Cho constituents Tim Cragg, Edward Landry, Bertha Landry, Trisha Landry, and other parents raised funds to buy new equipment for children to play minor hockey in Fort Providence, also applying for funding through Jump Start to get 20 new sets of hockey equipment for the other students to play.

Mr. Speaker, hockey is a great way to stay active and get kids involved in sports. Hockey helps them develop skills that they can apply to other sports and activities out on the land, like shooting straight, working hard, and using the right technique and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, playing hockey is an opportunity to learn life lessons about goal setting, winning and losing, fair play, working as a team, and keeping

your stick on the ice.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, parents and 12 youth took part in their first hockey tournament in Fort Smith, and the kids ages from five to nine sure enjoyed their time on the ice, scoring, making new friends, and finding a new passion for themselves in hockey.

Mr. Speaker, it is exciting to see youth in my riding taking to the ice. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the Parents' Committee as well as the community for its support in bringing hockey back to Fort Providence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REGIONAL BENEFITS OF MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities of the Central Mackenzie Valley are not linked to the rest of the NWT and Canada by an all-weather road. Ground access to the Central Mackenzie Valley is only by the winter road season. The federal government, through Public Works Canada did significant work in the 1970s on highway surveys, geotechnical investigations, environmental studies, bridge and culvert designs, through the great recognized Hire North program. The reasons for building the Mackenzie Valley Highway through the Sahtu Settlement Area are the same as when first proposed in the 1960s, as follows:

1. Provide a year-round transportation link connecting the Central Mackenzie Valley as phase 1;
2. Decrease the cost of living by increasing access to good and services;
3. Significantly reduce transportation costs for the government, businesses, and industry;
4. Stimulate local workforce and business development in the resources sector; and
5. Develop hospitality and tourism markets and other businesses and international destination clients.

This project is a mandate of our 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Preliminary efforts are in the \$700 million application and supported by the business case application. The Mackenzie Valley Highway is crucial to unlocking the Sahtu potential and benefits to lowering our dependency on social programming, a combined budget factor of 63 per cent.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, to date a large investment has been made on the route Wrigley North for over 25 bridges and approaches, an amount that exceeds \$200 million. Mr. Speaker, I ask: why stop there?

As we know, aside from this pre-construction investment, the phrase "shovel ready" is defined on the \$70 million structural section, the BRB, or Bear River Bridge. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, colleagues. The Bear River Bridge, a project that this government supported through the designs/build, permit approvals, and regulatory developments of the application, and procured with even steel being purchased back in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, if this segment can be reviewed as a first portion of the project execution, it would provide a number of positive benefits towards resiliency commerce to the community of Tulita, not only annual access to granular materials for community expansions, but also community or industry certainty. Thank you. Mahsi. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER AGREEMENTS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. If we finish early enough today, I will be playing hockey tonight; but more seriously, Mr. Speaker, GNWT has negotiated a number of transboundary water agreements with the following jurisdictions:

- Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, and Canada for the Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement in 1997;
- the Yukon in 2002;
- Alberta in 2015; and
- British Columbia in 2015.

These are very important agreements for the health of our aquatic life and communities on our shared watersheds, which includes the vast majority of our population. These arrangements also help fulfil commitments made in Indigenous land rights agreements where right is established to ensure waters which are on or flow through or are adjacent to Indigenous lands remain substantially unaltered as to quality, quantity, and rate of flow.

Our government has invested a substantial amount

of time and money in the negotiation of these agreements, and Cabinet says this continues in the proposed budget of 2017-18 with an allocation of \$2.1 million. While this may seem like a large amount it is a small price for pure and drinkable water at a time when our planet's fresh water supply is shrinking and in danger.

While our government made good progress on these agreements in 2015, I can find little evidence of further work. There are no annual reports as required under the agreements on the Environment and Natural Resources website. The agreements are found there, and some background information, but very little on implementation. There are a couple of baseline reports on groundwater in the Mackenzie Valley and water quality in the Hay River watershed, but nothing else. What is the status of negotiations with the Yukon, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut? Have water quality objectives and learning plans been started under any of the agreements? Are the bilateral management committees actually set up and meeting?

These transboundary water agreements were of such importance that Cabinet included them in our mandate. If we are truly to live up to these agreements, and nothing is more important than water, we need to better communicate what is going on with the public and MLAs on these transboundary agreements and fully implement them. I will have questions later today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL MARINE RESUPPLY SERVICES

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for over 80 years the Northern Transportation Company Limited has provided several essential marine transportation services in the Northwest Territories.

Recognized all across our vast region, NTCL has carried much-needed fuel and freight from the shipyard in Hay River to the furthest regions of the North. As a result of changing market conditions, business declined over the last decade and NTCL filed for creditor protection in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, reliable, dependable barging service is our lifeline for the communities in my riding. The barges serve other communities along the Mackenzie River and industries that have no other way to bring fuel and other goods into the community.

Failure in the barge service would disrupt the petroleum product supply for the Northwest Territories communities, and the way of life for everyone who lives there. The Government of the Northwest Territories issued a tender to find a new transportation provider, but was unable to identify an alternate contractor.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's recent purchase of NTCL assets was based on an evaluation of their market value. It will help ensure that our communities can keep getting the fuel and goods they need and reduce the chance of higher transportation costs, raising the prices of power and other goods in these communities.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living is a significant problem throughout the Northwest Territories, and especially for residents of small communities. Mr. Speaker, NTCL's specialized equipment is essential to marine re-supply along the Mackenzie. People are looking forward to when a contract for the marine re-supply is successfully negotiated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF AURORA  
COLLEGE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose cutting the social work program at Aurora College. I believe, and my constituents have told me, that eliminating this program is the wrong thing to do for several important reasons.

Mr. Speaker, social workers provide essential services by supporting the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. They work with some of the most vulnerable people in society, including children, youth, and disabled adults. To be effective, social workers must understand the dynamics of the community they work in and develop the respect and trust of residents. Social workers deal with serious life-changing issues every day.

Mr. Speaker, given this background it's easy to understand why it's a benefit to train Northerners in the North to become social workers. In fact, the program description for the Aurora College program says:

"The program is designed to be of particular relevance to the Northwest Territories and its social issues, cultural groups, and delivery systems and resources. The courses and the field practicums are planned to meet the educational needs of students who will be working in the North after the

completion of the program."

Providing southern social workers with a cultural introduction to the North, as the Minister has suggested, is no substitute for training homegrown social workers, which was the goal of this program when it began 35 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we need social workers. The ECE labour market forecast estimates 158 social workers with degrees will be required in the next 15 years, along with 479 social and community service workers with diplomas. These are good-paying jobs, paying an average of \$68,000 a year, the report says.

Mr. Speaker, also consider that most social workers are women. I believe women become social workers because they are drawn to the role of caregiver and they find the job one that they can relate to. Some of the Aurora College students are mothers as well as students. They didn't start college right after high school, but decided to enrol in post-secondary education a little later in their lives. Imagine the decision that a woman or a family must make to move to Yellowknife to access this training; it's a significant upheaval. It's a testament to their determination that many students go through the access program before enrolling in social work. Now ask yourself whether this same woman or family is likely to move to Edmonton or Regina.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, there are 17 students in each of the two years of the program, but the number of graduates is much lower. The answer to low completion rates is not to cut these programs, but put supports in place which will help students in their academic journeys. Cutting the programs will cut off access to education to a significant number of Northerners, and that access will have a domino effect. Education, as we all know, is a way out of poverty and into self-determination.

Finally, and I echo what my colleagues have said, I find it incomprehensible that the program is being cut before we see the contents of the new Aurora College strategic plan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware the Minister has said it was not his decision to cut the social work program, but the board of Aurora College answers to him. He needs to tell the board to change their minds and reinstate the social work program. I will have questions. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements.

Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
OVERFLOW WATER ON BEAUFORT DELTA  
HIGHWAYS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, overflow is disrupting the highway in the Mackenzie Delta. It's no surprise, Mr. Speaker. Overflow happens every year in two spots along the highway, between Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic near Caribou Creek, and just past Tsiigehtchic on the way to Fort McPherson at kilometre 142, also known as Georgetown, Mr. Speaker, because a man named George lives there; or used to until the overflow got so bad he couldn't drive to and from his house.

Mr. Speaker, the chartered community of Tsiigehtchic has asked the Department of Transportation for help. No money, we are told.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the department has come and cleared out the culvert and diverted the water. This work was done under the maintenance contract for the Dempster as an add-on, I believe. Now the department is telling the chartered community to hire its own contractor.

Mr. Speaker, water has been running through the culvert, which the department put in about a year ago, since before Christmas and gradually froze up. We know these areas cause problems almost every year.

Mr. Speaker, we could save money in the long run by putting in a heat trace like they do on the Yukon side of the Dempster Highway instead of paying extra every year to deal with the overflow. We could budget a fixed amount for a generator when we have problems with the overflow.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is about to finish building a highway over some of the most challenging terrain on the planet. I'm sure our government has the resources to manage some of the problem spots and get the overflow off the existing highway system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONNIE LOUTIT MEMORIAL SOCCER  
TOURNAMENT

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the pleasure of returning home to attend and help out the Connie Loutit Memorial Soccer Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Loutit was a secretary at the Bompas School, and the manager of their family plumbing company. She was very active in the community, whether it was sports, school, or community events that improved youths' lives. Her and her husband have two daughters who love soccer, and she could be seen at every game. She was very supportive, did a lot of fundraising and chaperoning through her life. To keep her memory alive, the Mackenzie Recreation Association asked the family if they could name the annual soccer event after her.

This year, they had 20 teams from Hay River, Detah/Ndilo, Fort Resolution, Fort Liard, Sambaa K'e, and Fort Simpson, plus athletes from Wrigley, Nahanni Butte, and Whitehorse, a total of 140 athletes. This year, each community was successful in winning at least one banner for their community.

Similar to the Paul Stipdonk Memorial Tournament, it was a great weekend of soccer, but most importantly, connecting old and new friends. Arriving at about 9:30 on Friday, I came into the community hall, and all I heard was a lot of laughter and chatter among the athletes and fans. It was great to see. As well, I was honoured to have the athletes and coaches take the time to catch up with me.

As the previous tournament, the parents and fans came out in full force to support all the teams. The whole weekend was full of "oohs" and "aahs" cheering for each team. I had a number of coaches and referees and athletes comment on how friendly the fans were throughout the weekend. I'm proud to say my home is in Nahendeh riding.

Mr. Speaker, to help the athletes recognize Connie Loutit and Paul Stipdonk, and help future athletes understand why these tournaments are named after them, the organizers are going to make a plaque and a brochure and a poster that will be hung at the recreation centre.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the following:

- the referees;
- the Fort Simpson Speed Skating Club;
- the Dehcho Friendship Centre;
- Thomas Simpson School;
- the recreation staff;
- Brendan Whelley;
- MACA sport and recreation funding; and
- the Mackenzie Recreation Association.

A special thanks to Jackie Whelly, Ashley Gillis, and Nathan MacPherson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. SPEAKER:** Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to people in the gallery. We have with us, Dolphus Nitsiza, Behchoko constituents. Masi for joining us. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and you beat me to it, but I would also like to recognize Denae Lafferty, resident of Kam Lake and my constituent; and I'd also like to recognize the grade 6 students who were here from Ecole St. Joseph School earlier today. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to do it on Thursday, but I guess I will do it today and I can embarrass Briann Nelson and Hailey Sassie, both from Fort Liard, who are pages here. Briann was actually one of the individuals I was talking about who won the opportunity as part of the NEG Games team. Thank you very much for being here.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Did we miss anyone in the gallery? Welcome to our Chamber. Always good to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 605-18(2):

TERRITORIAL MARINE RESUPPLY SERVICES

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is: what is the status of the marine resupply contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is presently in the process of entering into a contract with the staffing contractor to provide crew, operations of tugs to operate the tugs and the barges for this year, and we are hoping to have that in place this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my second question is: when will the barging schedule be drafted and shared with the public so the communities and suppliers can start preparing?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Traditionally, NTCL publish their sailing schedule close to the operating season, in May, if I remember correctly, of each year. The government is committed to providing a firm sailing schedule prior to that date. I know the people in the Department of Public Works and Services who are taking on this work are working very hard and diligently to put this together so we can come up with a schedule that will satisfy the communities and staff so they can start their planning session. We are hoping to have something out to them by April.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** That's very helpful, Mr. Speaker. My third question is: what steps is the government taking to ensure that, under the new contract, the price of petroleum products and other goods will be kept at levels that are similar to previous years?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I had the opportunity in committee to explain some of this stuff, the department is looking at all aspects of costing out of revenues and expenses moving forward. There are a number of business opportunities that have also come forward since the purchase of these assets, and we believe that, if these come to fruition, it will help spread the cost out and keep the fuel prices down to where they are, close to the present levels, subject to the markets on the fuel in the open market.

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

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response, Mr. Speaker. More of a comment than a question, Mr. Speaker. My final question is: when will further information be available to Regular Members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I committed to keeping committee well-informed as we move forward, as we secure opportunities of different types of revenue of moving forward, the sailing schedule, the staffing issues and stuff, and in the coming months and weeks I am hoping to update committee on where we are at with these new assets.

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

QUESTION 606-18(2):  
STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER  
AGREEMENTS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Earlier today I spoke about the importance of our Transboundary Water Agreements. We need to finish these arrangements and fully implement them. Can the Minister tell this House and the public whether there are any actual negotiations going on with the governments of the Yukon, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut for the remaining agreements? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do know that the negotiations with Saskatchewan have occurred and are expected to resume this year. We have had some preliminary discussions with the Government of Nunavut to start the work towards a Transboundary Water Agreement. We do have an existing bilateral water agreement with the Yukon. This was signed in 2002. We are having discussions with the Yukon regarding the renegotiation of this agreement to better align it with the other agreements that we are working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you to the Minister for his response. It looks like we have at least one of the three in active negotiations. That is helpful information. I wish the Minister could put that sort of detail on the departmental website.

Have water quality objectives and learning plans been started under any of the existing agreements with Alberta and British Columbia?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We are still a little early in the process. We do have the representatives on the board. They are continuing to meet. I will get an update on the plan, and I will share those with committee.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I appreciate the answer from the Minister. These agreements have been in place now for about a year and a half with Alberta and BC, and I really look forward to getting that information, and hope that the work has actually started. We actually have a more environmentally friendly regime in Alberta right now, and I would have thought we could make very good progress towards full implementation of that agreement. Are the bilateral management committees under the Alberta and B.C. agreements actually set up, and are they meeting?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We do have a bilateral management agreement committee with Alberta.

We do have representatives on there. As far as the actual meetings, I will confirm that, but we do have representation at the meeting. I just don't have that level of detail. I will find out for the Members. The same can be said with the one with the Government of BC, we do have our representative's name. Again, as to the actual meetings that they have had, I will gather all that information and I will share it with the Members.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the Minister for his answer. I did give him a head's up on what these questions would be. It looks like this progress and implementation is not happening nearly as quickly as it should be. I am just wondering: what is the problem here? Is it funding, political will? Can the Minister please explain the lack of publicly available information, real progress on finishing these agreements and fully implementing them? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the head's up that the Member gave me on his line of questioning. I can assure him that this is a partnership that we have to work out with our colleagues south of the NWT. I will work to get an update on all the work that has been going on. If there is a lack of engagement, then I will ensure that this government initiates that engagement, so we can have these very important transborder agreements not only completed but implemented.

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

QUESTION 607-18(2):  
SUPPORTS FOR THE AGRICULTURE  
INDUSTRY

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of ITI on agriculture and homegrown harvesters. As we draw towards our home growing season and the season of federal Nutrition North competition, this program on principle is a very good one to the smaller remote communities; however, subsidizing only one side. My question is: what is the Department of ITI doing to provide agricultural home growers support for the upcoming season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the question on Growing Forward 2, because this is an important initiative that the Government of the Northwest Territories has been working on in collaboration

with the federal government on bringing agriculture to the Northwest Territories. For the past five years, we have spent approximately \$6 million on this program in the Northwest Territories and invested it directly into NWT agriculture. I thank him for that.

In the upcoming season, I suspect that I would have to get that directly from the department, but I am assuming that it is probably relevant to what we did last year in all of the communities. In the Sahtu region in particular, we have done a number of initiatives in the last year. We invested approximately \$117,000 in the Member's region under Growing Forward 2. We have made investments to new and expanded infrastructure at the Sahtu Gardens and the McNeely Nursery in Fort Good Hope. We have done summer maintenance programs in the community gardens of Deline, Tulita, and Fort Good Hope, as well. We have also, last year, taken the opportunity to send a number of residents in the Sahtu to Hay River and Yellowknife to learn more about agriculture on some training and a conference that we had here in Yellowknife. I suspect that moving forward in this coming year will be very similar to that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I welcome those answers. They are all positive. They are good. They provide positive dialogue to the home growers who are listening here. In some cases, in one community, the Nutrition North program is advertised stating it is subsidized at \$2.90 per kilogram. Is there some form of subsidy that could go towards the actual poundage of vegetables or homegrown products there for the people?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Nutrition North is a federal program to increase access to perishable nutritious food across the Northwest Territories and help reduce the cost. Its objective actually lines up quite a bit with the agriculture strategies of the Northwest Territories. Ideally, we want to get the agriculture in the Northwest Territories to a point where we wouldn't need to have Nutrition North to help subsidize the cost of food in the NWT, but we are not there yet. We will have to continue to work with our federal partners and Nutrition North and our commercial producers in the Northwest Territories on how we can work on these programs. I will continue to do that as the Minister of ITI.

**MR. MCNEELY:** My last question is: will the Minister support a gathering to discuss the new agricultural strategy and how could that work in harmony with some of the key stakeholders in the region? It is a small area, so we can pretty much guarantee the names and provide the names to the individuals who are taking an active investment into that home grower program of their own.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I made a comment

in my earlier statement, we brought a number of Sahtu residents to Yellowknife in particular last year for an agriculture conference; this is some of the stuff that we heard there that we put in towards our agriculture strategy. I don't think we need to have another conference already to do that. If the Member from the Sahtu would like us to work closely with the residents of the Sahtu, we can have our superintendent reach out to him and see how we can facilitate that.

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

QUESTION 608-18(2):  
WHATI ALL-SEASON ROAD

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Transportation on his Minister's statement. As we are proposing more P3 projects adding Slave Geological to the previous P3 proposal for a Whati road, I would like to ask the Minister if there is any indication on when the P3 approval of the Whati road would occur? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have announced in this House, the federal government has made a commitment to the Whati-Tlicho all-season road. We are working on a number of initiatives within the Department of Transportation presently. One of them is to get through the environmental assessment process with the Mackenzie Valley Environment Impact Review Board. That was brought forward in July of the past year. We continue to work on that. The next step on that process is we need to draft an adequacy statement response that satisfies the requirements of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. We will do that, and we will continue to move it through the regulatory process for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I asked the Minister if there is any indication on when the P3 portion of the Whati road may be approved?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** All that is probably going to depend on what is going to happen with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. We have no control over what they are doing. The other thing that we are looking at doing is we are going to put out a request for qualifications on this process for this road. That should be coming out shortly. We don't want to get ahead of the environmental process.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I would like to ask the Minister why we are not going after the National

Infrastructure Fund for the Slave Geological Province road?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** We haven't totally decided that right now. As I said in my statement today, we are doing a P3 business case assessment on the corridor of the Slave Geological Province. When this business case is completed, which we are hoping to have done by mid-2017, this will give us a better idea how to make a decision on how we move this process forward. It is going to give us a little better idea on the cost of construction of the road, as well as determine the appropriate funding model, and that is what we will determine at the end of that.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister a very similar question to my last question, and that is: why are we proposing a P3 as opposed to going straight to the National Infrastructure Fund? The National Infrastructure Fund, if approved, would be 75 per cent funded by the federal government. Also, it would be something of national significance because, eventually, Slave Geological Road could end up joining up with something from the Port Road of Nunavut, so it is definitely significant nationally. I was wondering why they don't move to the National Infrastructure Fund first, before attempting P3? Thank you.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason we are doing the P3 business case, as I've said, moving forward is it is going to give us a better idea on construction costs on the construction of this road now that the route has been determined, which took a number of years to get that figured out. This is just going to give us a better idea of costing of the project. Once that is done, then we will probably sit down, no different from the Whati road, and see which makes the best case; national infrastructure process, which is the federal government hasn't clearly laid out the rules around that yet, or a P3 business case. We will determine that and probably have that conversation with committee as we move forward.

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

QUESTION 609-18(2):  
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF AURORA  
COLLEGE PROGRAMS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of weeks, we have been asking questions of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about the proposed cuts to the education and social work programs. Today I

will be asking some questions on behalf of the students of the education program. Mr. Speaker, when looking at the cuts, can the Minister advise this House: did the college consider looking at reducing administration costs first to save some program funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that was considered, the administration costs. A review of the college's operations deemed several support positions non-essential, and any remaining duties of those positions will be reassigned to other staff. To meet the target reduction, there were three administrative positions that were affected. With this reduction, Aurora College will be required to be innovative and become more efficient and effective in their administrative process moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, when looking at these cuts, can the Minister advise this House: did the college consult with the students on ways to improve the program and save it, or did they just go out and make these cuts without consulting the students?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** No, the students were not consulted about reductions moving forward. It was the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that was working closely with Aurora College to identify where reductions could be coming from. Evidence-based decisions on low graduation rates within these two programs were identified. Sometimes tough decisions need to be made, and those were the decisions that were brought forth to this government.

I just want to let Members know that Aurora College is continuing to support the students in these two programs to completion, working with them, supporting them to make sure that all the students in both programs do graduate to completion over the course of the years.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. However, I would like to inform the Minister that the access program students, they are not accounted for, to graduate in the North, and that is a challenge. Mr. Speaker, with the majority of the TEP and social work students tending to be young parents, did the college or the department consider the effects of making them uproot their families and lose some of their family support system here to attend school in the South?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** The Member did bring up the access students. The Aurora College staff has worked with the access students to look at the next



steps for them in their career path, so they are working on that side of things. As I mentioned, we still continue to support families and students wherever they want to get their post-secondary education. As I mentioned earlier, we spent \$12 million in Student Financial Assistance, and that affects over 1,200 students who are getting post-secondary education at this moment. Any families that have dependents, there is an increase in the Student Financial Assistance that they receive, as well.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the Minister for his answer. Dependents are one thing. Family support is another, and that is the biggest challenge for us people living in the North. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that, in the fall of 2015, the Aurora College Board of Governors signed an Indigenous Knowledge Declaration. Mr. Speaker, some of the students are not sure that the college was sincere when they signed this document. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain how cutting this program helps Indigenous people share their knowledge among their peers if they are attending a southern program where people may not recognize, respect, or share the same process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Aurora College and the Department of ECE take that declaration very seriously, including the respect for and importance of Indigenous knowledge. Aurora College will continue to seek new ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, world views, and approaches in all of its programs. All Aurora College programs serve Indigenous learners, not only in social work or the TEP program but through all the programs that it does serve. As well, the department has done a lot of work around residential schooling as well as cultural training for our Northerners but also for southern workers who come up and work in the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 610-18(2):  
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF AURORA  
COLLEGE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. In my statement, I talked about the importance of training Northerners as social workers out of Aurora College. The program has been in place for 35 years, and some of those who completed the training when it began are still working in the field. My first question is: what kind

of information and analysis on the low completion rates for the Aurora College Social Work Program have been used by the Minister in making the decision to cut the program? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the department had worked with Aurora College to identify reductions. On average, there are about 38 students who are enrolled within the program. Over the last three years, we have graduated four every year. This June, we are expecting to graduate three students out of the social work program, as I mentioned in this House before; two of the students in the TEP program, as well as the students in the social work program. I encourage them to work hard, study, and complete their programs through the course of the years. We are slowly phasing out these two programs, but we looked at the enrolment rates as well as the graduation rates when we were making these decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** Rather than cutting the program, what does the Minister think he could do to help the college remove barriers to completing the social work program and improve graduation rates?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I am not really too sure of what a lot of these barriers were for students who enrolled in both programs, and we got low graduation rates out of the two. We also currently support students who are going down South, I believe 19 students who are taking a social work degree. We continue to support them. I am not too sure what some of the barriers were. Obviously, everyone has their own challenges when they're going to school, and some of those are probably taken into account. Our department, they have a great Student Financial Assistance program that supports students financially, and the Aurora College also has support staff who try to work with the students to help them succeed and get the best outcomes.

**MS. GREEN:** I am shocked that the Minister is not sure what the barriers are and that he didn't spend or have his department spend any time looking at what they are in order to understand why both graduation and enrolment rates fall off so dramatically over the period of time that the students are in the program.

Will the Minister commit to looking at these barriers so that he can make an informed decision to reinstate the program?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, I know the Aurora College does have a good support staff to help their students graduate in whatever program

that they are currently enrolled in. We can take a look and see why students weren't graduating from the social work program or the TEP program as well, and what the successes we have down south are in terms of the 19 students who are going to school down south. We can take a look into it, and definitely with the Aurora College strategic plan and review coming into place, or the strategic plan, hopefully we'll have some good outcomes of that and get better supports for the Aurora College.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems like an exit interview for people who are dropping out of the program would really facilitate collection of information about what the barriers are. In my statement I noted that social workers with degrees and diplomas will be in high demand over the next 15 years, a total of 600 jobs, so we want people who live here to take these jobs, not come for two years and then move away. Doesn't the number of people required in this profession make the case that social work training is, in fact, a going concern? Masi.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are going to be needing social workers over the next 15 years. It was recognized in the in-demand jobs that are going to be needed here in the Northwest Territories, and we continue to support students who want to go get that degree education, and the students who are currently in the program, we want to continue to support them should they want to come out of that diploma and go and seek a degree down South and help them with that smooth transition. We are continuing to support them as the program itself gets phased out to make sure that all students who are in that program can complete the social work program and become part of the public service here in the NWT.

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

QUESTION 611-18(2):  
STATUS OF GNWT OPEN GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister responsible for Transparency and Public Engagement. Mr. Speaker, we made a commitment as a government that we would ensure that the public has the opportunity to be involved in our process and that we would certainly be better informed in our decision-making. So I want to ask the Minister: his shop is responsible for establishing the open government policy; can he please maybe provide us an update as to what the status is of the policy, what's included in the policy, when are we

going to see a draft of the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that we have been having sessions with the public; we've had one in Fort Smith, and several days ago one in Hay River. So we're waiting to hear from the public as to what their concerns are and ideas are, and once we've accumulated that information we will be bringing forward a policy. Thank you.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I guess I've got to continue to elaborate on this line of questioning just for a moment and maybe ask the Minister if he can explain a little bit more to us as to how much more public consultation is going to take place on this and when does he, in fact, anticipate a draft coming forward to the House or to Members?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you for the question. We will be visiting approximately another nine or 10 communities, and I expect that will take place in the next two months. So as soon as that process is completed and we've heard from the public we will be developing policy.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I appreciate the elaboration from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, we indicated as well, as one of our mandate items, that we will develop and implement an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions. In there, we referenced that we will implement an effective communications plan. Can the Minister describe for us what that communications plan is, what it consists of, and when will that plan be coming forward?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, of course, we do take seriously all of the items that are in the mandate. Perhaps I could undertake to supply the Member opposite with some more detail. I know that this is an important aspect of the mandate and we are working on it, but as to dates and progress, perhaps if I could undertake to give the Member opposite more information directly.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and, yes, most certainly, in the interests of open government, I would appreciate that the Minister provide additional information when he can.

To that, Mr. Speaker, my last point. Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't raise the aspect of the ombudsman and the legislation that we are anticipating coming forward from the Minister's

shop on this matter. So again another question is: where are we at with the draft legislation with regard to the ombudsman? It's expected that we would see something within the first two years of this Assembly, but are we waiting for the 24<sup>th</sup> month to present that or are we going to see something sooner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall we met in the summer in the caucus retreat, at which time we discussed this very issue of the ombudsman. There were several options that were discussed, and I can advise that we will be coming forward with a legislative proposal by the end of the summer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 612-18(2):  
OVERFLOW WATER ON BEAUFORT DELTA  
HIGHWAYS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Transportation. In follow-up to my Member's statement earlier, I'd like to ask the Minister: can the Minister explain why the chartered community of Tsiigehtchic was asked to hire a contractor to deal with the overflow that has been dealt with under the highway maintenance contract in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd have to get the exact particulars from the Member of which incident he's talking about and the location. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Maybe the Minister wasn't paying attention earlier during my Member's statement, but I was referring to Georgetown near Tsiigehtchic. Mr. Speaker, for many years this has been an issue. Will the Minister please answer that question again?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I guess I can go into a little story about this situation. There was a place built there in 2000, where the Member is referring to, just off the access of the Dempster Highway. This was built in an area where a lot of drainage was a problem. The Department of Housing got involved; the Department of Transportation got involved. We moved the particular residents out of this area at the two departments' expense and relocated them. Another individual has now since moved into that location, knowing that all the particular problems were there. Along the course of that timeline, a couple of culverts were put in at the departments' expense to help alleviate the problem, which was off the access of the right-of-way, which

is not even on our right-of-way, but we went ahead and did that to help with the drainage situation.

As far as the overflow going, it doesn't impede the safety of the highway or the travelling public to be able to travel up and down the highway. I believe at some point that it did, and we went in there and spent almost \$5,000 on a contractor to clear the slush and snow out of the area to make sure this highway was of a safe usage. We will continue to monitor the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. That is quite a story.

---Laughter

**MR. BLAKE:** Actually, just to add to the Minister's story, people have been living there for as far as I can remember, which is early 1980s, even into the 1970s, Mr. Speaker. With climate change, like everything else, things change. Will the Minister agree to get a contractor to divert the water at kilometre 142, as he is doing between Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I will have a look at the situation. We will get back to the Member, but if it is not impeding the safe usage of the highway, we will not be looking at doing anything.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the overflow may not be running directly on to the highway at the moment, but it is running along the highway, which is flooding out all of the belongings of the people who are staying at this location. A lot of their stuff that they have there is under water at the moment. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister: what steps has the department taken to permanently deal with the overflow issues in these problem spots? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Department of Transportation, we continue to monitor all our embankments on the highway system and make sure we have safe travelling public, proper drainage on the highway system, and we will continue to do that. I can update the Member after session if he wants to have a bigger discussion around this issue.

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

QUESTION 613-18(2):  
INCREASED INVESTMENT IN THE MINERAL  
INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since raising the issue of the Mineral

Incentive Program, I have been flooded with correspondence from the public in support of increasing this program. I am going to ask the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment today if he will commit to increasing the Mineral Investment Program to \$1 million, support our industry, and grow our exploration sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have had this conversation in Committee of the Whole, I said we had a great opportunity at mineral roundup to get input from all stakeholders in the industry. We put our budget forward. This is what we have in there. I made a commitment that, in the life of this Assembly, we will look at what we can do towards increasing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you to the Minister. His predecessor said the same thing. Furthermore, the mandate says, "makes a commitment to implement the Mining Incentive Program." Could the Minister clarify what that commitment means? How are we going to implement the Mining Incentive Program? Is it currently not implemented? What does that exactly mean?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I think there is a play on words here. The Mining Incentive Program is already in place. It is well received. It was actually oversubscribed in the past year. As I said, I commit to looking, in the life of this Assembly, to find a way to put more money into this program in coming years.

**MR. TESTART:** I would argue that the line of the mandate for implementing the mineral would be expanding it. A million dollars to this program would increase the return on investment to somewhere around the level of \$8 million. Does the Minister agree that an additional \$5 or \$6 million injected directly into our economy through boosting this important subsidy would be a benefit to our economy and to our mining industry?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I am going to make it quite clear: I see the significant value of this program. It is under my portfolio. It is very important for us to bring mining to the Northwest Territories. We have a line item of \$400,000 currently in this program. I have said I have made a commitment to the Members that, during the life of this Assembly, I will look at ways to try to increase that to bring more economic opportunities to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's strong commitments. Let's have more than words. Let's see action. Let's see dollar-for-dollar investment in this program. Every dollar he adds is going to dollars into our economy. Again, I will ask: will he commit to including that in a supplementary appropriation before the end of this calendar year? Thank you.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is no. I told the Members that I would look into expanding this program, putting more money into it to the life of this Assembly, not in this budget.

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

QUESTION 614-18(2):  
IMPACT OF SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE  
ACCESS CORRIDOR IMPACT ON CARIBOU  
POPULATIONS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Transportation on his statement that he gave earlier today. I was really pleased to see that caribou got an honourable mention in his statement on the Slave Geological Province access corridor. That wasn't there last time. In his statement, he says that the corridor has been identified: "It will provide greatest economic benefit to the region in the Northwest Territories." Can the Minister tell me whether this corridor will benefit caribou, specifically the Bathurst caribou herd? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is kind of a unique question. We have committed to working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to get all the information so we can make a fair decision moving forward on this corridor for the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I'm glad to hear that. Is the Minister aware whether this corridor, that has already been planned by his department, actually goes through any critical habitat for the Bathurst caribou herd?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I believe that is already habitat of the Bathurst caribou range and probably other ranges of caribou from the Arctic coast.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I am glad that the Minister recognizes that this corridor will go through the range, the habitat of the Bathurst caribou, but he didn't actually answer my question about critical habitat, like water crossings, calving grounds, and

so on, so maybe I will try a different angle here. The Grays Bay Road and Port Project, that the Minister mentioned in his statement here, would link up with our road, and it is all part of one big project now apparently. Is the Minister aware of whether the Grays Bay Road and Port Project would actually go through any critical habitat for the Bathurst caribou herd?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** That is a Nunavut project. I am not the Minister of Transportation for Nunavut. I would have to check with the colleagues in Nunavut. As far as I am concerned, that is a Nunavut project, and I don't have any of that information.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I will help the Minister out here a little bit. How I can help him is that there is a map of the Grays Bay project and the road corridor on our side in my latest constituency newsletter. The Grays Bay Port and Road Project would actually go through the Bathurst caribou calving grounds, what is left of them. Our government has had this position where we have traditionally opposed any development in calving grounds, so is it a position of our government now that we would oppose this corridor that goes through the calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou herd? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, that is a Nunavut process. That is their decision to make. We are worried about our territory. I am worried about the Slave Geological Province and how we move it forward. We will continue to work with Environment and Natural Resources to get all the critical information for how we can propose this corridor to move forward.

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

QUESTION 615-18(2):  
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF AURORA  
COLLEGE PROGRAMS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I was asking some questions of the Education, Culture and Employment Minister. When we talked about the three cuts at the college, they are all lower-entry-level. Did the department or the college actually look at making some cuts at the upper end of the college? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment did work closely with Aurora College to identify reductions. For this upcoming budget, what they identified was the administration area as well as the programs that we have been discussing in the House. To my knowledge, I am not sure if they did look at the upper senior management when they were looking at reductions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Can the Minister commit to coming back to this House to say if the college actually looked at upper management?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I can get the department to get that information and share it with the Member.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. When we look at the college from 1968 to 2008, we had 269 TEP graduates; 78 per cent of them were of Indigenous heritage. The Minister actually talked about 33 students going down South to attend school down in the southern part of Canada. Can the Minister provide a percentage of what Aboriginal students are attending school down South?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I don't have that specific information with me right now, but we can get that information, how many of our students who are Aboriginal attending education programs down south, and share it with the Member.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his commitment, and I am looking forward to that information. Mr. Speaker, when we looked at the cost analysis of making these cuts to the program -- and, if we cut this program, we are going to lose potential students out there who do not want to go down South -- did the department or the college actually do a real cost analysis of the economic effect of eliminating this valuable program to the territories and the Town of Fort Smith? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we looked at, also, the graduation rates. We are not seeing a big number of graduates coming out of the social work program or the TEP program for the investments that we are making. It was a decision that was made by both the Department of ECE in collaboration with Aurora College to find where these reductions were.

I just want to emphasize again that we are supporting the students who are currently in the program. We want to see success. We want to see better outcomes, and we want the students who are

in these two programs right now to become part of the public service here in the GNWT, and we want to support them on their career paths. We continue to support students who go to get post-secondary education outside the territory.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. 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 committee on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Health and Social Service.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 287-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 525-18(2): SAHTU REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 525-18(2): Sahtu Regional Health Council." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** 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. Minister of Finance.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 17:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends the Income Tax Act by facilitating the provision of additional support to low and modest-income families; incorporating provisions of the Income Tax Act of Canada in respect of withholding of tax refunds; clarifying the definition of consumer price index; applying federal penalty provisions in respect of false statements, omissions, or gross negligence in returns; eliminating the overseas employment tax credit; and retaining the education tax credit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 17 has had its second reading and is now referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Health and Social Services.

BILL 18:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONS ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lake, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Health and Social Services Professions Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends the Health and Social Services Professions Act. This bill imposes a requirement on registered members to comply with continuing competency recording requirements and authorizes inspection of those records; clarifies the nature of the registries maintained respectively by the registrar and the complaints officer, including the scope of public access to those registers and the protection of personal health information included within them; authorizes the Minister to approve various items such as education facilities, programs, and standards of practice; makes consequential amendments to a number of other statutes; and makes non-substantive amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18 has had its second reading and is now referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7, Bill 13, Committee Report 6-18(2), Tabled Document 261-18(2), with the Member for Mackenzie Delta in the chair.

By the authority given to me as the Speaker under Motion 18-18(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hours of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. I call Committee of the Whole to order. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 261-18(12), Northwest Territories

Main Estimates, 2017-2018, and continue with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and, time permitting, the Department of Infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee will continue after a short recess. Do you agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. We will continue with our consideration of Tabled Document 261-18(2): Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018. We'll return to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Minister Moses, do you wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I do. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister Moses, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Deputy Minister Sylvia Haener, and on my left Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services Mr. Olin Lovely.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Welcome back, Minister Moses, and to your officials as well. Committee, we will now proceed to the next activity, Education, Culture and Employment. Education and culture, the activity description is found on page 33. The activity detail is on page 34 and information items are found on pages 35 to 38. I will remind committee to specify the page on which your items can be found when asking questions. Does committee have any questions or comments? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'd like to start by asking about changes in the business plan since we reviewed it in September. I notice, for example, that the reduction to the educational authority is a different number than is in the main estimates, so can the Minister describe the changes in the business plan from the time that it was introduced until its appearance here on the main estimates? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did make some reductions within the administration within the authorities, and I believe it's 600 this year and 200 next year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the only difference between the September 20<sup>th</sup> business plan and now is that there are some reductions. Maybe the Minister could specify reductions to the educational authority? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What was included in the business plan in September was reductions to the number of teachers in Aboriginal language and culture-based education, and teaching positions in territorial schools. We did not proceed with those reductions, and those are the differences, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, one of the activities contemplated in the business plan was a planning study for shared service administration across the NWT school boards. Could the Minister please update us on that initiative?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, we're just in the preliminary stages. We're just developing a working group to get started on that work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that was the answer that we got when we asked about that in September, so I'm wondering if there is some kind of a goal to get this work finished now that it's six months on and the same activity is taking place? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. That work is going to go to an RFP here, probably within the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister tell us what the RFP is for? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. That is going to be a review of all of the administrative services with all the education authorities and how they can better have shared services going forward. So that's pretty well what it entails. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Another of the commitments or ideas that was shared during the business plan is the implementation of a comprehensive accountability framework for the whole grade school system. Could the Minister update us on the development of that accountability framework? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. They have been completed and letters and packages have been sent out to all the education boards last December.

**MS. GREEN:** Last December?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** December.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'd like to know from the Minister what his plans are to share this accountability framework with the Regular Members, especially those on the Standing Committee on Social Development. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is something that we could definitely do a presentation with committee when we can find a scheduling time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Moving on to my next issue, it has to do with the Alberta Achievement Tests. Could the Minister talk about the progress being made to find a new student assessment tool and when that assessment tool will be in place? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. From my understanding Alberta is not removing them; they're still using them as tests, and we are going to be doing the same as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the business plan alludes to the progressive retirement of the AATs. Could the Minister please clarify? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We received word from Alberta just quite recently, actually, that they had reconsidered the elimination of the AATs at the senior levels in particular and are looking to continue those at least for the near future. So we'll continue to work with them and continue to implement those evaluation tools. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also in this section, as part of the mandate, Members agreed that there would be a plan for universal daycare that would be introduced by the fall. Could the Minister give us an update on the development of that plan? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are still expecting to have an approach, a plan, in place for the fall time. In light of all the changes that we are making within the department and all the initiatives that we're doing, that's just on top of the workload that we have, but we're still hoping that in the fall time we'll have something.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My next question has to do with inclusive schooling. Can the Minister tell us whether the inclusive schooling will be extended to include junior kindergarten students? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned with questions in the House regarding this, students who are entering junior kindergarten will have access to all the supports and resources in the school setting. So at this time, we're just going to continue with the funding for inclusive schooling the way it is, but junior kindergarten students who are in the school system will have access to more resources, more teachers, moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.



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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, according to the presentation we had at lunchtime, children often enter school with significant developmental deficits in all sizes of communities in the NWT so it stands to reason that their need for inclusive schooling resources will be greater perhaps than for other higher grades. So I'm wondering if, in fact, the Minister will consider increasing those resources to meet the needs of the additional students? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, all the education authorities are working on the roll-out plan for junior kindergarten moving forward. I want to just emphasize again that junior kindergarten is a play-based approach, and I think that students who have gone through it already that we've seen, we've seen some really excellent improvements in the development's readiness. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the research doesn't support that statement; there haven't been excellent improvements. Since the EDI was introduced, the measurement in every community size has decreased. So it seems to me that putting inclusive resources into schools as a priority is essential for children to succeed in education, so I'd like to hear the Minister's plan to do that? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With junior kindergarten rolling out, we'll continue to monitor and evaluate how things are going. Right now we have it in 20 schools and our superintendents are saying that the funding is adequate enough to meet the needs of the students who are entering junior kindergarten right now, and if you look at the line item, we still fund inclusive schooling over \$25 million across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Committee, I would like to welcome Mr. Patrick Joss from Ulukhaktok, I believe, who has joined us in the gallery, and anyone else who has joined us this evening. Always good to see people in the gallery. Masi. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and just to some degree along the same lines as my colleague I would like to just get down a little bit more into early childhood. I am sure the department is aware that at one point there was a local professional of some sort who had raised some concern with regard to the EDI as a method to be used in the first place to evaluate early childhood development. I am just wondering if the department can comment to that effect. Are they confident that the EDI instrument itself is the accurate tool to use on a go-forward basis? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and this is a tool that is used right across Canada. I think Nunavut is the only jurisdiction that currently does not use EDI results. We share these results with the Department of Health and Social Services as well and it helps them give direction into the programs that they are outlining. It helps us with information that we need to provide programs and services. It is also a program that is used around the world, and we do feel that the results and the EDI tool itself works well for us and we have done five years of complete data and we are on our sixth year using the results right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the reply. It is good to know that we have confidence in that system, then, in a go-forward basis. We have used that tool as a means to knowing the statistics that have come from it which clearly identify that we have some challenges in front of us. The department has indicated in their business plan that two of the primary areas of focus to assist in increasing or improving these outcomes in the EDI is the implementation of Right From the Start Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan, and then, of course, junior kindergarten.

So as it relates to implementing of the Right From the Start Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan, can the Minister provide us a little bit more detail and some update as it relates to what we're doing with that particular framework and action plan in terms of, you know, increasing accessibility and participation in early childhood development programs and services? That would be appreciated. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and earlier today we did do a presentation to standing

committee on the Right from the Start Action Plan. It has 19 actions; we gave updates on all of the items rolling forward, and we did have a good discussion about the EDI tool as well. We did offer to committee that if possible we could bring Dr. Janus to Yellowknife and have a more comprehensive detailed discussion with committee on the EDI results that we have seen, and I believe all Members also got a letter from Dr. Janus on the validity of the tool and results. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I can just say confidently now that it is a good idea for Members to show up to these briefings. No further questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Next we have Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Chair, I am trying to understand the department's goal of addressing attendance and graduation rates in light of the commitment to reducing instructional hours in the classroom. Could the Minister tell us how those two things are compatible? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are doing a number of things within the department with our education renewal. One thing in terms of graduation, we are doing a Pathways to Graduation that we are working with students as young as grade seven, grade eight, and finding what their needs are, as I mentioned in my Minister's statement earlier today. What their interests are, what they want to explore, and we want to support that.

The instructional hours allows for teachers to do some planning, assess, do some professional development for themselves, and get prepared so that they can have quality education and quality teaching in the classroom. That hopefully will have more of our students more engaged and be in the classroom itself. So there are many other things that we are doing with education renewal, and I do believe we are going to be doing a presentation to standing committee with some of those pilots that we have been working on, and I think that is sometime during this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, could the Minister remind me what the Education

Renewal Initiative says about reducing instructional hours? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and it just looks at improving student outcomes, as well as strengthening teacher professional development and the supports that they have. It is going to be a three-year pilot, so it is like much of our other Education Renewal Initiatives that we are doing throughout the Northwest Territories. It is going to be piloted this coming school year and making sure that we are improving teacher and student wellness, strengthening the teachers and learning, and also strengthening cultural programs' sense of identity, and increasing system-wide accountability with the results. So those are the four main areas around education renewal, and we feel that the instructional time falls right into that category. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to the Minister, I do not see that reduced instructional hours fits into any of those objectives. Taking students out of the classroom for an additional 100 hours a year, or a total one whole year of education over the life of their school career, I just do not see how this is going to meet the outcomes that are put forward in the Education Renewal Initiative. So having said that, how will the department assess the results of the reduced instructional hours? What are the specific measures that are going to be used to measure the outcomes?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and currently all schools that are wanting to participate in the pilot are working on how it is going to roll out. I also want to say that it is up to 100 hours; it is not completely 100 hours. It is going to be up to the schools to make those distinctions and decisions, but we will continue to monitor and evaluate, like any of our pilot programs that we have right now and look at the successes, and if there are any challenges for how we need to adjust those. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I understand correctly, there is no departmental standard for assessing the results of this experiment. This is simply for each school to develop its own measures and report those whenever they are required. Is that correct? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister mentioned, the strengthening teacher instructional practices initiative does involve pilots, and we feel that it falls within the two main areas of ERI; improving teacher and student wellness, as well as strengthening teaching and learning. The evaluations will accompany each pilot. Each pilot may be slightly different depending on what is agreed to at each school, so we will be working with the education authorities to tailor the evaluation in line with whatever the pilots specifically look like. There will be some differences there depending how they roll out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My next question has to do with the number of hours that are required of students to prepare for departmental exams, particularly in grade 12. How will the reduced instructional hours be implemented so that students still have enough preparation to succeed on their departmental exams? Will it be a different number of hours as YCS has suggested, or will it still be the 100 hours?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have preliminary submissions from schools for the implementation of the pilots in schools across the territory, and certainly what we're finding, particularly at the high school level, we are receiving submissions that do not go anywhere near the full 100 hours, particularly at the high school level. We are finding that the schools are very cognizant of the need to be aware of the timetabling process for the senior grades and the need to have enough time with students to prepare them for the departmentals. The teachers and the school staff themselves are very aware of that, and are therefore coming up with pilots that take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is supposed to be a benefit for teachers in lieu of a pay rise. How will teachers at the high school level be compensated for the hours that they are working, so many hours more than their colleagues who teach the younger grades? How will they be compensated? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The change in instructional time is intended to give teachers the opportunity to work together in collegial groups for professional development, or to give them time to prepare appropriate feedback for students such as report cards. This all happens within the normal work week, work year, for teachers. There is no impact on compensation related to this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me put it more simply. If I'm a grade 3 teacher, and my hours are reduced by 100, and I'm a high school teacher and my hours are reduced by 50, then what kind of compensation or incentive or other acknowledgment will I receive that, in fact, my hours have not been reduced by a total of 100 or near 100? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** The deputy minister had mentioned there will be no compensation. I think some of the incentives would be for the teachers to be able to get some planning done, assess what is going on in the classrooms, as well as the professional development side will be able to get some of the teachers to participate in professional development. These are decisions that are going to be made by the schools. I am sure all these things are being brought up as the schools are developing their instructional hours, plans. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see my time is up, so I will go back on the list. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask some questions about the inclusive schooling to begin with. Can the Minister please explain why we see a reduction of \$1 million and change being reduced from inclusive schooling? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the ministerial directive, when we first rolled it out, we were looking at developing a professional support team for students and for communities that do not have some of the regional centres that Yellowknife has. Since then, it has been taken out,

and that is where you see some of the changes. Plus, with the directive, we are looking out how we roll out those dollars so that, in fact, if the dollars go to the students' needs, at the end of the directive we should have a project support team in every community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Can he clarify what he means by the department is doing it, or the DEAs are doing it, or the school boards are doing it? Because I am looking at a fact sheet here, and it says that the DEC's are the ones in charge of putting the funding and utilizing the funding where they see fit, and now I'm hearing the department is taking a role in this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That decision was made on the recommendation of all the board chairs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize to the Minister. Could you please clarify that? Somebody was asking me a question and I got sidetracked, so I apologize to that, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, that decision was made on the recommendation of the board chairs.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I'm a little concerned, though, that we are going to see an influx of approximately 1,200 students in junior kindergarten, and we are going to see a reduction into this area here; specifically, for my junior kindergarten to grade four classes that are in the small schools. Has the department looked at that, and how inclusive schooling will, in fact, impact the whole classroom? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the implementation of junior kindergarten, as I mentioned, we currently have 20 communities that are running junior kindergarten programs right now, and there has not seemed to be a big impact. In

fact, I know for the Member's riding we do have support from the superintendent that it is working well. As I mentioned earlier, with the four-year-olds going into the school system, they will have access to more supports, more resources, and more teachers within the school setting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess I am struggling with this fact that, if you are going to take the supports that are out there for kindergarten to grade 12 or grade 9 and you have to use those supports at junior kindergarten, now we are going to have an impact on the whole school because, if you take a person away from where they are supposed to be into the other area to junior kindergarten, it has an impact. Will the Minister look at this area of concern and see how it can be better addressed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, junior kindergarten is play-based. I don't think they are going to be getting too high into the adding and more concrete education. It is play-based. We do feel that the staff in the schools will be able to work and help out the junior kindergarten as well. As we are doing the rollouts, we are still chatting with the education authorities on how this is going to roll out in their schools. For a little bit more detail, I will ask my deputy minister, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you Minister Moses. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The main estimates do not actually currently reflect the situation with inclusive schooling. We had planned, and we had worked with the education authorities, to redistribute funds to establish a centralized team of supports for the education authorities for inclusive schooling purposes. Through the course of discussions on the implementation of junior kindergarten, the education authorities asked us to change that plan. Therefore, there is a million dollars that we won't be allocating to that support team, and instead will be available for the education authorities to use for inclusive schooling purposes. We will continue to talk with the authorities over the coming year and into the future about how we move towards creating that team of supports for them, because they do recognize that there is a need for greater equity throughout the system for access to things like speech therapy, occupational therapy,

and those kinds of services, which that specialized team was going to help with.

The other thing that we are continuing to roll out, and this work continues, is to increase the number of program support teachers in schools. These are individuals who actually work with teachers in schools to help them create specialized plans for students in the classroom. We continue to work with them on rolling that resource out as well.

The other thing that I just want to flag is that the ratio for student teachers for junior kindergarten that we are funding is 12:1. That is higher than in other classrooms. With a ratio like that, we expect that there are more resources available in the school for those younger children. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister and the deputy minister for their answers. Now, that just opened up a whole bunch more questions. When we talk about the pupil-teacher ratio of 12:1, this is a territories ratio; this is not a school ratio. Correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is more of a funding ratio. With the junior kindergarten, when we were implementing it, we looked at the PTR and we felt that 12:1 was sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. It is a funding ratio but it is still globally the Northwest Territories is funded that way. We are not going to see a junior kindergarten teacher in Wrigley. Correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. Our legislated PTR for across the territories is 16:1. When we did the 12:1 ratio, it was on funding, but it was also on a school-to-school basis. We do feel that it is sufficient to roll out junior kindergarten as we have in 20 of our communities already. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and I thank the Minister for his answer. Again, I am going back to the question. It is the funding ratio of 12:1,

so you are depending on your school. If you have 20 students, you are not going to get an extra junior kindergarten teacher because, according to the ratio, we are at 16:1, now we are at 12:1, so they should only get the two teachers in that school. If I understand this correctly, there will not be a junior kindergarten teacher brought into Wrigley if they have 20 students? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have said it before, where we fund the education authorities over \$150 million. They have their own responsibility in how they budget their line items and getting the decisions that they make with funding that we do give to them. That would be a decision that the education authorities would have to make. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** My time is going to be up, so you may as well put me back on the list. Again, we as the government are giving the school \$150 million. The problem is we are saying, here is the money, so if we get a problem, you guys have to fix it because you are not addressing it. Is the government downloading onto the schools to make the hard decisions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Each education authority knows their operations' needs, what their operations have consisted of historically. They have always made those decisions. They understand the back-and-forth with the department in terms of budgets, the decisions that they have to make. That is why they have an elected board for the oversight. It has always been like that. They have always had to make the decisions, whether it was a tough decision or not. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Next we have Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have a few questions about junior kindergarten funding. First of all, has the department come to an agreement with the Yellowknife school boards on the question of who is paying for the busing? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Busing is something that we are working with all the

education authorities on currently. They have agreed to engage with us to re-examine the funding formula in relation to busing, and that would be a collaborative process. We anticipate that work to continue for the next several months. Again, we are working with them. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I guess we will see some change in this line item for education authority contributions to reflect those changes when they are made. What I notice now in the main estimates, page 35, education authority contributions, is that the \$2 million that was announced in the budget is not here. Where would I find that money? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When the main estimates were printed, we didn't make that decision on the \$5.1 million, so it is not reflective in here. That money will come through a supplemental since the decision was made. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, for that clarification. There is a small reduction in the amount of money going to the education authorities. Could the Minister confirm the current understanding of how much of a reduction there is to the district education authorities, since these numbers now seem to be unreliable? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Some of the reductions are focused on the enrolment rates that we get. We do see a decrease in some areas. Some of that was also reflective of our education renewal initiatives, as well. Thank you.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure that I totally understood that. The enrolments for this school year were counted at the end of September, so there is some certainty about how many children are in the schools. I am not clear what the uncertainty is in coming up with a definitive number here. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Assistant deputy minister of corporate services, Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** So the reduction that you see in education authority contributions is a result of a couple of items. Because the funding that we provide to education authorities is based on enrolment, when we see those enrolments drop, there is a savings associated with that. We took those savings and reinvested that back into the education renewal initiative. There is also \$600,000 in reductions to the administrative component of the funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So Mr. Chair, although the Minister has been saying that junior kindergarten is fully funded, the education authorities are still looking at a reduction in their allocations for the coming fiscal years. Do I have that correct? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct. Some of the items that Mr. Lovely just pointed out reflect that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So Mr. Chair, in fact, junior kindergarten isn't being fully funded by the government; it is being funded by both the government and the education authorities. Is that correct?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount that we have referenced in terms of reductions, the \$600,000, is specifically directed at the administrative functions for the education authorities, so it is not to come from classroom supports and resources in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Okay. I think those are all my questions for now, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to go back to the \$150 million. Can the Minister clarify: is it \$150 million that they are giving the school boards, or is it \$147 million? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is over \$150 million that we allocate throughout the territories to all the education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Okay. Thank you. I see a reduction, though, in mains here of \$2.3 million and \$1 million-and-some-change from schools in inclusive schooling here, so why are we seeing a reduction? Why is this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Moses. Thank you, Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. This perhaps isn't the best page to look at when we are understanding what we provide to the education authorities in a school year. Page 49 of the document illustrates what it is exactly that we are providing, and that is \$151,769,000 for the 2017-18 school year. This does not include the component that was committed for the additional funding for junior kindergarten that was announced at the beginning of this session. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Lovely, for your answer. Maybe, when we are providing these business plans and mains, we could actually put all the information where it should be so we are all together. That would be a recommendation. Can we get the Minister to commit to making that recommendation to clarify these books? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is just how the mains are structured. They have always been like this. We would have to work with the Department of Finance if we want to make those kinds of changes.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for providing that answer. Will he make the commitment to work with the Minister of Finance or his colleague to make these changes so that it is more clear? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, sure, we can meet with the Minister and have those discussions. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will just leave that one alone now, and hopefully we will get some information back better next time so we can make better decisions or questions, I guess. In regards to the program support teacher, are we going to see program support teachers in all the schools, or is it going to be regionalized and numbered? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our commitment under the ministerial directive is that we are going to see a program support teacher in all of the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Now, I am just going to be a little bit thick here. I just want to make sure I get this right. My seven schools in the Nahendeh riding will all, each, get program support teachers in their schools, to get that clarified? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is the plan. As you've seen in some of the EDI results at the presentation this afternoon, in some of our smallest communities we are seeing some concerns, and we want to address those concerns. The plan is to get a program support teacher in every community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I hate to belabour the point, but talking about plans and actually doing are two different things, so I am a little concerned that, if we are planning to do something, we are not actually going to do it. I am hoping that I am hearing the Minister correctly and that we are going to proceed that way. Another question I do have, on to another thing, is that health, wellness, and school support is going up just over \$1 million. Is this part of the inclusive schooling, is this part of the PTS teachers, or is there something else with this area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, we were looking at putting that support team together of five jobs. Unfortunately, that didn't happen, so that is what that was. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. So just to clarify, that is the \$1 million we were talking about, inclusive schooling. I thank the Minister for that information. In regard to culture and heritage, I notice a reduction of \$1.2 million. Could the Minister please elaborate on why we have this huge reduction in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did have an MOU with the Government of Nunavut, that we were storing a lot of their artifacts over at our museum. Since then, they have taken out all of their artifacts and they are in the process, I think, of moving it down to Winnipeg, so that is that MOU that does not exist anymore. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that clarification. I'd just like to go on page 35, and I see Healthy Children Initiatives, there's no money in. Has that sunsetted? I guess that was the first question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That line item, there is money that was reallocated to the daycares, I believe. I'll go to my deputy minister for a little more clarification.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we implemented the changed rates for early childhood programs in October we re-profiled the different elements that make up those rates. One of them used to be called the Healthy Children Initiative, so those funds have merely been shifted from this initiative into the early childhood rates. So they're just being re-categorized. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister and Ms. Haener for her answer. So just to clarify again, this Healthy Children's Initiative, all it was is the money has moved up and that's where it was before in the development of this mains? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Assistant deputy minister of corporate services, Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** What we have is the Healthy Children Initiative, the Early Childhood Intervention Program, and the Early Childhood Program had undergone a number of changes this past July and were implemented in October. So what ended up happening is that \$1,055,000 was reallocated into the Early Childhood Program and the Early Childhood Intervention Program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That will be all the questions I have at this point in time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Any further questions from committee? I see no further questions or comments from committee. Please return to page 34, Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture operations, expenditure summary, total activity, \$203,195,000. Does committee agree? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I thought we were going through this page-by-page, so I did have one question about -- it's on page 35 and it's about Support to Northern Performers. Back in 2015-16 there was \$185,000 in that budget for it; now it's down to \$101,000. Can someone from the department explain what happened? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Just a reminder to committee: we're looking at pages 34, with information found on page 35 to 38. With that, we go to Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. What ended up happening was, over the course of the past year in 2016-17, we had changed how we fund different organizations based on a risk-based approach. So when we fund a smaller category of funding up to, let's say, \$5,000 we do it through a grant; anything over and above that amount we would do it through a contribution agreement. So what ended up happening is in 2015-16 they were operating under the old grant program and this has been since changed in 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.



**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's a helpful explanation, but what I see here is support over time declining for our arts and performers. Is that the case? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and just further to Mr. Lovely's comments earlier, we did change it so it would be easier for artists to get the contributions, moving it from the grants down to the contributions. Funding hasn't really changed; we still give strong support there. It's just in terms of how we set up these agreements with northern performers. I'll go to Mr. Lovely for a little bit more clarification on that. Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. In 2015-16 what you see under the Support to Northern Performers item is \$185,000 in actuals, and we have since changed that program and moved that funding down into Arts Organizations' Operating Funding. Because there wasn't any program in 2015-16 you're not going to see any actual expenditures in that year. So as we move forward in 2016-17, the new organizations, or the organizations that had previously applied under the Support to Northern Performers, will probably apply under the Arts Organizations' Operating Funding. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's a very helpful explanation, and I can see it now.

I also note that the NWT Arts Council in 2014, they developed a strategic plan. Are there any plans by the department to increase our support for arts and performers? Thanks, Mr. Chair. Sorry, and the reason why I say that, Mr. Chair, is this is an area of our economy that has tremendous paybacks; it can help diversify our economy, showcase our culture. Is this something that the department is looking at increasing, say, funding to the NWT Arts Council and/or Support to Northern Performers? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our department continues to collaborate with other departments such as ITI when we're supporting Northern performers, Northern artists. In this budget there is no increase, just for confirmation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm glad I got a straight answer there from the Minister; I appreciate that. I guess, though, is this an area that the department is prepared to do some more work on by developing its own strategy or action plan around support for performing arts and our artists here in the Northwest Territories? So can you make that commitment to begin work on a strategy or an action plan of some sort? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have an arts strategy. It is probably a few years old, but we can take a look at it again and evaluate how it's working. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just skimming through this section to see if I've got anything else. I think most of my questions were already asked by my colleagues. Sorry, there's one here. Public library services have been declining over time. Can someone from the department tell us what's going on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What you're seeing is that under Community Library Services the budget has remained the same over the last two years, at \$763,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. My apologies. I should have pointed to page 34, and the line item is public library services. It has declined in 2016 from \$2,048,000 to this year. It is now \$1.888 million, so it has been declining over time. Are we just cutting the funding to this service? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to clarify this, the funding to the libraries is not affected. It is something that some of the operations within our own department, we made those reductions. You can rest assured that the public libraries did not see any funding affected.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for his explanation. Can he just provide a little bit more detail about what is being cut in public library services? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As part of the reduction exercise that began last fiscal year or this fiscal year, we eliminated one position at the Library Services Branch in Hay River. We have also reduced other operations and maintenance expenses by approximately \$24,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was afraid of that. I think that is all the questions that I have. Once again, here we have the fiscal strategy of Cabinet driving what we should be doing at the programs and services that we offer to our residents. I don't support that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I take that as a comment. Any further questions from committee? I see none. Seeing no further questions or comments from committee, please return to page 34, Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, operation expenditure summary, total activity, \$203,195,000. Does committee agree? Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 53-18(2):  
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN  
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, EDUCATION, CULTURE  
AND EMPLOYMENT, DEFERRAL OF  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITY,  
CARRIED

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity education and culture under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Main Estimates 2017-2018 on page 34 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. The motion is on the floor and it is being distributed. The motion is on the floor and it is non-debatable.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** The education and culture activity has been deferred. Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the next activity, income security. The activity description is found on page 39. The activity detail is on page 40. Related information items are found on page 41 and 42. Does committee have any questions or comments? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, at the time that the department presented its business plan it was not able to tell us about the projected growth in income assistance for the coming fiscal year. I am wondering if they are able to do that now, please. Thank you. That is, growth in the number of clients. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. There is an increase of \$200 million that we are projecting for this year. At this time, we don't have the number of clients. Sorry, projected number of distinct cases, 3,420. For 2016-17, we don't have those numbers, thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. For income assistance, we have 3,900 clients or distinct cases in 2016-17. For senior heating subsidy, it is 546. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I need to sort some numbers out. I heard the Minister say that the increase was \$200 million to income assistance. Could he confirm?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was my mistake. It is just over \$2 million. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Committee, please keep the sidebar activity to a minimum. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, for being strict. I also have two numbers now for the number of cases in 2016-17 for people who require income assistance. I have 3,900 and I have 3,420. Could the Minister please point me to the correct number? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The numbers that I gave were actually in 2015-16. That is the 3,420. The other number that Mr. Lovely gave you was the following year. They are both correct, just different years. My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you very much, then. That \$2 million increase, does that represent forced growth on the number of additional clients anticipated for the next fiscal year? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is what we are looking at as an increased uptake in our income assistance clients. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does it also represent an increase in the value of income assistance itself? Can the Minister confirm that income assistance allowances are indexed to the CPI? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, income assistance is not indexed to CPI. There are various things that we do take into consideration when we look at income assistance and providing that financial support. It is on a case-by-case basis. From my knowledge, I don't think any jurisdiction in Canada actually indexes their income assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is the value of the income assistance allowance just constant from year to year, without any reflection of inflation? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you Ms. Green. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do review the program on a yearly basis in terms of how we fund income assistance clients. It is reviewed on a yearly basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when was the last time the allowances were increased to reflect inflation? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. From my understanding, April 1, 2015, was the last time we seen an increase. Thank you.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister tell us when the program will next be reviewed for inflation? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is something that we are working on. I can't give a firm date to the Member at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** I thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I want to turn now to the question of the food and clothing allowances that were deleted when the Canada Child Benefit was introduced. Can the Minister tell us whether the decrease in the food and clothing allowance is equal to the increase in the Canada Child Benefit? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Mr. Chair, for detail I will go to Mr. Lovely. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So what ended up happening under that change to the program was we had originally intended to raise the rates in 2016, April 1, 2016, but because of the change to the way we calculate as a result of the changes to the NWT Child Benefit and the Canada Child Benefit, those increases to the food rates and the clothing rates were not implemented, so the rates didn't change at all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Chair, I am not sure that I understand that. So there were going to be increases, but in the end there were not increases, but there was a decrease because the food and clothing allowance was taken out. Is the deletion of

the food and clothing allowance for children equal to the increase in the Canada Child Benefit? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I'll pass that question to my deputy minister.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just going to go back a bit and outline some of the historical increases. We did receive an increase in 2015-16 to implement changes to the food, clothing, and incidental allowances, as Mr. Lovely mentioned. We also received funds in 2016-17 to increase those allowances, as well. However, in order to take advantage of the new child benefit, we actually modified the methodology and approach for income assistance. So because of that change in methodology and approach, the food and clothing portion of the methodology no longer applies to children. Instead, we have the child benefit that applies. So we were not able to actually roll out the funds as originally planned, and instead we redirected them in order to take advantage of that child benefit. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** I thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me ask a related question: so is the Canada Child Benefit having the same magnitude of benefit for people on income assistance as it has for people who aren't on income assistance? Is the magnitude of benefit equal for both groups? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe it needs a bit more clarity, but our families that are on income assistance right now that took the Canada Child Benefit have seen increases in the dollars that we are giving them. For people who are not on income assistance, maybe if the Member could just clarify if she is referring to professionals, people who are in the workforce? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Time is up, Ms. Green. Moving on to Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am looking at the line for Student Financial Assistance on page 40. It actually shows a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18. Even when I look at the revised estimates, there is a decrease. Can someone from

the department explain what is going on here, why we are decreasing our funding for Student Financial Assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is due to less uptake in the program. Historically, Student Financial Assistance, we have always seen about \$1.3 million that lapsed every year, and so this year we just decided to look at taking that \$1.3 million out. It is not always fully utilized, and, historically, we have always seen that \$1.3 million over-lapsed, around there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to understand what would happen here if all of our TEP and social work students have to go south because Aurora College is winding down their program. If Student Financial Assistance was actually maxed out under the 2017 Main Estimates, what would happen? Would students be denied financial assistance? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, we don't want to hinder the education of any students who want to go and take post-secondary education or training, focusing on skill development. If that was the case, that we went over budget on this line item, we would probably have to come back to government with a supplementary appropriation so that all students who wanted to take post-secondary have that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment, then, by the Minister that he would bring forward a supplementary appropriation if Student Financial Assistance gets maxed out. I hope we don't have to go there, but I think I have got a firm commitment from the Minister to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is it.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister Moses, did you want to add to that?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If it does get maxed out, I guess you could say that is good news because you've got more students taking post-secondary. So even though we don't want to get there, it is great that we do have over 1,200 students right now who we are currently

funding. Hopefully, we get more in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will just go back to the question I was asking when I ran out of time. The question is: is the Canada Child Benefit providing the same magnitude of benefit for people on income assistance as it is for people who are not? That would be, of course, proportionate to their income. It is an income-driven benefit. Are they receiving the same magnitude of benefit when they are on income assistance as the people who are not on income assistance? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, with the new Canada Child Benefit, it is not looked as income anymore, so like I mentioned earlier we have more families that are on income assistance that are receiving considerably a lot more dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** I think I will just leave it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Seeing no further questions or comments from the committee, please turn to page 40, Education, Culture and Employment, income security, operations expenditure summary, \$48,766,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, committee. We will proceed on to the next activity, labour, development and standards. The activity description is found on page 43. The activity detail is on page 44 and related information items are found on pages 45 to 47. We will start with 45 to 47. Questions? Ms. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I understand that attracting immigrants to the Northwest Territories is a priority. I am wondering what actions the department will be taking in the next fiscal year to pursue increased immigration? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are currently developing an immigration strategy. The good news is our nominations program has been increasing by about 25 per cent each year, and last year we actually reached our goal and

actually went above and beyond. I believe a total in 2016 we had 128, which was above what is normally seen. We continue to promote that program, as well as working with ITI on the business side, but we are developing an immigration strategy right now in partnership with ITI. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, could the Minister share with us what the goal is for the nomination program for 2017-18? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe it is 100, and I am pretty sure that we are going to go above and beyond that again if we get the same applications that we did this past year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it sounds like the goal for 2017-18 is lower than it was for 2016-17; do I have that right? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually our goal for the last fiscal year was at 80 and we got above that, so we are just making it reflective of the number of applications we are getting, and it will change from year to year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, what additional resources does the department put in to the increased nomination program goal? When it goes from 80 to 100, what is the extra money that is being spent by the department to meet that goal? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and there are no additional resources. We believe that we have a strong division in the Immigration Division that is able to address the increase in numbers that we are seeing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So Mr. Chair, are we as a government actively looking for nominees for this program or are we just accepting applications as they come in? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, we do work with the Department of ITI. There are a couple of different streams that a person can come and work up in the North and be part of that Nominee Program. Obviously we do work with our industry partners and private companies that do need temporary foreign workers, as well as through our stream where it is more application-based working with that. I know the federal government does a good job of going out in terms of promoting the program worldwide, and we are just benefactors of the work that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, has the Minister given any consideration to actively recruiting people through the Nominee Program to come to the NWT given the value of having additional people here in the NWT? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have that opportunity when we are sitting at the FTP meetings. Currently we are going to be meeting with the Francophonie at the end of March and we are going to be working on how we can look at getting more French-speaking people into the Northwest Territories working and meeting some of the demands for that type of work, but right now it's more done at the FTP level. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I realize this is a shared responsibility. The Minister's labour market forecast says that we need thousands, literally thousands, of people in the NWT over the next 15 years in different kinds of skilled professions. So is immigration not one of the ways that we are going to meet this demand for skilled workers? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and definitely I think that we are going to need to look outside of our jurisdiction but also look outside of Canada when we are looking at the skilled labour

market. We are hoping to have that immigration strategy that we are currently working on be released sometime this summer; possibly June I think. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking forward to seeing the immigration strategy. Will it answer my questions about how we are going to get more immigrants to fill our skilled job positions? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and yes, it should answer those questions in terms of how we are going to fill our in-demand jobs in the Northwest Territories. That document, along with the Skills 4 Success document that we tabled, is going to be reflective of each other, so it should help us fill those in-demand jobs in the North. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am switching gears now to Aurora College. As we know, the Minister and the board have made a number of cuts to programming. Will there be additional cuts in administration, leasing, and other related college expenses that come as a result of the program cuts? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Deputy Minister Haener. Sorry, committee, I will go to Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So as part of the Aurora College reductions in 2017-18, there are a number of components that are being proposed, including some amounts for administrative reductions and, again, the Teacher Education Program, the Social Work Diploma Program. There are going to be rent increases and student housing increases so the contribution that is provided to Aurora College will go down because of the own source revenue that they will be able to generate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, Mr. Chair, has the department studied the effect of the cuts on the communities in which they are taking place? What are the indirect costs of these cuts? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, we did not. I will look at some of those to the question the Member asked. With these program cuts, they are being phased out, so with the social work program, it will still run for two years. The TEP program will go until 2020. Once we have that strategy out with Aurora College, we will see where we will be directing our resources. At this time we are not even sure if another program will replace it, but we will see when the strategy comes out, how we will take those into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, can the Minister say whether the department is contemplating further reductions in the Aurora College grant beyond the program reductions that have been announced up to this point? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, and I think Mr. Lovely with his response earlier answered that question with the future reductions going on with the college. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Sorry, Ms. Green. Your time has expired but we could mark you down again. Next, we have Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to bounce back to immigration for a moment. We certainly know that immigration plays a critical role in growing our workforce and, of course, filling some skills gaps, and we find that immigrants often will be small business owners. Of course, to our benefit as a government, they will increase the population and, therefore, the transfer funding that we receive from the federal government. There are a lot of positive boxes to check off when it comes to supporting immigration.

The Minister spoke earlier about the Nominee Program, somewhat. I am just wondering if the Minister can expand on it? I know he shared some of the numbers relevant to how many people have come through the program. What is the department actually doing itself to support these immigrants as they come through in terms of do we have some supports in place? Also, maybe if the Minister could allude to what is happening with these folks after they come through the gates, so to speak? Are they finding employment, or are they enrolling in our educational systems, or are they starting businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Nominee Program that we administer is an employer-driven program. It is composed of three different streams: critical impact workers; skilled workers; and NWT express entry. These programs require that there actually be employment lined up in advance. We are actually working with employers in relation to that, so folks who come in have jobs under the Nominee Program.

The Minister referenced numbers earlier; the benefit there is that it is not just the individual who is coming to work here in the territory, but they usually bring family members as well, so it is more than just the actual individual. It is their family, and the contributions that they make to the NWT, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Haener. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that information. Do we know where the immigrants who are coming into the territory are going? I suspect the majority of them are here in Yellowknife, but are we getting a number of immigrants who are going into some of the other communities throughout the territory? Is this a benefit for the territory, and not just one or two centres? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can get those specific numbers. We just have to do a little bit of work to get those specifics. What we are seeing is we are seeing a lot more of that skilled labour force here in Yellowknife, for one; and then also at our regional centres that have more job opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, yes, any kind of numbers with regard to the diversification of the immigrants throughout the territory through this program would be appreciated.

In the business plan, the department talked about, and I know the Minister alluded earlier to the immigration strategy, and in the business plan we talk about ECE and ITI, possibly looking at kind of a streamlined service, a single-window approach. Can the Minister update us on whether there has been any headway made in this kind of amalgamated immigration single-window approach? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not at this moment. I know ITI deals more on the business side. We deal with individual applications. As I mentioned earlier, the strategy that we are looking at bringing forth and presenting to committee and to the House should be completed by June of this summer.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are we faced with any challenges yet, or still, with regard to their relationship on immigration with the federal government, or has that been streamlined at all? Are we finding that we are able to meet the goals that we are trying to outline as a government without hindrance from the federal process? If we can get some insight on that, it would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I believe that is working fine with the federal government, that Members know that levels increased right across Canada this past year; and we did also receive an update that our levels have increased here in the Northwest Territories as well by about 100 extra nominees. Our levels have increased, so it is good for the territory, good for industry, good for business, and our communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is good to hear, obviously, that the numbers are increasing. Another aspect around immigration is with regard to Syrian refugees. As most know, there was a family that moved here through that program, arguably the resettlement program not long ago. I note, however, we were a contributor to that effort in the year past, but it doesn't seem like under the resettlement grants we are putting any additional funds into that pot. Can the Minister provide for us what the rationale is for that, and are we not going to support the community groups that are still making effort to see Syrian refugees come to the North? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Previously, we did allocate \$90,000 for the resettlement. It has been working out. We do have one family here in Yellowknife right now, and I do

believe we have a couple more, a few more actually, that are supposed to be coming into Yellowknife. We do support I believe it is \$15,000 per family. We did allocate the \$90,000 which has not had full uptake right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I wasn't clear on that. I appreciate that we are contributors. It seems like we are contributors to the tune of \$15,000 per, but how are we going to continue to be contributors when we do not have any money in the pot for this coming year and we're still expecting Syrian refugee families to come to the North. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and if you do look in the main estimates, there's no funding allocated for this here. We still work and continue to try to support the best that we can. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through the Nominee Program, are there any Syrian folks that we know of who are coming through that program? I know that's an employability program, and so I'm just curious what the connection is there, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have that answer for the Member right now, but we can speak to our immigration folks and see if we're getting any Syrian refugees who are coming through the Nominee Program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne, your time has expired, but if you'd like I could put you on again. Next we have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is related on page 45 to the Small Community Employment Program. Seeing that it got a significant increase, give me an example on what the guidelines for this pot of money is? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't know what the full guidelines are on this new



pot of funding that we did get that was announced in the Budget Address and we're still working on that as it's a significant increase to the Small Community Employment Program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Because this is sort of relatively a new program, are there expectations throughout the year to access further federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of this project itself, we do wage subsidies as one area; we also do community projects if a community wants to work on a project. In terms of federal funding, we do have labour market agreements with the federal government that focuses on a few different areas, and we're always negotiating that and trying to find if we can even get multi-year funding rather than year-to-year, which has been a concern. So I want to make sure that our employers out there, industry or partners that we work with, can rest assured that we're always going to have that funding for them, whether it's through a wage subsidy or some kind of training or some kind of community project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is this program sort of going to have some reserved amounts there for all of the small communities? As you know, there are quite a few smaller communities out there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is on the application basis, and we do work with the communities to have those kinds of programs. I know in Fort Good Hope, for instance, we had that really great program where we were able to employ youth for the summer, and I encourage all communities to look at contacting the department to see how we can utilize this to get employment in our smallest communities or find projects in the small communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Next we have Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I just want to confirm what the actual amount of the Aurora College contribution cut actually is, because in the

main estimates if you look at page 45, college contribution, it's less than \$2 million, \$1.8 or something, but if you look at the business plan it's actually \$3.851 million, and that's found on Schedule 4, page 7 of 12. Beside that it says TBD, presumably to be determined.

So can someone from the department indicate what the actual cut is in contribution funding to Aurora College? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the time we were doing the business plans, we had also given some direction to the Aurora College to look for reductions. So at that time, during business plan review, we weren't exactly sure what the Aurora College was going to be doing or coming back in working with the department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So just to be very clear, then, the actual reduction in the contributions is \$1.8 million, or whatever it is, found on page 45 of the main estimates; is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the reduction to the contributions to Aurora College for 2017-18 is the amount that the Member had stated.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that response; it helps clarify it for me.

Earlier in the House I had asked whether the Minister was prepared to give Regular Members the terms of reference for the strategic planning exercise that the college is going through; we still don't have that, and I think that's, like, over a week ago now; and one of my colleagues asked for copies of the mandate letters from the board of directors to be tabled in the House as well.

Does the Minister have any timeline for providing this information to the Regular MLAs on this side? The reason why I raise this is that is critical information for us to be able to review these main estimates properly, and we don't have that information. When is the Minister going to provide this information? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My apologies for the delay. As you know, the department has been pretty busy the last little while here. We'll get that information to Members tomorrow. Thank you

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I heard the Minister say tomorrow; is that correct? Okay, great.

My next question is I believe it's in the business plan that there's some mention of an accountability framework being developed for Aurora College. Can the Minister or his staff tell me a little bit more about what that accountability framework is all about? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the request for the mandate letter, and I don't want this to sound circular, but there is a reference in the mandate letter that the Minister has provided to the college the development of an accountability framework. We are doing that collaboratively with the college over the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Great to hear that the accountability framework is mentioned in the mandate letters, but can someone explain just a little bit more about this? Presumably, it's some sort of a system to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and what they're doing and whether targets are being met and so on. Is that what this accountability framework is all about? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's the intent of this accountability framework. As you see, we do have a contribution agreement with the Aurora College for quite a lot of money and we want to make sure that dollars are being spent effectively, efficiently, and that they are held accountable to the dollars that we are providing them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. That is sort of what I had assumed the accountability framework was all about. Can the

Minister now explain why these cuts are being made to Aurora College contributions before the strategic plan is finished, before an accountability framework is finished? Then we might probably have a better understanding of where the college can become more efficient and effective. Why make these cuts in advance of those exercises? It just doesn't make any sense. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Aurora College was given a target for reductions. They worked in collaboration with our department, looked at the programs within the services that they provide, and as I have mentioned and said in the House, the graduation rates were very low coming out of these two programs. That was the decision that was made by both the Aurora College and our department moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation from the Minister. I don't agree with the process the department has gone about with this. Let's just get a little bit more detail about when was Aurora College told that they were going to get their contribution cut? Just a ballpark figure. Middle of September? When did that happen? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was done in September of last year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Presumably, when the board of directors found out about the cut, they would probably have developed a revised budget for the college for the year. Was that revised budget submitted to the department? About when would that have happened and when would the department have approved it, or when would the Minister have approved it? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The process was that in September we approached Aurora College with reductions. They came back with revised reductions that they wanted to see in November. Those were finalized. Those revisions were put into the main estimates in December and sent to P and P.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So okay, now we have the paper trail right. The department told the college about reductions. They came back with a revised budget. That was then approved by the Minister and the department. The Minister has known about the cuts to these programs for several months, and now word is coming out about these because of e-mails to students and so on. Regular MLAs, we weren't really told about what was being reduced or cut in terms of the programs offered by the college. Once again, poor communications. Just unacceptable that this is the way that this sort of thing takes place. Again, it is being driven by the fiscal strategy and targets set by Cabinet. I think that is all I have to say about this, Mr. Chair. Just not a good way to go about planning and delivering on post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you. I take that as a comment. Would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we were working on the potential reductions with the Aurora College, we did send information to the clerk's office to share with the standing committee. Once the revisions were made, we did send that to committee as well, and the main estimates in December, I believe. It might have been December 20<sup>th</sup>. I would have to confirm the dates with that. I do believe Members should have been aware of this last year at some time. Then January 9<sup>th</sup>, I believe, was the very finalized draft in the main estimates that was presented to committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Next we have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering where I would find the contributions to College nordique and to Dechinta Centre for Learning, if the Minister could help me with that? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You will find the contributions to those two institutions under adult post-secondary education. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. What is the total amount for both institutions that our government currently provides? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just recently we increased the funding to Dechinta to the tune of \$500,000 per year. It is a multiyear agreement with them. We don't have the specific details on College nordique, but we can look at getting that. Last year, we did provide funding to College nordique of \$354,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has a new agreement been worked out with College nordique to support them moving forward in excess of that \$354,000 or is that funding going to be stable for the next fiscal year as well, as represented by this budget? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We continue to work with College nordique on a year-to-year basis and look at how we provide them with funding. We continue to have a good partnership with the institution. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps, I will clarify. Unless I misheard, the Minister said that previous fiscal, this government provided \$354,000 in funding to College nordique. I am wondering what we are providing in this budget for the coming fiscal year? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Historically, we have always worked with College nordique in terms of funding. The year previous to the amount that I have given for last fiscal year was even significantly lower. We will continue to work with them. I don't have the exact line item for this budget with me, but I can get that detail and share it with the Member.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will appreciate receiving that information to properly understand how we are supporting our post-secondary partners. I note that the line item for adult and post-secondary education is \$34.5 million. Can the Minister confirm if the majority of

this goes to Aurora College? It looks like \$31 million goes to Aurora College. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is right. The majority of this funding in adult and post-secondary education does go to the Aurora College. Thank you.

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

**MR. TESTART:** So by my math, there is almost \$32 million going to the college and then around \$1 million going to College nordique and Dechinta. Does that account for the total amount of funding for post-secondary education, or is there some left over that is going somewhere else? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and yes that line item is fully utilized, so there are no dollars left over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just more a comment at this point on how we are rolling out post-secondary education. Again, I feel like we are very far behind where Northerners expect us to be in providing quality post-secondary education here in the Northwest Territories. I will not argue with the Minister that the Student Financial Assistance program is world-class and gives a lot of opportunities to our kids to pursue educational opportunities across Canada and the world, but it is here in the North that I think we need to do a better job at bringing not only opportunities to students who want to learn close to home, but also research opportunities through these institutions. The college contributions, you know, we could be using these to promote a knowledge economy and to those expanded research opportunities.

Currently, Aurora College does not seem to know what it is doing apart from cutting two programs that are seemingly very popular, or at least an area of concern for many people in the Northwest Territories. So I wonder again if the Minister is willing to retreat from these reductions and reassess the college contributions until such time as the strategic plan is completed and we, as a government, have a better opportunity to decide on the future of the college as the leading institution of post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and this was work that was done collaboratively between the department and Aurora College to look at where they were going to get their reductions from. As I mentioned, we are seeing very low graduation rates out of both programs and decided to go ahead with these reductions and the program. I know we have had full debates on this, both here in Committee of the Whole as well as on the floor, and this is where we had that healthy discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I expect the debate will continue both here and in the House. This reduction around, I guess, around \$3 million give or take, did the college decide to do this again because it looked internally and wanted to find efficiencies within and did this in an effort to streamline its own operations so it provides better service to its students, or was this a decision that came through a mandate letter to identify reductions? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and as I mentioned back in September we did meet with the Aurora College with a reduction target. They did some work in collaboration with our departments, and these programs were the ones that were identified. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will take it from the Minister it was more or less a Sophie's Choice situation with the college board of directors. These programs, I think, are very beloved in the regions where they operate and are seen as opportunities for the students and Northerners who want to take these programs to better themselves, better their lives, and better their communities. So I would hope that we find ways to streamline and improve programs rather than to end them.

Finally, as I frequently do promote the opportunities that our other partners provide, is there any plan to support the continued growth of Dechinta and College nordique apart from funding but through legislative and policy work to help them leverage funding and endowments from third-party sources that they can bring into their own operations? I will remind the Minister that Dechinta had brought in \$500,000 from the federal government to offer programming to Northerners. So what is the

department doing to support those efforts to leverage more funds and bring more opportunities to Northerners through Dechinta and College nordique? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we are currently working on an overarching post-secondary legislation that would give the Dechinta and College nordique an opportunity to possibly seek those fundings, and we do provide letters of support as well when they are lobbying the federal government for their programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it is only fair to give the Minister the final word, so I will do that and yield the balance of my time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Next we have Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to start with Aurora College here. When we look at Aurora College in the education program and social work program it provides immense value for the NWT residents, but it is also integral to NWT and Canada to the TRC recommendations and some of that. So I guess my first question coming to this is: were the cuts an evidence-based decision? So was there evidence of that besides the numbers? Did they look at it and look at all the valuations and all the recommendations and make an evidence-based decision? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and yes it was evidence based. We looked at the history of the enrolments in the two programs, as well as the graduation rates of the students who completed the program, and took into account the investment that we put into those two particular programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. So with this evidence-based decision making, what was the timeframe? Was it a year, two years, five years, or the length of this program that was from it starting to being where we are today?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We looked at the history of the enrolment rates in the two programs, then we also looked at the graduation rates in the two programs as well. Over the last three years with the social work program we are graduating on average four graduates every year, and as I mentioned this year we are expecting to have three graduates come out of that program. With the Teacher Education Program, although the enrolment rates averaged decently, we were still only getting seven graduates out of the TEP program. We continue to support our students who want to go and seek education outside of territory, 33 in the education field who we are supporting right now outside of territory as well as 19 social work degree students. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So if I heard the Minister correctly, the last five years they have made this decision, so the TEP program has been 47 years they have not looked at all these numbers and they have just focused on the last five. So again, did the college actually look at their promotion and their recruitment process out there to get students in this program? Was that part of the evidence-based decision making? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I am pretty sure the Aurora College does. I have seen them at career fairs. I have seen them promoting all their programs, not just the two that the Member is focusing on. We do have a lot of other programs within the Aurora College system, spread out among our three campuses, and I am pretty sure that Aurora College promotes them all equally. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I am just going to leave this part because we could spend the next 20 minutes on it and still not get it come out to an answer that satisfies me. I am going to go to small community employment. This program saw an increase of \$3 million so, to the \$339,000 that was presently used by the program, was that fully utilized this past fiscal year? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the previous fiscal year, that funding was not fully utilized. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. So in regards to this program, is it a subsidy or is it a first-come-first-served sort of thing? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do two streams with this funding, as I mentioned earlier. There is a wage subsidy option as well as community projects that can be looked at being funded. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. In regards to the community projects, is it a cost share or is it fully funded by the department? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. All the projects through the small community employment support program are done through partnerships.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. So I guess my concern is, as it is a subsidy or a partnership, we didn't access it fully this time and we have added \$3 million to it. Will the department look at changing the policy so it is actually job creation and not a subsidy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thomson. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, definitely, we are aware of the fact that the monies have not been fully utilized in the past. We are planning to spend the next several months looking at how we can ensure that additional money is fully utilized with small community employment initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the deputy minister for that answer. So I guess my question is: are we looking at this as removing the salary subsidy and actually just making it job creation, or is it trying to fit within the parameters that presently exist in the policy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, we are still staying within the same parameters of how we do the wage subsidy or the community projects in partnership with communities, whether it is employers or Aboriginal bands. It is something that we can definitely take a look at, but that is still going to take some time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for the answer. The biggest problem is that, if communities don't have the money, they can't access this program, and if we can't access this program, people can't go to work, and if people can't go in to work, they have to go on income support. We are talking about a couple of months from now, trying to get this rolled out. If this budget is passed April 1<sup>st</sup>, it is going to come out. I would like to see the money out there. If we are not going to have it out there, or if you can't organize it, will the department look at maybe giving that money to Finance or to MACA so that they can get that money out to the communities so people can get to work and have a employment and a paycheque at the end of the day? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we do intend to look at this fully and the approach to date. We will have a more comprehensive approach and strategy for small community employment by the fall. We appreciate the interest in seeing the money out in communities. We have that desire, as well. Obviously, we would rather that folks are engaged in productive employment rather than, as the Member says, on income assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, and I thank the deputy minister for her answer. However, we are talking six months in. We have missed the summertime. We have missed a lot of opportunities for people in the small communities to do work, and

that is a challenge. So if the department can't do it, can we look at another department, give the money to MACA or Finance so they can get that money to the Aboriginal communities so people can get to work as of April 1<sup>st</sup>? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have seen some success in this program. I do believe we had 200 people in the last fiscal year do on-the-job training, and then an additional 69 through some of the community projects. So it is being utilized. We also have to make sure that our communities also take some of that responsibility in getting some of their residents employed, and that is where we have the partnerships on community projects as well as the wage subsidy. So we want to work with employers, we want to work with our stakeholders, in getting our residents into jobs. We have seen it work. We have seen it happen. I know that on April 1<sup>st</sup> we will see some of these dollars flowing out to the smallest communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Committee, we will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. I will call the committee back to order. Any further questions from committee? I see none. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Bear with me, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to get myself back in order here. One of the things that I wanted to ask about is the apprenticeships. Let us go into the area of apprenticeships. We indicated in the business plan that the Student North Apprenticeship Program is something that we were going to roll out in high schools across the territory. Maybe I will start by asking what the status of what is known as SNAP, what the status of the SNAP program is? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are rolling that program out. I do not have the specifics on how many schools are offering the program right now. Obviously, there are some challenges when you look at that program in terms of classroom space, or space that allows for people to practise kind of apprenticeships moving forward. We are, just to let the Members know, developing an apprenticeship, trades, and occupational strategy. Once we have got through approval, we can do a presentation to standing committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the department could provide us some additional information with regard to the program in terms of what the rollout is looking like, and what the uptake is, if there is interest amongst those in the territory? We see more recently some declining numbers in trades and trade apprenticeships, so I think, as part of our big overarching education development goals going forward, that we certainly want to start to align students' interests with potential opportunities in the trades, at least in the high school years, arguably even sooner. I would certainly like to get some information around the Student North Apprenticeship Program so I can know better what kind of success it is having, if it is something we really want to continue to support going forward or put more resources in to going forward.

That leads me also into the funding line item for Skills Canada on page 45. If I can get some clarification on the 2015-16, we made a contribution of \$150,000, and then last year in proposing for this year it's down to \$70,000. If I can get clarification from the department, that would be appreciated? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we can definitely get that information, more updated information, for the Member on the SNAP program. That program, I would like to say, aligns very well with our Skills 4 Success, but also on another point, you know, the Pathways to Graduation and helping those students who want to get into a trade. That year, I think in 2015-16 actuals we were able to put more money into the pot for Skills Canada, I think. Because there was other funding that lapsed in other areas within the department, we were actually able to put more investment for that year. Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So traditionally, is this the total amount that we contribute to Skills Canada every year typically around \$70,000 or do we have other pots that Skills Canada is able to access as well? It just seems to me that an area of such importance to our goals and objectives as a government in terms of beefing up our trade skills, that this is an organization that we certainly would want to be supportive. So I'm just wondering: are there pots that Skills Canada is accessing as well? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, typically this is the amount of funding that we give to Skills Canada. We've seen some very excellent results out of that, apprentices, people getting into the trades that they wanted to work in that have gone through NWT Skills Canada. Currently, I'm not sure if there's any other funding within the department that they might be able to access, but that's something that we can look into as we continue to work with Skills Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for that. I want to just skip over to the small community employment for a moment. I think there's not anybody in the room here who isn't grateful for the significant increase in this contribution. There have been a number of questions, however, on how it will be expanded. Of course, committee wants to see a commitment of this money going directly into employment opportunities. The Minister talked about, you know, community partnerships, and I'm wondering if he can explain a little bit more what that looks like and what exactly do we mean by community partnerships? Are we talking about work experience opportunities? Are we talking about mentorships? Are there apprenticeship opportunities? What does community partnerships mean? How do we intend to go from -- you know, normally it was only spending somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$340,000 to \$400,000 a year and we're attaching three more million to it. I'm very interested to know how we intend to fully disburse those funds and not end up with half of it or more coming back? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, we do offer a wage subsidy. Under the community initiatives we provide project-based training through partnerships with small community governments and organizations. The training may be formal or on-the-job or a combination of both. Projects are targeted to meet current and future labour force needs and enhance the employability of residents. As I mentioned earlier, we had 200 individuals participate in the training on the job and then 69 through formal training opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we say "subsidies," I mean, I understand that to be that, if an employer were to apply for this funding, that obviously so much dollars per hour are going to be allocated to help offset the hourly rate to pay an employee. Can the department expand a little bit and tell us, you know, what does the subsidy entail? Is it going to be that so many dollars will actually be paid for by the government on that person's hourly wage, and if so, how many dollars per hour? What does the subsidy look like and how does one apply for it and get it, et cetera? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The training-on-the-job, the wage subsidy is a program that helps employers employ our residents of the Northwest Territories. There is a big focus on youth, though. For anybody who might be listening and want to listen to the wage subsidy, I encourage them to talk to a client service officer or a career development officer to get that information. Our wage subsidy, I do believe we provide 80 per cent of the wage, and then we ask an employer to look at the other 20 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the clarification. Mr. Chair, I'll go to a quick question here. You know what, I'll forego for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Next we have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a couple of questions that I'm looking for clarification on. On the college contributions, the decrease of \$1,580,000 on page 45, if that's a reduction in the intake from the two programs that will eventually be cut out -- I think maybe social work immediately this fall, and then the intake for TEP -- is that what the decrease is? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that's not from the intake. As I mentioned, we're going to continue to support the students who are in the current program right now for two more years of the social work program and then an additional three years for the TEP program. So no, those aren't the result. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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



**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you. Then there is no decrease to this budget as a result of the plan to eliminate those two programs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As mentioned when Mr. Lovely had explained some of the reductions that were going on this year with the college, those were the ones that were identified, and then for the future years to come. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Okay. I'm sorry if I don't feel like it's been clearly explained or if I'm not getting my point across. There's a reduction in college contributions by a certain amount. I'm asking if that reduction has to do with the fact that they're no longer taking in first-year students for TEP because it's going to wind down in the next three years. So I'm assuming that next year we'll only have second-year, third-year, fourth-year students and then another year of social work, because that's also been reduced. So I'm wondering where that is reflected? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So for 2017-18, the social work program, the funding will be reduced by \$369,000 and then by \$369,000 in 2017-18 for the social work program. Then, in 2018-19, the Teacher Education Program funding, that will cease in that year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the ADM is telling me that there is no reduction as a result of the plan to eliminate TEP at this point or in this budget. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Sorry, Mr. Chair. So I should just clarify. The community-based teacher education program will be eliminated in 2017-18, but the actual program that the Member is referring to will be eliminated, the funding will be reduced, in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I will have to try to figure out what that means eventually. So there is a reduction of the community-based teacher program. Is that right? The community-based teacher program, I am assuming, is that we are training teachers at the community level and that is being reduced? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, that is correct, with the elimination of the community-based teacher education program. Maybe for a little bit more detail, I will ask my deputy minister to answer. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Mr. Lovely indicated, in 2017-18 the community-based teacher education program that is currently delivered at the Yellowknife North Slave campus will be eliminated. It is currently funded in the amount of \$300,000, so that will be eliminated in 2017-18. There is the broader Teacher Education Program. The funding reductions for that will commence in 2018-19 and then continue in 2019-20. In 2018-19, it will be \$975,000 that will be eliminated and then, in 2019-20, \$325,000 for the Teacher Education Program. For the social work program, in 2017-18 there will be a reduction of \$369,000, and, in 2018-19, there will be a further reduction of \$123,000, for an overall total of \$492,000 over those two years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to move on to a different topic, Mr. Chair. We were dealing with the small community employment support program and for quite a while in discussions with the department, and then a decision was made by the government to put an additional \$3 million into that program, which is excellent. We were under the assumption, however, that the budget was \$1.3 million, but we can see from this budget in front of us that the actual budget last year was \$339,000 and was carried into this year. Our request initially was to have the overall budget at \$5 million, but it seemed fairly acceptable that \$4.3 million was something that we could probably live with, but, now that we are seeing that it was actually only \$300,000 spent -- I suppose it must have been spent, or it is revised. I did know it went to \$444,000 the previous year, as well. We were always operating with the assumption it was \$1 million-plus in there. I am wondering if the Minister could just explain those numbers to us? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The full funding that the Member is referring to is, I believe, on page 44. Under the expenditure, we have some contract services. When you add those contract services to the amount that we put into the small community employment support program, those two together were about \$1.2 million. Then, on top of that, we were able to add that extra \$3 million this year. Yes, I believe on page 44, under the expenditure category, there is a line item that says contract services for \$2.4 million, and some of that money came from there.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So approximately \$1 million out of contract services is targeted for small community employment? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it is \$928,000 that is targeted for wage subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so that is a wage subsidy. Does that mean that the small community employment would be job creation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, we do a wage subsidy that provides on-the-job training, working with our partners. Plus, we also have some community initiative projects that focus on the development of skills, working with employers to put our residents to work, and with a focus, of course, on youth. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Beaulieu, your time has expired. Next, we have Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could maybe go over to a couple of pots that I need some clarification on: the labour market agreement for persons with disabilities grants and the labour market agreement for persons with disabilities contributions. I apologize if this has been asked before. I appreciate that the contributions have gone up since 2015 a little bit, and I also appreciate

that the grants seem to be something new that started last year. I am wondering if the Minister or the department can explain the difference between those two pots, because the descriptions in here seem to me very similar. Who accesses these pots? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the grants, those are more dollars for the individual, where, under contributions, we try to work with community organizations that will help employ people with disabilities, so the dollars there are a little bit higher. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the pot that is eligible to individuals in the form of grants, that was not something that we did prior to 2016-17? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** There could be a few different reasons for that. It could be that we just didn't spend any money that year or that there was no uptake on the program itself.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The only reason why I am going down this line of questioning is because we clearly have it stated within our mandate that we want to focus on the demographic of the 18- to 24-year-olds and finding ways in which to get them into the workforce. We are aware that a number of folks in that age group are people with varying degrees of disabilities. I want to make sure that we are making the proper investments to achieve that goal of having this particular demographic move successfully into the working environment and helping us on so many levels. I may have questions along those lines a little bit later. For now, that is fine. My next questions aren't until another activity, Mr. Chair. That is all I have for now.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Any response? Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the FTP level, labour market agreement for persons with disabilities is, I want to say, a hot-ticket item. We all know, as the Member has stated, that people do have disabilities in that age range. It has been discussed at the FTP level, so hopefully we

will start to see more supports from the federal government on that side of things moving forward.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Next we have Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to build up on my college question about contract services: the \$928,000 for small community employment, was that program utilized completely? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Small Community Employment Support Program as well as the contract services, the question asked earlier, was that money fully utilized, we said it wasn't. We have to get the details on where those pots of money didn't get fully utilized. I will get back to the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for his answer. You almost confused me there. I lost my thought. That is easy today.

With this split in the two areas, small community employment and community service contracts of \$920,000, can it be simplified and put into small communities so we would know exactly what the fund is instead of looking from one area to another area? I think it might be another question you might have to talk to the Finance Minister about moving it over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the format of the main estimates. I am sure it has something to do with the accountability in the reporting and how the dollars are flowed through the system. That is something we can also look at as we have this new investment of \$3 million moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am assuming that was a commitment to work with the Finance Minister and try to line it up to where it is. I appreciate the answer. I guess going back to small community employment, when you talked about there were 200 jobs which are salary subsidy, 69 formal training, but again it comes back to my question previously: we have 3,900 people who are on income support and we only see a small

increase. Will the Minister look at these facts and information and see that we have a glowing arrow -- not an arrow, but people are stuck having to go to income support to survive in this territory. Will you look at these numbers and try to make them a little bit more balanced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is a goal of the department, that we want our residents to be working and getting the skills and the training that they need to be employable. Definitely a goal. We do see the startling numbers on income assistance and making sure that we try to provide every opportunity for our residents to get into the workforce. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for his answer. Again I appreciate the comments. Can we get a number, a goal, a number that we can look at? Because you are only giving us six months. How many people will we hopefully be able to give employment after these six months so that we can reduce that income support number? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can't give a targeted number. It is based on a lot of things; how many employers do we have in the Northwest Territories, how many bands would like to partnership on either small community projects and how many would be willing to take on that wage subsidy, making sure that we have residents out there who are capable, ready, and willing to work as well. We can't really throw out a number. If anything, it would be nice to match the numbers that we had last time. With the new investment, hopefully we will have more communities that want to uptake this project and this program moving forward so that we can get the residents working. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister again for his response. I am a little disappointed that we are not getting a number. Again, I don't want this to be a salary subsidy program. I want a partnership. I want to be able to give the communities the money so that they can actually employ people and get them to work and provide training so they become a better, skilled workforce. Is the department really looking at this to

become a job creation or just a subsidy program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, we are going to move ahead the way we have always rolled out this program. I appreciate the feedback from Members, actually. I know that a lot of Members were asking to not have a wage subsidy. We will take that feedback. As we come up with the strategy, we will take that into consideration. Right now, as of today, we are still going to be moving forward with the wage subsidy the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand what the Minister is trying to say. I understand we are trying to move forward. However, if we just match these numbers that we have now and we don't utilize all that money, that is \$3 million just sitting there. To me, it is about small communities getting people to work. Will the Minister make a commitment once they have come up with a strategy within the next six months that they will bring it back to committee so that we can look at this information? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we will bring that information to committee once it is put together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's commitment. I am hoping it is within the six months that we have heard from himself and his staff. I am going to turn to another set of questioning here. It is regarding the increase in funding for the TEP and social work program. This money is coming from SFA; correct? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really don't understand the form of question the Member is trying to ask. We currently fund for college and TEP through our contribution agreements, not through the Student Financial Assistance pot of funding. Maybe the Member can just clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I apologize to the Minister. Maybe I am a little off my question here. I have heard Mr. Lovely talk about the funding to the revenue is going to come from; the increase is going to come through SFA. We have seen that the college is going to increase the program costs for the social work program and the TEP program, so it's going to be an increase which is going to come from SFA. Is that going to be something that the college can just -- is that their way of collecting the money that we have got cut from the department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think what the MLA is trying to get at is that, when we worked with the college around the amounts of money and the areas that they needed to reduce their expenditures and their budget on, one of the options that they had in order to adjust that target is to actually increase their revenues.

The college receives revenues, obviously, through the tuition that it charges students, and they also receive revenue through what they charge students for student housing. What the college did was it looked at those two areas, and found that, in some instances, they had not increased rates for a considerable period of time. What they were charging was actually below what students would receive from Student Financial Assistance, the tuition amount in particular.

The college explored that and determined that they would adjust both the tuition and the amount they charged students for housing in order to increase their revenues, and thereby avoid making reductions in other areas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Next, we have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am going to stay with the Small Community Employment Program. It was not exactly 100 per cent clear to me that the \$928,000 that sits in contract services was targeted to small communities. Could I get that clarification first, please?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That \$100,000 was targeted specifically to small communities for wage subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the Small Community Employment Program, \$3,339,000 as the Minister has indicated is also a wage subsidy program to obtain skills? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct, as well as working on community projects as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, could I get clarification on what "community projects" means? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned earlier, community initiative projects, we work with small community governments as well as organizations to target employers to employ some of our residents. There is a focus on youth with that one. We have some good examples. In the Fort Good Hope, we were able to do a summer job training with, I think, eight youth. In Lutselk'e, we have the harbour project as well. That is work with different organizations moving forward. We want to build and develop those partnerships and support organizations as well as Aboriginal governments to provide training and projects so that our residents get the skills and the training that they need so that they become employable within their community, or also if they want to work somewhere else in the North. We do put a target on youth, as mentioned to you earlier. We want to make sure that that demographic from 18 to 25 is able to get the jobs and become a part of society. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, under the description of the Small Communities Employment Program, it refers to longer-term employment. Training needed for longer-term employment, is that a must criteria for this that, at some point, they must be trained for longer-term jobs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is part of the criteria when we look at

applications coming forward. We obviously want to get our residents in long-term employment when we look at some of these projects moving forward, giving them the skills and the training that they need so they can become employable in the communities, or as I mentioned, work for one of the mining companies or find jobs elsewhere in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Small Community Employment Program, if it has these strings attached to it, it is probably not going to be deliverable. There is \$339,000 that the government was, I guess, barely delivering, or there was more money in that, and we are not able to deliver it. When we talk about small employment, we want to create jobs. We do not want that to be a subsidy. I recognize that it is a deep subsidy, 80 per cent, and the Minister has made that clear. Even so, I think that there are too many strings attached to this money that will probably go unspent, and that is a problem with it.

We have some organizations at the community level that may just employ these guys if they would be given positions. Let us take the band in the community. The band community was given some positions and some money to hire a few people working on the various projects, whether they are working with youth, or whether they are doing community works or working on housing projects. Maybe it does not matter, but a few positions coming through this program; but if it is tied in to training, youth, long-term employment possibilities, it is starting to sound a lot like the federal government assets program, which one of the criteria was that it needs to result in a position, result in a job. Because there are no jobs available, that program is difficult to deliver. I think we should remove those types of criteria and make this into an actual job creation program.

If you think about the fact that this is not a lot of money but it can help a lot of people, if we were to hypothetically say that if somebody went to work for the band, one individual worked for the band doing community works projects, whatever, and then worked for the entire summer, then that individual could maybe get enough hours to be able to draw employment insurance. If that individual was on income support for the last several years and we created a job for them, for an expenditure of not a real high wage but something that gives them a lot more money than what he is getting off income support, and he goes to work every day for five or six months, and then if it happens to be in the winter, he could draw EI, maybe. There are a lot of good traditional economy programs available that maybe the person could try to do some traditional

economy like trapping and hunting and things like that during the winter months. This here does not really accommodate that. So if the government is going to only deliver a portion of this budget but then use the same rules to expect to deliver a budget that is 10 times higher than what they had last year, how do they expect to do that? All of a sudden they are expecting a lot of people around the communities to have jobs available for people. Like getting into this the best part about this budget was for when we were negotiating something when the Minister of Finance wrote to us and said there would be an additional \$3 million in small communities employment. That was good news.

It no longer sounds like good news, Mr. Chairman. This now sounds like more of the same, meaning more of what cannot be delivered. So I think that there should be some reconsidering on here on removing some of the strings on this so that people can go to work and use this program to get a job and work for whoever would be able to have a job available for them without making it into a wage program, long-term employment, skills development, and so on. It is not what my communities need, but you know, people who can work at the mine are working at the mine. You know, I am not going to create and pull the people out of this program to go to work at the mine. This is a program we are asking for so that individuals could take this program, use this program as a job creation. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we do hear the concerns of the Members and wanting to have a job creation fund. This program specifically is to give our residents in some of our smallest communities the skills that they need, the training that they need, and some of the education that they need so that they can go and seek employment within the North. We do hear all the feedback as we are developing a strategy, because we have done a big increase and it is a good news story; \$3 million going into the small communities is a good news story.

We have got to promote the program a lot better. We need all Members to promote that program with their leaders in their communities and work together so we can get our residents back to work. We are listening to the feedback. We will be taking that feedback into consideration as we are developing a strategy for how we spend this money. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I may as well pick up where my colleagues left off. You know, it is a great increase to the small employment, as the Minister knows himself. You know, we are in demand of a lot of employment in our communities. The communities I represent are, you know, 34 per cent, 35 per cent, 39 per cent for the three communities that I represent, and it is good to see an opportunity to create jobs. One of my colleagues mentioned two days ago, just imagine if we could create 10 jobs in each community over the next three years. That is 90 jobs created, and I think that that is a good opportunity, but you know it would make a great difference if these funds are available April 1<sup>st</sup>. Can the department ensure that this is possible? Or even by the end of April? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of the new fiscal year. It is budgeted in the main estimates and, once the budget is approved, those funds will become available in the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Anything further, Members? Go ahead, Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That sounds great. I know we were given the opportunity to start a committee of rural and remote communities, and you know this line item was listed under there. I am not sure whether there would be opportunities under the committee to make changes to how this pot of money is spent. That is usually how things operate under such committees, but I would just like to ask the Minister if that would be possible, like if this committee was struck, to sort of give direction to the department as to how these funds can be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we have been hearing all the feedback already from the back-and-forth, and it is something that we can bring to our rural and remote communities to get some feedback as well as direction, but also to the Social Development Committee as well. That is the oversight for this department, so we are definitely looking for feedback. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing but good news today. You know, that is good to hear. There are a lot of projects in my riding that I could

say this will benefit. You know, we just have to work closely with the communities to ensure that they are aware of these funds, and I am sure the Minister will have a number of proposals before him shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Moses, did you want to add to that or comment to that?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** No. I just appreciate the Member's feedback. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Questions. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple more, and since we are on small community employment I will stick with that for one moment. Barring that all goes well in terms of what we are trying to do in delivering these funds, what is the department's position in terms of trying to defend this pot of money to be there for the future and, you know, make this a sustainable pot of money? Or are we just looking at a one-time contribution and expecting to go back to the normal \$340 to \$400 range in years following? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and it has become a line item in these main estimates so it will be ongoing pending that we do get the uptake and that we do get our employers, our industry, business working with the department as well as our Aboriginal governments utilizing this pot of funding. As long as it gets the uptake and moving forward, we can continue to see it as a line item. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Literacy funding is obviously an important component to the success of reaching our goals and objectives as a territory, in particular helping those who are already in the workforce, but also getting many more into the workforce. Can we just get some clarification on why that pot of money has dropped by nearly \$500,000 from 2015-16 to 2016-17 and now 2017-18? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2015-16 there was extra funding that the department had put into the program, but historically it is the amount that you see in this year's main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I am done with this activity. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Getting back to the Small Community Employment Fund, I know some of my colleagues mentioned that, and yourself, as well, pertaining to wage subsidy on employment. Will this qualify for other projects some other departments of the GNWT will be working on in the remote communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Pending that we have partnership with an organization in the community, I think it is going to be a possibility. Moving forward, we are working with the other departments on projects that they have, as well, through other areas, but pending that we do have those partnerships with organizations and have an employer that we can definitely deliver this, it would be a great idea following our Skills 4 Success as well as on-the-job training and the skill development for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one more thing: I just wonder how the department is going to roll this out and advertise it across the Northwest Territories for this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We already have a lot of contacts with organizations, based on the history of the roll-out of the small community employment support program. We will continue to work with those organizations and continue to have some of our regional staff promote the program, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. No further questions? Any further questions from committee? Seeing no further questions or comments from committee on these information items, please turn to page 44, Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and standards, operations expenditure summary. Total activity, \$50,247,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 54-18(2):  
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN  
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, EDUCATION, CULTURE  
AND EMPLOYMENT, DEFERRAL OF LABOUR  
DEVELOPMENT AND STANDARDS ACTIVITY,  
CARRIED

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity, labour development and standards under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Main Estimates 2017-2018 on page 44 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** A motion is on the floor and is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** The labour and development standards activity has been deferred. Committee, before returning to the departmental total, we will consider the information items on page 48 to 54. I remind committee to specify the page on which your items can be found when asking questions. Does committee have any questions or comments on any of these information items? Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going right to page 54, which is the work performed on behalf of others. I am wondering if the department can let us know a little more about the Labour Market Development Agreement, which is a very large pot of money. What all goes on within that agreement, and where do we dispense a lot of this funding, and how do we dispense it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department will have to get back to the Member on that one with more detail on the program itself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay. I thank the Minister for that, and that information would be appreciated. That is it, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Any further questions? Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 53, on the information on office space to deliver income security programs, in Ulukhaktok there will be a rise, but in Paulatuk in 2017-18 it shows 14, and on the future lease payments there is nothing on that. Can the department go into detail on that, please? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reason for that is that that lease will expire at the end of March 31, 2018 and it hasn't been renewed yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a question. I know that you say it hasn't been renewed yet. Are there other options rather than the current location, and will the department look at renewing the lease for the future? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As with all of our other leases, we will work with our colleagues at the Department of Public Works and Services to ensure that the existing lease and other leases, other potential lease areas in town, will meet our requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell us which positions were cut, one position in Beaufort Delta and two in the South Slave, if he could just tell us what those are? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is one position that was in Inuvik. It was the coordinator of oil and gas. Then there were two positions in Fort Smith. One was the library and reprography assistant, and the other was the



manager of program development and evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on page 49, the roll-up of the various amounts to the district authorities and councils, education councils, and education authorities, my understanding from earlier discussion is that that number would go up by \$5.1 million when the junior kindergarten money is put into it, so the new number for 2017-18 would be \$156,869,000? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In fact, that would be \$2.7 million. The other one, the other part of that in that \$5.1 million was already in the main estimates, so then, when we made the decision, the \$2.7 million would be on top of this, and that would have to come through a supplemental.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister is advising us that the \$151,769,000 that is in the mains includes \$2.4 million right now for JK, and that there will be another 2.7 added to this through some sort of appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you Minister Moses. Mr. Beaulieu. Next we have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have some questions on page 51, which gets into the detail on the Aurora College contribution. I see there are a couple of lines that have been decreased. I would like the Minister to explain what accounts for that decrease. In base operations, there has been just over \$300,000 that has been cut to base operations. Can the Minister speak to that, please?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Lovely.

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under base operations, this would largely account for the increases to the fees that we were going to have. As I had mentioned earlier, we are reducing the contributions to Aurora College by approximately

\$300,000 as a result of them increasing their own sourced revenues. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Campus delivery has also seen a decrease, much more substantially. Could we have a substantiation for that decrease? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As mentioned, there were some administrative reductions as well as the beginning of the social work program. That is where some of the details are. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to be clear, the decrease in lines from 2016-17 to 2017-18 is explained by administrative reductions and the end of the TEP program and Social Work Diploma program. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My deputy minister outlined some of the reductions we are doing this year, and that is all relevant to that reduction in that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Finally, under community delivery -- and this is a little bit different; this is the adult learning centres or community learning centres and the adult education portion. There is a decrease as well in that line from 2016-17 to 2017-18. Can we have the substantiation for that decrease, please, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As staff noted earlier, that was \$300,000 in eliminating the community-based teacher education program that is the line item there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just looking at the glossary on page 54. The community delivery line is programs offered through community learning centres. The Minister just mentioned the

teacher program. Is that offered through community learning centres? My understanding is that was offered through the Thebacha campus. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was a community-based portion of that, but we still have a lot of our learning centres that offer many other programs to the community and to the residents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. That is fine, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Next we have Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in our mandate commitments, we do talk about the department supporting Aurora College to develop a new strategic plan. We have talked about that before. We indicate in the business plans that consideration will be provided on the role of Aurora College within the wide spectrum of post-secondary training and education in the NWT. It goes on to say that, once this strategic plan for Aurora College is in place, the department will be working with Aurora College to advance planning and provide options for a stand-alone Yellowknife campus for Aurora College. They are tying this in relative to Mandate 2.3.1. I wonder if the department can please provide some explanation or clarification on what the stand-alone Yellowknife campus for Aurora College really means? What is the vision behind that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member has noted, we have to see what that strategic plan looks like. Only then will we know what kind of space we need, what kind of classrooms we are going to be needing, and where we can provide some of the programs that it is going to entail, what is going to come out of that strategic plan. Until then, we can't really do any kind of work in the stand-alone campus and looking at what we already have for our resources. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know we can't know exactly what this might look like. When we put something to that effect in the business plan, it certainly sounds like we are planning something in that regard. Is this something

that there might be some consideration of future infrastructure development or taking up additional space in downtown, or potentially even working with collaborative partnerships such as the City of Yellowknife or what have you to develop a -- what is being used in here -- I will call it a stand-alone campus? A little bit more to what the department is envisioning would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Deputy Minister Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know in the recent past the college has received some feedback, for example, from individuals involved in the nursing program. At times, the space that the college currently has hasn't necessarily met the needs for the delivery of that program. That is a specific example where the Yellowknife campus had some challenges recently. We obviously would be working with the college to determine what its needs are in terms of the delivery of programs at the Yellowknife campus. Part of that process does include the work around the strategic plan and the direction that the college will be going in. There is a need to identify what space is appropriate. We have recently worked with the college to renew the existing lease at Northern United Place, but that is not a long-term arrangement. Work needs to be undertaken to determine what makes sense longer-term. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Haener. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it safe to say that the board for Aurora College has been undertaking this endeavour of potentially building or having a stand-alone Yellowknife campus, and if so, is this something we can envision having others included in terms of potential partnerships? By that, I mean, you know, potentially the City of Yellowknife, potentially other post-secondary institutes, potentially other entities that could service a stand-alone campus? Whether that is as you would commonly see in other campuses; whether that is services that could help students, whether that is retail outlets, you know, potential food and beverage outlets, that sort of thing. I mean, is there some opportunity here for potential expansion into building other partnerships, whether it's business or education, student services, et cetera? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Definitely those are great potentials moving forward. We do have to see that strategic plan moving forward and the redirection the college will

be taking and the programs and services that it will be providing, but definitely all those are great potentials moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister and the department; that's well appreciated.

One thing that I do have to ask about is that we also indicate in our business plans that we began researching possible options for community learning centres that would improve outcomes for northern adult learners. I know that this is probably also inclusive of some of the strategic planning that Aurora College is going to do, but I'm curious to know what, in fact, the department envisions as the improvement for outcomes. I mean, I know that the community learning centres are fairly well used in most of the communities; what are we envisioning as the opportunities for these community learning centres aside from what they're currently being used for? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think a great vision would be to see more of our young adults who have been out of the school system for a while, even adults getting back in and getting the education that they need to become employable. I know there's going to be a big focus on the Skills 4 Success initiative that we've undertaken. We've already got that into the secondary schools, and they want to utilize our community learning centres to the best of their ability so that they can help our residents become educated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate that. I think that at every opportunity we need to exploit these community learning centres in an effort to further advance the goals and the objectives of the communities, but of course our own.

Something that we might be considering with regard to this researching of possible options is maybe even partnering up with other institutes and/or other partners that might be able to use or access the community learning centres to put on programs or workshops of same nature. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, we do have partnerships; that's already happening in some of the small communities, specifically with our Aboriginal governments with the access training, so we're definitely looking at partnerships to utilize our community learning centres a bit more and providing that training and skill development that our residents need. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and this will be last question. Maybe the department can't speak on behalf of the board or Aurora College on this matter, but in this effort to try to fill skills gaps, will Aurora College be able to start developing kind of custom-made skills programs for employers, let's say? I know right now most of the programs are set programs, but if there was a program that needed to be kind of identified specifically to be custom-made to fill a certain gap, would Aurora College be able to, or have the capacity to be able to do that in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure which specific on-the-job training that the Member is referring to, but I know the college does provide that type of training already for certain areas that do need those skills developed, and the training opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Next we have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will try my best to be brief. The line description for the information item mentions the Aurora Research Institute. How much of the building and works line in the amount of \$7,385,000, how much of that is allocated to the Aurora Research Institute for laboratory and other research equipment?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's pretty detailed information that we don't have in front of us, so we're going to have to get that information for the Member and we will share it with him. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. As the department will be looking into that, I'll also ask if they could split that between the three campuses so there's a clear understanding of where ARI's facilities are located

and what they have available to them. Furthermore, the Yellowknife campus at the NUP building is somewhat notorious for glycol leaks and other maintenance issues that could impact the health and safety of students. Those needs to repair those issues and make those improvements to the building, have those been taken into account in this building and works funding? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do work closely with Public Works and Services, and they do provide that service on behalf of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm a bit confused. I've asked this question before, and previous to this it was not the responsibility of departments but the responsibility of the college itself. Perhaps the Minister can clarify: is this budget sufficient to solve this problem once and for all, or are students going to go through another academic year or fiscal year struggling with glycol leaks and general unpleasantness in their learning environment here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Obviously, there are a lot of partners at play in terms of this question; Aurora College, our department, Public Works and Services. Public Works and Services does provide work on behalf of us. With the Aurora College working with NUP, it's also the landlord's responsibility to look at some of these deficiencies in the maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** I have nothing further. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any further questions or comments? I see no further questions or comments on these information items; we'll now return to the departmental total. Please turn to page 27. There are two information items related to the departmental total found on pages 28 and 29; these include the revenue summary and the active position summary. Any questions or comments on these information items? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on page 28 I see there is an item called "capital transfers" in the transfer payments, and this year

it's worth \$4,079,000; last year it was worth \$100,000. I am wondering if the department could tell us about why it is almost \$4 million more in the next fiscal year? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and that was funding that we got from the federal government for the heavy equipment operator's facility in Fort Smith. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** No further questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. On the same page 28, the general revenues there, it is care and storage of Government of Nunavut Museum and Archive Collection, and I know I heard the Minister say earlier that all those artifacts and archival documents and so on are, you know, out of here. So this leaves our museum, though, with not as much revenue. Can the Minister confirm that the museum is still fully funded, that there have been no cuts made at the Prince of Wales and Northern Heritage Centre? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The previous year's funding under the care and storage for the Government of Nunavut Museum, that was funding specifically for positions to take care of the artifacts and the archives for the materials from Government of Nunavut.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks. I guess I was not clear on enough, Mr. Chair, with regard to my question. So if the loss of this revenue, though, I understand there might be a staff reduction related to it, can the Minister confirm that there have been no other reductions made to the Prince of Wales and Northern Heritage Centre?

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and this revenue, as I mentioned, was specific for those positions. They were terms positions as well, so those definitely have an effect, and we are still funding the museum. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I realize I am probably the only person who is probably standing between us in getting out of here, but can the Minister tell me: is the museum still being funded at the same level in this year's budget as it was last year minus this money that came in from the Government of Nunavut? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and yes.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly? Any further questions or comments on these information items? If not, let us turn to page 27. Education, Culture and Employment, total department, \$314,879,000. Does committee agree? Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 55-18(2):  
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN  
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, EDUCATION, CULTURE  
AND EMPLOYMENT, DEFERRAL OF FURTHER  
CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTIMATES FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND  
EMPLOYMENT,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment at this time. Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** A motion is on the floor and is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee, the consideration of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has been deferred. I want to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion is on the floor to report progress.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I have the report? Member for Mackenzie Delta.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018, and we would like to report progress with three motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day,

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Tuesday, February 21, 2017, commencing at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
  - Bill 13, Marriage Act
  - Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
  - Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018
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 Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:04 p.m.