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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, March 6, 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, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 158-18(2):
PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE MANDATE
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES, 2016-2019

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Northwest Territories' residents want a government that is transparent and accountable. On March 3, 2016, for the first time in the Northwest Territories, Members of the Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a mandate for the Government of the Northwest Territories. The purpose of the mandate is to guide the work of the Government of the Northwest Territories over its four-year term.

Mr. Speaker, the mandate enhances the transparency of the Government of the Northwest Territories by clearly stating what the government commits to do to advance the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The mandate enhances accountability by ensuring that voters and Members of the Legislative Assembly can hold the government to account in fulfilling these commitments.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is required to report annually on the progress it has made to implement the mandate. In accordance with the Process Convention on Priority Setting and Reporting, later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the first annual report on the mandate.

In the year since the mandate was adopted, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made progress on a number of commitments in the areas of economy; environment and climate change; education, training, and youth development; cost of living; community wellness and safety; and governance. I am pleased to share with you some

of the highlights of the Government of the Northwest Territories' achievements in implementing our commitments.

Mr. Speaker, in the past year, we have been actively working to diversify our economy and ensure that our residents have the skills and experience to take advantage of new economic opportunities. In these pursuits, we are investing in transportation infrastructure projects to open new business development opportunities, such as opportunities for increased tourism. We have developed an agriculture strategy and a commercial fishery revitalization strategy, and we continue to implement the film strategy and a new tourism plan, all in an effort to build local markets, export goods, and expand the number of tourists. Our Skills 4 Success Action Plan will ensure our education and training system keeps up with the changing labour market. We are also attracting new skilled labour from abroad and investing in broadband infrastructure to further modernize the Northwest Territories' economy.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to achieve a sustainable environment that contributes to the economic well-being and quality of life of our residents. We are carefully working to modernize our laws for regulating land tenure, water use, and mineral development, as well as environmental conservation. The Government of the Northwest Territories is protecting biodiversity and ecosystem integrity through partnerships that reflect the vision set out in the Government of the Northwest Territories' Land Use and Sustainability Framework. As part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' commitment to addressing climate change and improving the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of energy, we have been conducting extensive public engagement to inform the development of an NWT energy strategy and an NWT climate change strategic framework.

Mr. Speaker, education is a key element to achieving our overall goals for a strong and sustainable territory. As such, we have made changes to the funding model for the Early Childhood Program; advanced measures to fully fund the cost of implementing junior kindergarten in all communities, including the 13 communities that do not currently offer the program; and

strengthened French language education, as well as cultural, heritage, and Aboriginal language programming. Additional efforts are being made outside of the school system to support youth in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, our climate, population distribution, and distance from major markets result in a high cost of living and high costs of operating businesses in the Northwest Territories. In addition to constructing the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, we have secured federal investment for the Tlicho All-Season Road project, projects that will help to lower the cost of living for residents.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working on programs and services for those who are homeless and to alleviate barriers to accessing existing government programs and services. The Government of the Northwest Territories has formed partnerships to find solutions to address homelessness and northern housing issues, including the City of Yellowknife's Housing First initiative and similar solutions in other communities. We have established additional local housing organizations and are participating in the development of a national housing strategy. Working nationally, we already secured an increase of 33 per cent to the northern residents tax deduction, and a federal commitment of \$64.5 million over five years to expand Nutrition North.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to working with families, community groups, police, courts, and schools to ensure the wellness and safety of our communities. We are making progress on our commitments to strengthen initiatives and partnerships to reduce family violence. One of these initiatives is the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court, an option that is now available to offenders not only in Yellowknife and Hay River but also to those from Behchoko, Enterprise, and the K'atlodeeche First Nation. We continue to invest in five family violence shelters across the territory, in programming for children exposed to family violence, and in the development of family violence protocols and response teams for regions without shelters.

Progress has been demonstrated in a number of areas to reduce the burden of chronic disease, for example, through Healthy Living fairs, the Let's Talk about Cancer website, and facilitating the establishment of a territorial diabetes registry to monitor and measure related trends. One of the Government of the Northwest Territories' most significant accomplishments so far during the 18th Assembly is the creation of a single Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority and regional wellness councils to give each region a say in how care and services are delivered. This transformation of the health and social services

system will improve access, consistency, and cultural appropriateness of care and services, as well as improve accountability and performance.

Mr. Speaker, our government also made a commitment to focus on mental health and addictions, to ensure access to culturally appropriate programs and services, address gaps in services, and enhance treatment options. We brought forward the strategic framework Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery to set the foundation for systematic improvements and are now focused on areas requiring specific approaches, children and youth mental wellness, addictions recovery, and mental health services.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, one of our priorities is to improve accountability, transparency, and collaboration. In the first year of this government's mandate, we have been doing business differently, increasing public engagement and further embracing the principles of open government. The Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency is undertaking public engagement across the Northwest Territories to ensure that the development of an open government policy reflects territorial priorities. Cabinet has engaged directly with residents in several communities and listened to their concerns through well-attended open houses. Our government has also gone beyond the requirement of publishing an annual report on our mandate, to developing and maintaining a public website dedicated to tracking the Government of the Northwest Territories' fulfillment of its commitments in the mandate. We have made progress toward making information from government more available and more easily accessible.

Mr. Speaker, to understand how to better share and protect information, the government has conducted public engagement on updating the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Public engagement has also taken place on other initiatives, including the Recreational Land Management Framework and the modernization of the Fire Prevention Act.

A major priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to take further steps towards the recognition and respect of Aboriginal governments, and we have made a commitment in our mandate to work to resolve outstanding land, resource, and self-government agreements.

Alongside the federal government, we have appointed ministerial special representatives to talk to all parties involved in negotiations in the Deh Cho and South Slave regions, including the Dehcho First Nations, Akaitcho, and Northwest Territory Metis Nation, in order to facilitate the settlement of

claims in these regions. The government has been implementing more flexible and adaptive approaches to negotiations with a view towards finding compromise and reaching agreements. We are achieving positive results from these efforts, as evidenced at final agreement negotiations with the Acho Dene First Nation of Fort Liard, where the parties have reached a point where key decisions involving land and governance lay before them. We are assisting with implementation of the Deline self-government agreement and are working with other Aboriginal governments on building administrative capacity.

Mr. Speaker, this represents just some of the progress we have made to date in implementing the commitments made in the mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The mandate will continue to be an important tool for measuring the success of the government and the Legislative Assembly, and I look forward to reporting additional progress in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Transportation.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 159-18(2):
FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN NWT HIGHWAYS

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Infrastructure is committed to working in partnership with Canada to make strategic investments in highway infrastructure. Today, I am pleased to provide an update on our efforts to secure funding for various highway projects across the territory.

In 2015, the Government of the Northwest Territories received federal approval for its first bundle of highway capacity improvement projects submitted under the New Building Canada Plan. The bundle was cost-shared with the federal government, who provided \$72 million, or 75 per cent, while the Government of the Northwest Territories provided the remaining \$24 million, or 25 per cent of the total \$96 million investment. As a result, significant upgrades to every highway across the territory and to the Detah access road were achieved.

A second bundle of highway capacity improvements projects was approved last June. This time, the federal government provided \$60.7 million while the Government of the Northwest Territories provided \$20.2 million. The total investment of \$80.9 million in funding will allow the Department of Infrastructure to enhance several access roads and bridges that are critical components to the NWT highway system. Projects include upgrades to the Jean Marie River and

Nahanni Butte access roads and the replacement of the James Creek highway maintenance camp.

Going forward, a third bundle of projects is being developed and will focus on the second phase of work on NWT highways and major roads in 2018 and 2019. Planning for the third bundle will be done as part of the capital planning process.

Mr. Speaker, these important investments in our transportation infrastructure help us connect communities to new social and employment opportunities, reduce the cost of living in the territory, improve the resiliency of our transportation system to climate change, and increase access to natural resources.

In addition to improving the existing highway system, the Government of the Northwest Territories has identified three new NWT transportation corridor projects with strategic significance in its 25-year transportation strategy and mandate: the Mackenzie Valley highway, the Tlicho all-season road, and the Slave Geological Province access corridor. That is why I am proud to say that, last month, two federal funding announcements were made supporting the development of new highway infrastructure in the NWT.

The first is for the construction of the Canyon Creek access road in the Sahtu Region, which represents another step toward replacing the existing Mackenzie Valley winter road with an all-weather corridor. The project will provide access to granular resources and traditional Sahtu lands, which may be used for recreation, tourism, and business development.

Mr. Speaker, another important milestone was realized earlier this year when the federal government announced conditional funding for the Tlicho all-season road to Whati. The 97 kilometre road will provide year-round access to residents of that community and will also benefit nearby communities by significantly increasing the length of operation of the winter roads to Wekweeti and Gameti and helping to address a key impact of climate change in this region. The all-season road will also help reduce the cost of living for residents and support economic development in the region by increasing access to mineral resources and boosting investor confidence.

The Department of Infrastructure will continue to look for new opportunities to increase investment in the NWT transportation system in collaboration with our federal counterparts. We expect additional details regarding funding opportunities for trade and transportation corridors may become available with the upcoming federal budget. We are prepared to make the most of these opportunities to address

our infrastructure deficit and improve transportation services in every region of our territory.

Transportation infrastructure improvements result in a variety of economic and social benefits for Northerners and all Canadians. Ensuring proper maintenance and upgrades to our highway system increases driver safety and improves our resiliency to climate change. Enhanced intercommunity mobility means new business, employment, educational, and health care opportunities for residents. Finally, improved road access will enable us to unlock the North's full economic potential by providing better access to natural resources.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure. We are working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and we continue to undertake work to prove up the business case to advance a project that would see improved access into the Slave Geological Province. Our government will stay engaged with Canada on the status of our submissions and on any new developments in funding programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 160-18(2):
AURORA COLLEGE NEXT STEPS

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have directed that a foundational review of Aurora College be undertaken.

The foundational review will help inform the government's long-term vision for Aurora College and position it to provide the necessary skills and knowledge our residents require to participate in and contribute to the social and economic fabric of the NWT for decades to come.

I am confident that this is the right time to undertake this review in light of our Skills 4 Success initiative and our detailed understanding of the future needs of the NWT labour market.

The timeline for completion of this review is fall 2017, with an implementation target of the 2018-19 academic year. The current strategic planning process under way at Aurora College will be folded into the foundational review. The strategic review will inform the foundational review. Valuable input has been received as part of this strategic planning process which will be utilized in the review process.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure this House that Members of the Legislative Assembly will be

provided with multiple opportunities to contribute to the foundational review, including providing feedback on the terms of reference.

I am also pleased to confirm that the budget reductions related to the Social Work Diploma and Bachelor of Education Programs identified for Aurora College will be held in abeyance until the next fiscal year; however, there will be no new intakes for these programs.

The department and Aurora College continue to have an ambitious agenda ahead in fulfilling the current and new direction of the 18th Legislative Assembly. This direction now includes ensuring both the foundational review and the strategic plan are completed and ready for implementation beginning in Aurora College's 2018-19 academic year. Informed by these two initiatives, we will also jointly develop new innovative funding and accountability frameworks to ensure we receive value for money in our significant public investment in post-secondary education.

Additionally, the Legislative Assembly will be introducing overarching post-secondary legislation during the term of this Assembly, which will create a process of accreditation that ensures the effective governance and quality assurance of any existing and future post-secondary institutions in the NWT. This includes Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning and College nordique.

I look forward to working with all Members as we embark on this change agenda to ensure that residents have access to quality and expanded post-secondary education that prepares them for the employment opportunities of tomorrow. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRADITIONAL, INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we often hear the terms "traditional knowledge," "Indigenous knowledge," and "local knowledge" used interchangeably, without really stopping to think what they really mean.

Local knowledge is everywhere, Mr. Speaker, even here at the Legislative Assembly. Every community in the Northwest Territories has local knowledge. Local knowledge comes out of what our daily practice is and is specific to the place and time that we live in. It is shared by a group of individuals who are united by the similar experience of living or

spending time in a particular locale and is not specific to a certain culture or ethnicity.

Traditional or Indigenous knowledge, on the other hand, is a subset of local knowledge. It is based on practices and is specific to a place, but it is the result of the sustained interaction of Indigenous people with their environment over generations. Traditional or Indigenous knowledge exists beyond an individual's lifetime. It is used by a specific community with a distinct cultural identity that is separate from the larger society. Unlike local knowledge, traditional knowledge or Indigenous knowledge is historical, culturally enriched and persistent over time.

It seems that the Government of the Northwest Territories has adopted the use of the term "traditional knowledge" or TK to refer to the specialized knowledge of Indigenous Aboriginal communities in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the GNWT to use the term "Indigenous knowledge" instead, as this is consistent with what is being used at the United Nations and it also more accurately reflects what the GNWT is really referring to, which is the specialized knowledge of its Indigenous Aboriginal peoples.

When talking about the use of Indigenous and local knowledge, I also want to stress the importance of scientific research working in tandem with both sources of knowledge. The best way to protect the wildlife that sustains our northern people, for example, is for scientific research to be combined with the Indigenous knowledge of local harvesters. Mr. Speaker, the use of Indigenous knowledge, supported by other data and information, is the best way to improve the quality of outcomes for each region across the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC SAFETY ON THE INGRAHAM TRAIL

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to talk about an important matter in the Yellowknife North riding. On Saturday the Ingraham Trail was closed again for about an hour because a haul-truck, on its way to resupplying the mines, caught fire near the Yellowknife River.

That was the fifth incident involving big rigs in just a couple of weeks. One was a roll-over, one truck went off the road, and three actually involved trucks catching fire. Thankfully, no injuries were involved in any of the incidents.

Mr. Speaker, when this many incidents occur involving trucks on our roads, it raises questions of

public safety. The Ingraham Trail is used not only by truckers, Mr. Speaker. Residents of Detah, people who live further down the trail, and people who travel for aurora viewing, recreation, or hunting are also regular users of the trail. For these people, in case of emergency, the trail is their only way in or out, and their only access to assistance.

These people need to know that their safety is a priority of this government, Mr. Speaker. These incidents raise issues such as road maintenance, vehicle safety and driver training. All of these issues could affect any user of the Ingraham Trail.

Mr. Speaker, communication is key to ensuring public safety, and to reassuring people that, in cases of emergency, they will be protected and looked after. They need to be able to count on the authorities to have accurate information about the situation, and to share that information with residents who need it in a timely manner in order to make decisions.

Regarding the truck fire on the weekend, when a Twitter follower inquired with DOT whether the driver of the vehicle was okay, the DOT response was, "The firefighting department investigates these issues, not us." Surely as a government we owe residents better responses than that, Mr. Speaker, and better reassurance that their lives and safety are being protected.

I'll have questions for the Minister of Transportation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRAINING FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES WORKERS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Last week, Mr. Speaker, CBC Radio -- Health and Social Services had wanted to work with the children and the children who are taken away from their home the way they had first starting working on there when they first came up here to work with the people and the kids that were taken away from their home and taken to the residential schools the way -- up to 2014 the federal government had a look at it and made a report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation ends]

CBC Radio reported that the Department of Health and Social Services will start requiring NWT Child and Family Services workers to take mandatory training on colonization and the impacts of residential schools.

This change is something we've been waiting for for a long time. It is one of the changes in business

practices that is finally coming out of the Auditor General's 2014 Audit of Child and Family Services.

Less than 3 per cent of children in the Child and Family Services system come from backgrounds other than First Nations, Inuit, or Metis. First Nations children make up a full 71 per cent.

It is our reality, Mr. Speaker, this training is vital. In fact, it is well overdue. We've been waiting for a long time.

When the social development committee pressed the department for details on its response to the Auditor General, Members struggled to get good answers and indications of practical progress.

In its last annual report, Child and Family Services went as far as to call the Auditor General's findings into question, and told Members about data collection problems and "broken" audit tools. I understand that foster home "home studies" is one area where we're still failing.

The introduction of these new training requirements and long-needed updates to foster parent screening go a short way to easing my mind, Mr. Speaker. Meaningful decolonization and awareness training is definitely a step in the right direction. Still, this is a problem area, and it impacts our most vulnerable residents.

In 2015-16, the need for financial assistance made up 8 per cent of all Child and Family Services referrals. This means that the reason those children's files ended up on a social worker's desk didn't fall under the other categories we track: abuse, family violence, alcohol, and drugs. It was a lack of income. It was money. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. It is my belief that a family's household income directly affects many cases beyond that 8 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, it is violence, too: violence that is not within the family or within the home, but instead, violence that is done to Northerners, when their government isn't prepared to step to the plate and make it a top priority to alleviate brutal poverty.

I will have questions on the impact of household income on families engaged with child and family services at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with just one week left in this sitting, I want to look ahead to some important work Regular MLAs will be doing during the break. The Standing Committee on Social Development will be reviewing Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Specifically, the members of this committee, including myself, will be looking at the proposed changes to instructional hours.

It has taken close questioning by my colleagues on this side, both in the House and at a public briefing, to understand the rationale for these changes and, specifically, to allay parents' and students' concerns about instructional hours in high school. It is my understanding now that students will continue to receive the same number of hours that Alberta students receive, and the content of the curriculum will remain the same.

That is important because NWT students are taught the Alberta curriculum and write the same departmental exams. What is not clear to me is why the department didn't come out with a plan that stated high school instructional hours would be maintained on par? It would have saved parents and the department a lot of grief.

There are still some significant loose ends in this initiative. First, why are reduced instructional hours being piloted in every single NWT school, and why is the change in instructional hours being legislated before the pilot begins? Make no mistake, this change is not a pilot project, but an across-the-board change. Usually, a pilot project is a trial. Strengths and weaknesses are identified, and then the program is rolled out everywhere. That is not what is happening here. Is the department prepared to reverse this change, if the three-year test period isn't successful?

Another important question is: what is success in this context? How will this change be evaluated, in terms of student outcomes? The department's information shows that graduation rates have improved since 2010-11. Looking at the data from other Canadian jurisdictions reveals there isn't a consistent cause and effect between instructional hours and graduation rates. Will graduation rates be the sole measure, or are there others that make sense, such as attendance or Alberta achievement test scores?

Another reason given for this change is to improve teacher well-being. Teachers measured their wellness by reporting on how many hours they work. They said they worked 52 hours a week, but the sample size is very small, because only 15 per cent of teachers took part in the survey. Mr.

Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. As I was saying, the teachers said they work 52 hours a week, but the sample size is very small, because only 15 per cent of teachers took part in the survey. Surely there are more effective ways to measure teacher wellness, including their sick days, long-term disability, and retention in the profession. It would also be useful to see data on these points from jurisdictions with fewer instructional hours.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has yet to produce a solid evidence-based rationale for these changes to instructional hours. I am challenging him to go back and do his homework before we start reviewing Bill 16. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO ECONOMIC READINESS FORUM

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an effort to promote discussion about the economic future of the Deh Cho region, Dehcho First Nations and the Dehcho Economic Corporation have joined forces to hold a conference in Fort Simpson.

Dubbed the Dehcho Economic Readiness Forum, the conference will run from March 27 to 30, and aims to bring together community leaders, youth, and Aboriginal businesses.

The goal of the Dehcho Readiness Forum is to evaluate, educate, and strengthen our communities, and the Dehcho region's business knowledge, for current and future economic opportunities and growth. Development of the forum's agenda is almost completed, and will provide opportunities for participants to hear presentations related to the Deh Cho's state of the economy, and to explore prospects for community-driven economic development. As well, there will be business training workshops held at the forum that will teach practical skills and knowledge required for successful business development.

According to the Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief, Herb Norwegian, the forum is a way to look forward to the future of the region, and was promoted by community leaders wanting to "get ready for the inevitable."

He said once the Dehcho process comes to a close, there will be opportunities for communities and businesses to actively move toward developing an economy for the region.

The Grand Chief hopes that, by being able to hold roundtable discussions with business leaders, people will have a chance to hear each other out, and where they want to go, with the potential here in the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, this forum is built on the past success of similar conferences held by the Dehcho First Nations, including the Dehcho Means Business conference and the Dehcho business conference.

The theme of the conference will be "powering growth, shaping the future." The great thing about this conference is that it will include youth. One of the goals is to give young people an opportunity to see how economic development unfold, from the ground up.

Mr. Speaker, the Grand Chief attended the Mineral Roundup in Vancouver with his executive assistant, and Sambaa K'e Dene Band's Chief. It was a great opportunity to educate the movers and shakers of the mining industry, as the Dehcho Land Use Plan is nearing completion.

As the Grand Chief said to the Deh Cho Drum, "The ground rules are being laid down and it is a way of how we can establish rules of engagement with the industry. For them, it is really important that they have certainty, because they want to know who the landowners are, and what areas are going to be open for development."

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the agenda, and it looks like a great event. I wish them all the best, and hope to attend part of the first day. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE REGIONAL OFFICES

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working on organizational restructuring proposals, as part of the ongoing efforts, to ensure it remains on a fiscally-sustainable path for the future. Proposals include the amalgamation of the department of Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation into a single infrastructure department. The other merging of corporate services functions is currently carried out by the Departments of Executive, Finance, Human Resources, and Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

The GNWT previously announced plans on reducing expenditures and increasing revenue measures as part of its fiscal strategy.

Given the concluding chapter of our physical budget recently, later I will have questions for the appropriate Minister on preliminary start-up practices and policies. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL CARBON PRICING REGIME

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Last Wednesday, the Premier gave the economic development and environment committee a briefing on progress towards an Energy Plan and Climate Change Strategic Framework. An update was provided on public engagement, and work on the Pan-Canadian Framework, that will form the national plan for climate change action.

The Premier and committee witnesses had very little to say about carbon pricing, as no one seems to have the clear lead. I had to pry for facts on cross-departmental collaboration, both there and in the Committee of the Whole review of the ENR budget last week. There is no sense of urgency or leadership on carbon pricing that I can see. It seems like we are simply waiting for the federal government to tell us what to do.

We need to kick start this work now, if we are to get a made-in-the-NWT carbon price and take best advantage of funding that is available from the federal government. So here are a few suggestions to get things under way.

First, the departments need to cooperatively determine our strategic interests, with input from the Regular Members' committees. This will include clear analysis of our fossil fuel use patterns, greenhouse gas emissions, the costs of displacing fossil fuels and its effect on cost of living, opportunities to tap into federal support funding, and a look at local employment and business opportunities.

Next, we need to determine the pros and cons of different methods of carbon pricing; compare and contrast a carbon tax versus cap and trade, or any other mechanism.

Then, we need to construct some carbon pricing options for the two approaches. For a carbon tax, we need to know the extent of coverage, the price per tonne, for various fuel types and economic sectors. For cap and trade, we need to look at how the NWT could be linked to national and international schemes.

Finally, we analyze the scenarios to determine economic and financial impacts, look at tools to address issues including tax rate reductions and

direct rebates, and look at the other GHG reductions that could come about if we invest some revenues in other green projects.

This work should have been well underway by now. Our standing committees also need to step up to the plate and take a leadership role in development of an NWT carbon pricing scheme given the lack of progress to date. I will have questions for the Premier, as the Chair of the Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee of Cabinet. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONSULTATION ON COMMERCIAL FISHING STRATEGY

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation not provided.] Mr. Speaker, some First Nations that live around Great Slave Lake are stating that they were not consulted in the development of the GNWT fishing strategy.

The ITI Minister tabled the Strategy for Revitalizing the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery in the House last week. A ceremony was held in Hay River to celebrate this milestone of the 70-year-old industry.

Mr. Speaker, in developing the Commercial Fishing Strategy, the question of whether true meaningful consultations were carried out in engaging all parties, including First Nations, to provide the basis for support or consent remains unclear.

The important question is: does the GNWT have responsibility of Great Slave Lake and the fishing resources or is it the Department of Fisheries and Oceans?

Mr. Speaker, the K'atloodeeche First Nations hosted a conference on the Hay River Reserve along with several First Nation groups that live along Great Slave Lake. A major discussion item was the fisheries management of Great Slave Lake. ITI officials were invited but did not attend.

Mr. Speaker the last time I checked, the Government of the Northwest Territories is a public government, and working with all people in the NWT is an absolute necessity. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT FOR BILL 16: AN ACT TO AMEND
THE EDUCATION ACT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to publicly state my support for Bill 16: An Act to Amend the Education Act.

First off, as a parent, I feel very privileged that my son is enrolled in a first-class school here in the Northwest Territories where his unique learning needs and education challenges are met by very skilled educators whose standard of teaching and professionalism is second to none in Canada and the world.

That being said, I have asked some tough questions of the department along with my colleagues who are full-time members of the Standing Committee of Social Development. Not everything that we are hearing from the department makes sense at this point. However, the principles that the bill stands for, which are enabling more flexible hours for students and also allowing junior kindergarten to roll out, these are good policy objectives. How we roll out the policy that is up for later debate and questioning.

Just for example, Mr. Speaker, quality education, not quantity, is really the issue.

More and more, we are seeing education systems adapt to different system that use less time. For example, Mr. Speaker, in Finland, one of our sister circumpolar nations, formal schooling starts at the age of seven, followed by only nine years of compulsory school. Students there typically start school between 9:00 and 9:45, and the school day usual ends at 2:00 or 2:45. Most importantly, an average Finnish teacher teaches only 600 hours annually, or about four or fewer lessons daily. The result, Mr. Speaker, looks like this: 93 per cent of Finns graduate from academic or vocational high schools and 66 per cent go on to higher education, the highest rate in the European Union. Yet Finland spends only about 30 per cent less per student than the U.S.

By contrast, in the NWT, only 67 per cent of students graduate from high school. The comparison between the regional centres and smaller communities is drastic.

Mr. Speaker, I do support the objectives and intentions of this bill. The teachers have been very clear in their advocacy to me on a personal level and also through their representatives at the NWTTA and their work on the bill with the government. I think it is the right thing to do but we need to make sure that it is done right which is why we have a very strong standing committee. My honourable friend, the Member from Yellowknife

Centre, spoke of her concerns. I do think we need to resolve these before moving forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HEALTH SYSTEM PATIENT ADVOCATE
PROPOSAL

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last August, the community of Aklavik lost one of our Inuvialuit elders to a stroke. This elder's access to proper and timely medical care was delayed. A critical incident review was started soon after, led by Cree doctor Marlyn Cook. That was almost seven months ago, Mr. Speaker.

Last week, the Minister of Health and Social Services updated this House on that critical incident review. It made 16 recommendations to the government. These recommendations ranged from making sure staff review and understand current rules to proposing a specialized stroke centre at the Stanton Hospital here in Yellowknife.

I want to talk about one of the recommendations in particular. Recommendation 12 suggests "that the GNWT implements a process to respond to patient and family concerns related to the care that they receive within the healthcare system."

I suspect that the Minister may say that we have a complaints system in place already, though maybe we could work on improving it. During my constituency meeting in Aklavik, a constituent brought a different idea to the table: a patient advocate. Small community residents often feel that they can't express how they really feel to healthcare workers.

A patient advocate, working out of a local health centre, could help bridge those gaps between those workers and residents. That could mean someone to tackle language or culture gaps, help coordinate medical escorts, help nurses with patients' family history, or even just help workers new to town get to know the community.

This could also tie in with the review's other recommendations, including the incorporation of traditional practices into care when Aboriginal patients ask for them. This idea for a patient advocate could be piloted in Aklavik, Mr. Speaker. I think we could learn a lot from it and effect some real positive changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SOARING EAGLE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I was growing up, I would attend the day camp at the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre every summer. That is where I learned how to make a bed with pine boughs, cook bannock over an open fire, and snare rabbits.

I am happy to say that after all these years, the friendship centre's tradition of educating youth is as strong as ever, but now, it is focused on delivering programs to develop job skills and provide work experience. Just this past Friday, our Member of Parliament was in Hay River where he announced that the friendship centre is receiving a federal grant of nearly \$1.3 million to support projects that provide hands-on work experience, job search assistance, and skills upgrading. This money will help train 60 youth over the next three years.

Mr. Speaker, the feds don't usually just hand you seven figures without proof that you can put it to good use.

When it was time to tear down the arena in Hay River, the friendship centre recognized an opportunity and partnered with industry to train 23 youth in asbestos abatement. Twenty-two of those youth received their certification, and 80 per cent of them went on to work on the arena project.

Recognizing the growing manufacturing sector in Hay River, the Friendship Centre has again partnered with industry and will soon begin running a carpentry program that will develop essential essential industry skills, and provide work experience.

They are also adapting a youth and elder catering program that has been proven effective in other regions of the territory.

Just yesterday there was an article on CBC North about the commercial fishing training program the centre is running. In the fall, the centre will offer a much more robust version of the program in association with the NWT Fishermen's Federation and the British Columbia Institute of Technology. It will include intensive hands-on training and Transport Canada marine industry accreditation. This will prepare youth to work in the fishery as well as the shipping industry and the Coast Guard.

The centre also runs an entrepreneurial training program for youth who have multiple barriers to employment, and four youth are now employed as a direct result of this program.

All of these programs are in addition to the numerous community services, the youth centre

they run, putting on seniors programs, and hosting a number of community events.

Mr. Speaker, I was going to talk about how friendship centres in the NWT are underfunded and have to piece together monies to provide programming while deferred maintenance costs add up; this is despite the fact that for every dollar invested in the Friendship Centre they can use that to leverage seven additional dollars from other sources.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to focus instead on the good work being done, and to personally thank the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre for what it does for our youth, our community, and the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin by recognizing the students who are in the House today and stating that you are our future, and one day we hope to see you sitting here. Then I want to move to talk about some of the NHL alumni who are visiting our gallery today. We have Shaun Van Allen, who has played with the Edmonton Oilers, Anaheim Ducks, Ottawa Senators, Dallas Stars, and the Montreal Canadiens.

We have John Chabot, who played with the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Montreal Canadiens, the Detroit Red Wings. We have Dan Frawley, who played with the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Chicago Blackhawks. Tyler Kennedy, who played with the Pittsburgh Penguins, the New York Islanders, the San Jose Sharks and the New Jersey Devils. Ally Charlette, the daughter of John Chabot, who provided support for the tour.

Also accompanying the alumni is the band Algonquin Avenue from Ottawa, who provided the entertainment. We want to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly in the Northwest Territories. It's wonderful that you could attend the event in Deline and we hope to see you again in the future.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I would also like to say welcome to our proceedings. It's always great to have special guests as part of our proceedings and witnessing our actions. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd to welcome two Pages from

Inualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour: Rosanne Lennie and Agnes Amos, as well as their chaperone, Margaret Noksana. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, and I look forward to working with you all this week and hope you can put up with us.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Senior Cager basketball tournament was held here in Yellowknife over the weekend, and we have a team from Helen Kalvak School, the under 15 boys' team, who are in the gallery, and their teacher. I'm going to give you their names: Kolten Inuktalik, Mitchell Inuktalik, Kyran Alikamik, Teegan Taptuna, Christopher Hoagak, Alexandria Banksland, Lucy Ann Okheena and their teacher/coach Nicolas Kopot. They were the only team that had two girls participate in a boys' tournament, and they also won the sportsmanship banner this weekend for the Cager Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that the Pages as well as the students have travelled from the furthest north to come and be here with us. I appreciate you making the time to come and sit down and listen to us for a bit. After I'm done, you can go now, but welcome. The sportsmanship shows that the little schools sometimes don't come to compete, but they also come in the spirit of team play. You're sitting across from some very good people in this room, so thank you all, and welcome everybody into the gallery. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, just welcoming those individuals who travelled from afar to participate in our tournament this weekend. Thanks for coming. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to echo my colleague, the Minister, on recognizing the Algonquin band members from Quebec; I hope you had an enjoyable weekend in Deline. Also I'd like to recognize the three members from the alumni NHL who also participated in the celebrations in Deline; Dan Frawley, Shaun Van Allen, and John Chabot. Thank you very much for coming to see our proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 691-18(2):
TRAINING FOR AND DATA COLLECTED BY
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES WORKERS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about Child and Family Services training. I'd like to ask the Minister a few questions on that. Can the

Minister expand on the curriculum and its requirements such as duration of the training completion requirements, like pass and fail, what would happen, and if there are any plans for refresher requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the culture awareness training that the Member is speaking about is for Child and Family Services statutory appointed child protection workers and adoption workers. It includes a mix of infield community Indigenous engagement orientation followed up by in-person classroom-based core training with elders and educators, and then follow-up and an after-engagement infield engagement which is usually or is intended to be evaluated by the regional supervisor and supported by the department's practice specialist.

Mr. Speaker, there is some upfront work that we require our staff to do; a number of reading modules that they are expected to complete before they go to the in-class orientation and training session, and then there's also some after training which is 30 to 60 days. There are a number of follow-ups every year, training sessions, three to four training sessions held in the Northwest Territories every year that individuals can attend for refreshers if needed. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: If we know the commonalities between the families with children in care we can act on addressing them. I'd like to ask the Minister: what information, such as household income, does Health and Social Services collect on the families of children in care?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Income is assessed on a case-by-case basis and it is not something that is currently collected within the Child and Family Services information system. A Child and Family Services file may contain information on a family's financial situation only if that information is shared by the family for the purpose of care planning and assessment of the family needs.

For example, Mr. Speaker, if a family identifies that they are an income assistance recipient, then this information can be documented and may help in planning. There are situations, Mr. Speaker, where the incumbent would formally collect information on the family's income, and that would be in a case where a family is coming in for a voluntary services agreement and it's identified that one of the challenges they're facing is income or inability to pay some of their bills.

MR. BEAULIEU: I indicated in my Member's statement that 8 per cent of the families with children in care were actually income issues, but I would guess that it would be a lot higher; but there are other reasons for the child apprehension or child protection laws. I was wondering if the Minister could commit to always getting the income of the household where there is a Child and Family Services case too?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member references the fact that 8 per cent of children in fire/police referrals are for financial assistance; that number is actually taken from the director's report that was issued to the Members a number of months ago. Of a total of 2,309 referrals in 2015-16, 184 were for financial reasons. We've reviewed those, and typically what those referrals are when they occur is that the family is not eligible for, or rather, has already spent this month's financial assistance and they need assistance with food, clothing, or rent, which is something under the new system we can actually do. When it comes to collecting financial information, Mr. Speaker, as I already said, it is based on a case-by-case basis. The Child and Family Services information doesn't have an entry port for financial information.

To the Member's point, we do know that poverty is an issue in the Northwest Territories and it can be part of the reason somebody might be engaging the Child and Family information system. In fact, national research does establish a link between poverty and the need for Child and Family Services.

To be clear, Mr. Speaker, poverty is not the strongest link, according to much of the research out there. Research has shown that stronger links are being a victim of domestic violence, alcohol abuse, having few social supports, and a parent having been maltreated as a child. These, Mr. Speaker, are the strongest links leading to families coming into contact with Child and Family Services. These are the issues that we are working to address at a territorial level.

While poverty is an important consideration for the government as a whole, there are other and more important factors that the department has to attend to, such as reducing domestic violence, reducing addictions, and helping families build stronger support networks. Mr. Speaker, this is the premise and the foundation of Building Stronger Families.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. It would be good if the department could look into more income. To another question, foster parent and foster home screening was flagged by the Auditor

General in the 2014 report. I understand that internal reviews show that the issues continue to challenge family services. What changes to a foster parents screening can we expect this spring? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we brought in Building Stronger Families, it was a five-year implementation plan and, in a fundamental way, a new way of providing child and family services in the Northwest Territories. The Foster Family Coalition has been an important partner moving forward. They provide significant training within their own organization of families who want to be foster families, to help them prepare. One of the recommendations that came out of the review, the Child and Family Services Review, was to expedite the process for family members who want to foster family members to go through that process. We have already made changes to expedite those referral processes.

We are always working with the Foster Family Coalition to enhance the training that they provide to the foster families. We are going to continue to do those types of things as new ways of doing business, new ideas, new concepts come forward.

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

QUESTION 692-18(2):
PUBLIC SAFETY ON THE INGRAHAM TRAIL

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier today about some of the incidents that have been going on in and around the City of Yellowknife with regard to, in particular, the haul trucks and the public safety that stems from these particular incidents that have been happening. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to ask the Minister if there is anything he can share with the public right now to help build on their reassurance that this is hopefully some freak circumstance and that this is not a regular instance? What can the Minister share with us today in terms of any problems that have been identified? Is there a trend of some kind that we should know about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Public safety is always the number one thing for the NWT highways. It is a priority of this government and the department in particular. As of today I can update the Members of this House that the department and the winter road joint venture have actually had a meeting about the concerns of the events that have taken place over the last couple of weeks on the winter road. The number of fires, in particular, is very unusual. Of everything

that I have been briefed on up to date, I think in the last five years there might have been one fire, and it was out on the winter road section closer to one of the mines. This is of a particular concern. I believe the joint venture is going to have ongoing meetings with contractors and stuff to try to get to some kind of conclusion as to what is causing these issues. As that moves forward, I can keep Members informed on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. We appreciate being informed as we go forward. I guess the next question is: who ultimately is responsible for overseeing these investigations? The Ingraham Trail itself has a number of residents on it. The Tibbit to Contwoyto portion of the road is managed to some degree by the joint venture. Who is responsible for investigating these incidents as they happen anywhere up and down the trail or the Tibbit to Contwoyto road?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The joint venture is directly responsible for the contractors that are employed under them that are running up and down the highway. As far as our Department of Transportation, when a vehicle is registered in the Northwest Territories and it goes through its annual inspections and stuff, that is a whole different issue. This issue of the incidents that have taken place over the last few weeks on the road system between Yellowknife and the diamond mines is the joint venture's. We are working closely with them. We have a great relationship with them. As I have said, they are talking to the commercial carriers that are involved in this and seeing if there is something that needs to change or something that needs to be put in place to mitigate these measures.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Of course, ultimately, the most important thing here is the safety of people's lives. I have raised it before in the House. I have raised it during budget session. I have raised it to other departments about the concerns with regard to public safety up and down the Ingraham Trail. It comes down to knowing: do we as a government have a communication plan when it comes to these sorts of incidents? We know that any one of these could have been more catastrophic. In fact, we have had catastrophic circumstances with regard to fires happening up and down this road before. I don't know if the Minister can speak on behalf of the government, but we need to know what the communication plan is and who is taking the lead on the communications plan when it comes to these incidences on the Ingraham Trail.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: All I can tell the House right now is we use Twitter and Facebook and those things to reach out. I think it is a little bit more complicated than that. Some of this stuff is within the city boundaries. I think we need to have a

broader communication planning session, to sit down with the Department of Transportation, the RCMP, MACA, the City of Yellowknife, the Aboriginal stakeholders in that region as well, and have a conversation about how we move forward. It is something I think we need to continue to improve on. I thank the Member for bringing that up. I will have the department have a look into how we can have a better strategy on these things and how we can get them out there.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that response, because that kind of leads into my next question. That was going to be: would the Minister take the initiative to actually get all of the key stakeholders together and start to develop a communications plan, including the residents of Ingraham Trail, so that we can make sure that those who are living there, those who travel up and down this road on a regular basis, that their lives, most importantly, but their general public safety is being ensured?

I will put it to the Minister. Will he commit to working with his colleagues as well as the respective stakeholders that are involved on that road and making sure that we develop a critical public safety communications plan for that road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to doing that and having a look at that and informing the House on that moving forward.

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

QUESTION 693-18(2):
TERRITORIAL CARBON PRICING REGIME

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Premier as the Chair of the Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee of Cabinet. As I said in my statement, I am concerned that we start the needed research and policy work in consultation with Regular MLAs and the public around carbon pricing. Since the carbon pricing system is inevitable, can the Premier say when Members will see a detailed plan for carbon pricing in the Northwest Territories? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, consultation is being undertaken now on the energy plan and the climate change framework. We are receiving considerable

feedback from the public on carbon pricing as part of that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you to the Premier for that report, to some sort of a plan coming forward on carbon pricing. Last week, I asked whether a modelling report on carbon pricing could be shared with the public and Regular MLAs. The response from the Premier was that it could be shared with committee at some unspecified date. Can the Premier tell me whether he is prepared to table the report in the House during the current session, and if not, why not?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Considerable work has started on carbon pricing. The Department of Finance is lead on this, and their two main components on the work to date: first, the work of the federal government to better understand the impact of carbon pricing on the cost of living and doing business in the Northwest Territories, with the introduction of carbon pricing. The second is internal work to better understand the impact of carbon pricing on the various sectors within the Northwest Territories. These will help us design an approach to implementing carbon pricing in the Northwest Territories.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you to the Premier. I think he actually answered this question rather than the last one, so maybe I will just take another try at it here. Last week, in the presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, the Premier mentioned that there was a modelling report that has been prepared on carbon pricing, and he offered to share that with committee, but he didn't give a date for that. Can the Premier tell me whether he is prepared to table the report in this House during the current session, and if not, why not?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I believe we have committed to a meeting with the standing committee at the time of the May-June session to update Members on the work that will have been completed by that time and seek their input.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier for that response. I just don't know why this report that was commissioned using taxpayers' money can't be shared with the public and committee now, but I will keep going here. The Premier mentioned, in the committee meeting last week, that there is some kind of a working group that has been established. Can the Premier tell the House who is serving on this working group and table a terms of reference before the end of the session? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The working group is made up of a number of deputy ministers of various departments in the Government of the Northwest Territories that will be most affected by a carbon tax.

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

QUESTION 694-18(2):
CONSULTATION ON COMMERCIAL FISHING
STRATEGY

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Last week, the Minister had unrolled the development of the fishing strategy that had been in the making for some time. It basically heralds the initiative of this government in trying to revitalize the fishing industry on Great Slave Lake that has been around for about 70 years. My question is to the Minister: can the Minister explain the scope of the fishing strategy; in particular, how the matter of jurisdictions in the role of First Nations were addressed in the development of the strategy? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fishing strategy that we tabled in the House last week all started way back in the last Assembly, all the way back to 2012, with the Economic Opportunities Strategy. Going around and across the Northwest Territories, with engagement with all Aboriginal leaders across the Northwest Territories and the citizens of the Northwest Territories, it was identified that, specifically, there was a need to revitalize the fishing strategy for Great Slave Lake.

With that, moving forward, there were a number of meetings held in all the regions across the Northwest Territories. Along with that, as well, they had three particular meetings with the GSLAC committee, which is the Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee, which has all the representatives around the lake that used the lake for the fishing industry. That would be the Tlicho, the Dehcho, the Akaitcho, the Northwest Territory Metis Nation, sports fishers, lodge owners, and government departments. They engaged with them on three separate occasions on the strategy moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: My second question is: is this driven upon the Minister's statement? He stated very clearly that there were meetings in the region, so can the Minister explain the level of consultation and whether those meetings were held at a ministerial level, or a senior official level, where senior officials from this department engage people and stakeholders in those meetings?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Depending on if there was an economic opportunity strategy or the fishing strategy, there would have been various departments, and they would have been senior officials.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my other question is: in terms of trying to understand the roles of this government and the federal government, in light of the recent transfer of responsibility of devolution from Ottawa to Yellowknife in terms of lands and public resources, where is the GNWT in terms of its responsibility regarding the Great Slave Lake and the fisheries stock that we have here? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The initiative to consider section 35 rights on the Great Slave Lake for fishing is a responsibility of the federal government. The territorial government looks to how we use that resource and how do we move it forward for economic opportunities for residents in the Northwest Territories, and that is what we have done, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question verges on the first question that I asked, and I don't feel that the Minister answered my question, in whether the fishing strategy has a functional responsibility and whether, indeed, it addresses the very fundamental issue of the jurisdictions in the role of the First Nations. Would the Minister please answer that question? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I answered this question. We took the opportunity when we were out doing consultation. The responsibility of section 35 is the federal government's, as to do with the Great Slave Lake, to consult with Aboriginal governments and peoples. We went through the Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee, which has all the users around the lake, which includes, as I said, all the Aboriginal governments that use the lake. We used the opening for that advisory board to do our consultation.

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

QUESTION 695-18(2):
FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW OF AURORA
COLLEGE

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was less than two weeks ago that I stood up here and asked the Minister of Education to commit to doing a foundational review of Aurora College, so who

says government moves slowly? I would just like to flesh some of the details. I just have a couple of questions. My first is that he talks about a foundational review. Is that going to be something done internally by the college, something done by ECE, or are we having an external body come and look at this with some fresh eyes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, because we are going to be doing this foundational review of the Aurora College, it will be done externally. We will get a third party to come in and do the review. The department, as well as the Aurora College, will get to have input in terms of the foundational review itself, but it will be done externally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I would just like to know: what is this review going to be looking at? Is this going to be looking at the way the programs are running, looking at if these are the programs we actually want and need, or is it also going to encompass the functioning of the administration when it comes to the campus itself, travel, and all those sorts of details?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I think the Member made a few good suggestions there. We are also looking at making the focus on our labour market needs, as well as the students' needs, moving forward. I did commit, in my opening statement earlier today, that we will provide the terms of reference and get input from standing committee on the terms of reference. That terms of reference is going to help guide how the review will take place, and Members will have an opportunity to provide input into that terms of reference before we go out into the foundational review, itself.

MR. SIMPSON: This is my last question. I was wondering: what is the timeline on the development of that terms of reference? When can we expect that to be completed?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We are in the initial stages right now of developing that terms of reference. Once that terms of reference is done, we will bring it before Cabinet, and then, after Cabinet, we will take it before committee. I don't have an exact timeline when that will be, but as soon as we get it, we will get it out to committee for feedback so that we can start this review as soon as possible.

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

QUESTION 696-18(2):
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have struggled mightily to get some

answers on instructional hours in this sitting, including oral questions and written questions, and I am now down to four that I need answers to, so I am going to try these with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. My first question is: why are reduced instructional hours being piloted all across the NWT in every school? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did go before standing committee in a public hearing last week. Not every school is taking up this pilot. I don't have the exact numbers on how many schools are going to be introducing this pilot, but it is optional, so we do have some schools that have decided to do the pilot, others that have not. We did give out information in January to all the schools, and we are working with superintendents and the principals to develop some of these plans moving forward. I can assure the Member that not all schools have jumped on to taking this pilot on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thanks to the Minister for his answer. Can he give us an indication, of the 49 schools, how many schools have opted out?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We have given every school in the Northwest Territories an opportunity to participate in this three-year pilot. The deadline actually isn't until the end of March. I do believe our department is still working with some schools to develop a plan, but the deadline isn't until the end of March. At that time, we can inform the Member of how many schools are actually participating in this pilot.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister. How will the department measure success for students and teachers of this pilot project?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: During the session that we had with standing committee last week, there were a lot of really good ideas in terms of how do we evaluate, how do we measure, and how do we assess how this program is going on on a yearly basis, much like we do with all of our education renewal pilots that we have throughout the Northwest Territories right now. We will be using those indicators, attendance, graduation. We had some really a good feedback on individual education plans as well as student support plans, that Members were sharing. We will take all of that information and that feedback that we got from committee moving forward, in terms of measuring this program, evaluating it, and assessing it.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: is the department prepared to reverse this reduction in instructional hours if the pilot isn't successful, using those student and teacher outcomes? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, teachers play a very vital role, a very vital, critical, and a very important role, in our communities as well as in our schools. Outside parents, they are the ones that spend the most time with our youth and help them develop, help them to learn. The work done to date between the Education, Culture and Employment, the NWT Teachers' Association, as well as NWT Superintendents' Association brought this forward. We need to listen to the needs and the supports of our teachers. We have to listen to their concerns.

In the meeting last week, I did mention to committee that I have also been attending these local receiving officer meetings, that this is also a big concern, and they represent all teachers in their regions. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the program as a the pilot rolls out, but this is something that the teachers' association that speaks on behalf of the teachers as well as our superintendents have brought forward, and we want to address some of the workload issues and some of the wellness issues of our teachers and how important they are to the development of our children as well as our education.

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

QUESTION 697-18(2):
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
REGIONAL OFFICES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member statement, directed to the Minister of Transportation: as our government approaches the last month before break, what preparatory measures are under way for the pre-start-up of the new Department of Infrastructure in the Sahtu region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proposed Department of Infrastructure, moving forward for 2017-18, is focusing on a number of things; change of management would be one of them, developing new business and processes and practices moving forward, and also establishing a new corporate presence, as it's going to be a whole different identity for the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Will the Minister elaborate a little bit on the staff recruitment plans?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Staff recruitment plans moving forward, I believe that with the reorganization of the departments there are a number of changes, there are a number of processes that have to be done moving forward before this is done until the budget is passed. Once the budget is passed and we implement these things moving forward, it will probably be no different than before when amalgamations take place. There will be a number of people either retiring or moving on to different departments. There are a number of people who are affected who will possibly be changing jobs within the departments and stuff. I can update the Members as we move forward.

MR. MCNEELY: That was leading up to my next question on progress reports and updates. I welcome the Minister's commitment to provide those reports on the progress during the transition. Maybe they can include, also, if there are any allowances for furniture for the new office there, please.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As we move forward, yes, there is some money there for implementation. For some of the new positions, I believe, that are created in the new region of the Sahtu, we will be looking out to fulfilling that.

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

QUESTION 698-18(2):
HEALTH SYSTEM PATIENT ADVOCATE
PROPOSAL

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister said last week that many of the recommendations line up with work the department is already doing, that existing work clearly fell short in August 2016, instead. What new changes, what new work, will the department act on in response to this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe it was last October that I tabled that "Building a Culturally Respectful Health and Social Services System," which outlined a bunch of the work that we are doing that line up really nicely with the recommendations that came from the recent critical incident review.

My intention, and I have made a commitment to the family, to the leadership in the Beaufort Delta and to Members of this House, is to expedite that work and to try to get it done as quickly as possible, recognizing that it is a massive piece of work and that changing attitudes and beliefs and the way business is done in the health system that have been ingrained for generations is going to take us a bit of time.

I am committed to doing that work and seeing change. We have already given direction to start digging into the recommendations that are more operational, and we are working on the more foundational, bigger pieces that are about changing the culture of the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: How will the department assess the feasibility a piloting of patient advocate in a Northwest Territories community?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: At this time, we are not planning to do a pilot of a patient advocate in any communities throughout the Northwest Territories. I know the Member would be disappointed if I did not bring up the quality assurance professionals that we have in the system today. The quality assurance positions are also patient representatives, so they have a double role, Mr. Speaker.

Now, increasingly over the last number of months, it's becoming clear to me that having those two positions as a single position probably isn't the best way to do business here, in the Northwest Territories. Quality assurance tends to deal with situations after they have occurred or where a patient or a client has brought a concern to them that we need to fix, whereas a patient representative, I think, falls more in line with a patient advocate.

That is a person who is there to help the clients navigate their way through, overcome language barriers, understand a system that might appear intimidating or frightening to them. There is a role for that.

So I have already directed the department to look at our positions, the quality assurance/patient representative, see what it would take to separate these out so that we can have those two roles separate and distinct within our system so that those people can provide care. As far as doing a pilot of a patient advocate in a region, that is something we have not contemplated at this time.

MR. BLAKE: I know the Minister answered part of this just now, but I will ask the question anyway. In the absence of a patient advocate, how will the department ensure the service gaps I identified earlier will be closed?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I indicated, I have already directed the department to look at the possibility of spitting out the roles, our quality assurance/patient representatives, into two separate roles. That wouldn't necessarily address the Member's issue about community-based advocacy or guidance, because that would likely be a regional position.

When I was up in the Beaufort Delta last week, when I met with leadership to talk about the critical incident review, the leader of the IRC, the president of the IRC, indicated to me that they were working with the federal government. There was a pot of money out there that they are looking to utilize to put in some sort of patient navigator for the Inuvialuit. This is something that I am committed to exploring, and I am going to put on my May agenda with Aboriginal leadership this exact topic, so we can have a discussion on how we can work better together to provide advocacy and guidance through the health system for residents in small communities. So I will put that on the agenda. I will work with leadership to find a way to provide those types of supports over time.

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

QUESTION 699-18(2):
FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW OF AURORA
COLLEGE

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like follow up with the Minister on this Aurora College next steps statement he made this morning around the foundational review. My honourable friend from Hay River North made some comments about this, but one of the things that surprised me is that the terms of reference for the foundational review are not yet known. My question for the Minister today is: the strategic plan, which the department and the college have been working on for a while, how is that different from the foundational review? I will start with that. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The strategic plan was going to focus on the vision of the college, working on the Skills 4 Success Action Plan, looking at programs and services that will be provided for our NWT residents. The foundational review, as was discussed, was to take a look at the whole college system and look at some of the things that the honourable Member for Hay River had mentioned, such as administration, programs that we are providing, looking at them from the ground up.

Looking at everything within Aurora College will be done externally, so we want to build on some of the work that we have received already from the strategic plan work, and it will build on to the foundational review as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Thank you. I am afraid that, with some dread, I hear that a labyrinthine process of plans upon plans upon plans are being contemplated by the department. I wonder: can the Minister give some assurance that this is not going result in more action plans and strategies and will actually result in results? We have been waiting for a year for a strategic plan that has now transformed into a foundational review, so are we going to be waiting another year to see this review, or are we going to get moving on post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We are moving on post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories currently. We do have a lot of programs and services. We work with partners such as College nordique and Dechinta. In terms of the discussions and the debate that we have had in this House regarding the two programs that we are looking at for reductions, it sparked a lot of different views and discussions from the public and from Members in this Legislative Assembly that drove us to look at a foundational review of the entire system and the core of what Aurora College is. As I mentioned in my statement, we should have the completion of the review done this fall, 2017, with an implementation target set for the 2018-19 academic year.

MR. TESTART: I agree with the Minister. It's not about two programs. It's about more than \$30 million we spend on post-secondary that, by everyone's assessment, is not working but is still something students need in the Northwest Territories. So I am pleased that we are taking this seriously, but, again, the pace of this is frustrating. I think these are not new issues. These are issues we were well aware of going in. In fact, when we began the mandate process, through business plans these issues have been raised again and again and again.

The statement that the Minister made also spoke of a Post-Secondary Education Act. When does the Minister plan to implement that act?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are doing an overarching post-secondary education legislation. We are going through the processes right now. That means bringing an LP forward to standing committee and then having to go through the bill process, so I don't have a firm timeline for the Member right now, but I can get that information for him and share it with him, from the department.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to ask, in regard to the great public interest in this issue and the hard work of our post-secondary departments with Dechinta and College nordique, if the Minister will commit to making the LP process that the standing committees normally go through a public process so that we can have a broad range of opinions on the legislation before it's finalized in the House? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when we go through the process of the LP, bringing it forward to this House and to the standing committee, that's the opportunity when standing committee can take it out on the road and get feedback and input from the public on that LP and the bills moving forward and bring recommendations to this House.

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

QUESTION 700-18(2):
FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW OF AURORA
COLLEGE

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question about this Aurora College functional review. We know that the Teacher Education Program and the social work program have been put in abeyance pending the strategic planning exercise that was going on. So will these programs now be in the functional review, or is their fate going to be captured by this strategic plan? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All programs will be part of this foundational review moving forward. We did put them in abeyance. We have heard from Members in this House about, instead of cancelling it, why do not we fix it? So this gives us an opportunity to look at those programs, get some recommendations, work with the college, work with senior management at the college, continue to hear from residents, to develop and implement and support these programs that we offer to our northern students and our northern residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: My concern is that putting programs into abeyance is sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy for their extinction, meaning that, if instructors and students know that the program has a finite life, they won't continue on with it. They will move on to something else. Can the Minister assure us that this one year abeyance will in fact only be one year?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: What this foundation will review, it will look at these programs again. It may result in some good changes, positive changes. As I have said in this House as well, when we had all the students here that came to the Legislative Assembly, one of the indicating factors about these two programs that we were reducing was that for the investment that we were putting into the programs we weren't getting the results and the outcomes that we wanted to see or that we would like to see. I encouraged the students to focus on their studies, graduate to completion, be part of the public service here in the Northwest Territories, and I continue to encourage them to do that. After a year, after this foundational review has taken place, we will see what the results are from that foundational review. I cannot make a commitment until that review is done.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the Minister's good intentions, but he is scolding these students like they are bad children. What we have here are, in the most cases, mature students coming from other communities who have lots of commitments in their lives as care for their children and their parents and so on. It is not a matter of them not sticking to it. It is a matter of them being able to engage in this work at their own pace.

What I would like to think is that the Minister isn't looking at an all-or-nothing solution, but he might look at more flexibility, as he wants in the grade school system, to ensure these students succeed, if that is one of the possibilities the functional review will look at? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, that is what this foundational review is going to look at. It might even revamp into a whole new program within the social work area or even in the education area or based on our Skills 4 Success Action Plan, it can provide more program services within our three campuses as well as our learning centres.

The Member is saying that I am scolding these students, but I am trying to encourage them to graduate and become educated residents in the North so that they can become part of our public service and also teach and help our students in our smallest communities. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 701-18(2):
CONSULTATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
ENERGY STRATEGY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. They are related to the consultations being done on the NWT Energy Plan and Climate Change Strategic Framework. The Hay River consultations are taking place this Wednesday and Thursday. For those who don't know, it is a two-day workshop, and there are a couple of hours in the evening when the public can come in and participate.

On multiple occasions, I have asked the Minister of ENR to ensure that small businesses are specifically included in this consultation. When I look at the list of invitees, I see six GNWT departments, a federal department, non-profits, NGOs, municipal governments, Aboriginal governments, and two private businesses, neither of which, I am sure, are actually a small business. Independent, small businesses are among the hardest hit by energy costs and utility costs, especially given our aging infrastructure. Why aren't small businesses being invited to the recent consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the format for each workshop included an invitation meeting during the day and then there will be an open session during the evening of day one. The regional Chamber of Commerce, they were invited to participate at the workshops.

The evening event is open to all residents and businesses including chamber staff, board members, local business, and community residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I heard the Minister say that it is open to Chamber staff and board members. Luckily in Hay River, the Chamber has sent out the invitation to their actual membership, so there are small businesses that will be attending. That is just by accident and not by design. I would like to ask the Minister what the engagement has been like in past workshops. Has there been a lot of attendance and input by them?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: In the other previous meetings that they have had, the same format was used for all six workshops that they have had across the Northwest Territories. There is an opportunity, I think, through some written submissions that they can make their issues known. There is an opportunity in the evening

sessions, as well, to make their issues known there again.

MR. SIMPSON: I know that it can be tough if you are an entrepreneur, if you have a small business, to get away from work for two full days to attend one of these. In addition to the written submissions that you can make, I know that one of the Aboriginal governments has a schedule conflict and is getting a private one-on-one consultation. Has the department made this kind of consultation available to small businesses as well?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member is correct. There was a scheduling conflict with one of the local Aboriginal governments. They were given an opportunity to have some input. We have had no requests from any other business or any other Aboriginal governments for some one-on-one time. That is what I know so far. I am sure there is opportunity if there are some scheduling conflicts to meet with our folks. Again, I go back to the written submissions and the evening sessions where they just have to take the evening off and provide some comment on how this is going to affect them.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure to advertise the fact that they are accepting written submissions. In the past, Arctic Energy Alliance and ENR have worked together on programs for small businesses to cut some of these costs. Is ENR looking at continuing these energy conservation incentive programs for small businesses, and if so, how is the input of small business being received? How are they being directly engaged on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Works and Services is responsible for overseeing the funding of the Arctic Energy Alliance. I will work with my counterpart to see what type of incentives that they have and what they will continue to provide. I will work with the Minister of Infrastructure to see what their plans are to continue this program.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8 written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 19-18(2):
POSITION VACANCY AND OVERTIME
STATISTICS

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schuerte): Mr. Speaker, I have a provisional

return to written question asked by Mr. O'Reilly on February 14, 2017, to the Minister of Human Resources regarding position vacancy and overtime statistics.

The Department of Human Resources has been working to gather the appropriate information; however, the return to written question is not yet ready. The reason for this delay is due to the scope of the request. In order to address the volume and detail of the data requested, and to compile and organize the information in a way that answers the specific questions that were asked, the Department of Human Resources requires more time.

I will provide the requested information on May 25, 2017, the first day of the next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 320-18(2):
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "2016-2017 Annual Report on Implementation of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Minister of Lands.

TABLED DOCUMENT 321-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
500-18(2): NORMAN WELLS OILFIELDS
REMEDICATION AND RECLAMATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 322-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
617-18(2): MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT
PAYMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 323-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
641-18(2): RENTAL OFFICE WORKLOAD
CHALLENGES

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 500-18(2): Norman Wells

Oilfields Remediation and Reclamation," "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 617-18(2): Maintenance Enforcement Payments," and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 641-18(2): Rental Office Workload Challenges." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 324-18(2):
LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL
WORKERS IN NORTHERN CANADA, DATED
FEBRUARY 28, 2017 REGARDING POTENTIAL
CLOSURE OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
AT AURORA COLLEGE

TABLED DOCUMENT 325-18(2):
MEDIA RELEASE, CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL WORKERS, DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 326-18(2):
LETTER FROM THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS TO THE FEDERAL
MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR, DATED
FEBRUARY 22, 2017

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am tabling three documents today. The first is the letter from the Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada to all Members of this House concerning the decision to phase out the social work program at Aurora College; the second is a letter from the Canadian Association of Social Workers to the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour on the same issue; and the third is a news release from the Canadian Association of Social Workers expressing its concern on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 19:
APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), 2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 19, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2017-2018, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. Members, before we proceed with the second reading of bills, the Chair is going to call for a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, we left off from first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 19: APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATION EXPENDITURES), 2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2017-2018, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make appropriations for operations expenditures for the 2017-18 fiscal year. It also sets out limits on amounts that may be borrowed by the Commissioner on behalf of the government, includes information in respect of all existing borrowing and all projected borrowing for the fiscal year, and authorizes the making of disbursements to pay the principle of amounts borrowed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a month ago, I stood here and noted the obvious. We Regular MLAs were at an impasse on budget negotiations with Cabinet. Today, we have a resolution which will pave the way for passage of the budget appropriation bill. It's a compromise we all worked hard on.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that we are not all of one mind about budget 2017. We have made some progress on the size of the cuts the Finance Minister originally proposed. They have gone down by a third, from \$150 million to \$100 million. That, in itself, is an achievement. Regular MLAs argued that steep cuts were not in the best interests of the NWT at this time. Every indicator, jobs, mineral exploration, population growth, is weak. Many of us on this side of the House believe this is the time for

government to invest in job creation, not to make job cuts.

The government's plan is to reduce spending in order to generate a cash surplus. That surplus will then be invested in infrastructure. The cuts proposed in this budget will generate a small surplus by next March, about 1 per cent of spending. The Finance Minister's stated goal is to grow that surplus to 10 per cent of spending by the end of our term. If he is successful, he will then be able to claim that he has generated the first cash surplus in 10 years. It's a worthy goal, Mr. Speaker, but the timing isn't right.

The Finance Minister is proposing to reverse a deficit the government spent 10 years creating in just four years. The question is, at what cost to the people of the NWT? We are looking at up to 200 positions being eliminated this fiscal year and next, creating a major hit to the public service throughout the territory, and that's on top of small business and corporate job losses in the last 12 months.

These positions are being cut at a time when unemployment is trending up. The NWT Bureau of Statistics reported employment dropped by 700 people between December of 2016 and January this year, representing the lowest number of people employed in the NWT since May 2010. Mr. Speaker, as I said a month ago, we can't afford to lose any more jobs or see any more people move away. This government needs to ensure that budget 2018 doesn't include any further job cuts to the civil service and reverses growing unemployment with job creation and help with business development.

Mr. Speaker, Regular MLAs began reviewing departmental business plans in September. We were faced with an array of proposed cuts: to education, housing, Aurora College, wildfire research, and ground ambulance support. Our committee worked together to identify and roll back unacceptable cuts. Eventually we were able to preserve about \$4.6 million in spending slated for the chopping block, most of it on jobs. That doesn't mean we got everything we wanted, as you will hear from some of my colleagues.

The other task Regular MLAs have undertaken is to promote investment by this budget in our economy and people. We were able to obtain additional spending on the economy, including enhancement of the Small Community Employment Support Program, the Mineral Incentive Program, the Winter Fishery Freight Program, and the Community Access Program -- for a total of \$4.3 million. My hope is that these investments will assist people to find work at home in their communities.

The government heard our calls to increase funding for our people. The investment of \$2.5 million in homecare is now included in the base funding for the Department of Health and Social Services, so it will be there every year going forward. This is good news for our growing and aging population of seniors.

Combined with the Finance Minister's commitment to roll back cuts to the seniors' home repair plan, we are on our way to fulfilling our commitment to enable seniors to age in place. Not only do most seniors want to stay in their own homes as long as possible, there are considerable savings for government if they make these investments. All this money gets spent here, in the NWT.

There are other investments to note as well. The Anti-Poverty Fund is going to double to \$1 million annually. This is good news for grassroots organizations trying to reduce poverty in their communities. The fund was oversubscribed last year by a factor of 4:1. We have an undeniable problem with child poverty in this territory, and we can't expect a change in the multi-generational cycle of poverty until we invest in reducing the number of people who live in need of the basics.

I am also pleased to see money for youth in crisis to respond to communities where there has been a suicide. A suicide, Mr. Speaker, is a cry for help, and, unfortunately, there were a number last year. Suicides are also an indication of the pervasiveness of the mental health needs. These issues are often driven by addictions, so we need to be able to address mental health and addictions together, and this fund gives us a start.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn now to the government promise to fully fund the territory-wide implementation of junior kindergarten this fall. This is good news, but I want to point out that the program will not be fully funded. There is no provision for additional money for inclusive schooling, as well as Aboriginal and cultural programs, for the extra grade. Likewise, the question about who is going to pick up extra busing costs remains unresolved. So, no, junior kindergarten is not fully funded. It's my understanding that the Minister of Education will be bringing forward a supplementary appropriation for junior kindergarten, so we will be able to continue this debate at another time.

Another unresolved question is how to accommodate existing programs that serve four-year-olds. The government has yet to come up with a plan to ensure that parents of four-year-olds will continue to have access to the full range of services they have now.

Mr. Speaker, Regular MLAs wanted to see additional investments in budget 2017. The gap between what the government offered and Regular MLAs requested was less than 1 per cent of the total \$1.7 billion budget. It's a small sum but important to us on this side in terms of investing in our mandate.

Mr. Speaker, did we Regular Members get everything we wanted from the government in this budget? No, we didn't. We negotiated \$4.6 million in reinstatements and about \$14 million in new spending. We worked hard for more. We lost the battle to have government phase in increased lease rates for both Commissioner's and territorial lands. We failed to protect the winter ferry service on the Peel River and to increase funding for the Arctic Energy Alliance.

We elected to defer some spending requests until the next budget, such as expanding the men's healing program to communities outside Yellowknife. We recognize that with renewal set for this summer, expecting service providers to take the healing program on the road in the next fiscal year is overly ambitious. We also deferred spending on the Sambaa K'e winter road.

Mr. Speaker, my own takeaway from these budget deliberations is a deeper understanding of how consensus government works. The Regular MLAs decided to work together to increase our power to influence government. Together, we fought for things that have a direct importance to our ridings and for things that are unique to the ridings my colleagues represent. For example, money for the small community road access program is not relevant to Yellowknife Centre, but the additional supports for homelessness and addictions are.

We were able to get both. We were able to transcend our narrow concerns and work for the territory as a whole. I think we have a lot to show for this united approach and I hope we will continue to use it to provide oversight as well as improvements to spending going forward.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, before we start on Budget 2018, I want to reiterate that the goal of eliminating a 10-year deficit in four years is simply not realistic. The cost of reaching it is doing more harm than good for the people in my riding and beyond. I'd like to think that job cuts are behind us. If they aren't, we're going to replay this drama again next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. It was almost a month ago that I gave my reply to the budget address. So what has changed since then in

terms of the 2017-18 budget now that we have an Appropriation Bill in front of us? I will review of the budget process, the offer from Cabinet, the amended budget, and draw some conclusions.

The budget process. Let no one be fooled, the reduction targets are driving this budget in an effort to build larger surpluses to spend on infrastructure projects or roads to resources. That has been Cabinet's fiscal and economic development strategy since the mandate was proposed early in 2016.

In September 2016, Regular MLAs reviewed the departmental business plans during the presentations and exchanges Ministers and their staff over and over again, and even last week, made reference to the reduction targets given to each department and the overall target of cutting \$150 million later reduced to \$100 million.

Regular MLAs were very clear on items deemed to be unacceptable reductions and provided supporting rationale for our opposition. The response was to roll back some of the cuts and then offer some new initiatives that were largely based on issues raised in the House in the fall sitting. The new initiatives were not discussed with us first and did not necessarily reflect any particular approach or linkage to the mandate. Further reductions were also introduced that were greater than the cuts that had been rolled back.

Given the lack of consultation on the new initiatives, Regular MLAs spent considerable time developing our own list of strategic investments that were clearly driven by the mandate. These were completely rejected by Cabinet at first. After some discussion, one major reduction was rolled back and then a vague promise of more funding later on in our term for junior kindergarten. This morphed into the so-called "full funding" which, of course, is not true as clearly demonstrated by questioning of the Minister of Education.

Thus began our review of the main estimates. Regular MLAs deferred those activities within the departments where our proposed rollbacks of unacceptable changes were located and our new initiatives would be found. This continued until almost all the departments were deferred. Regular MLAs pared down our list of unacceptable reductions and new investments based on the discussion we heard in Committee of the Whole, which was subsequently discussed at a high level with the Minister of Finance.

The pared-down list was not requested and not discussed by Cabinet. An offer was presented to the Regular MLAs by the Finance Minister last week. More clarification on that offer was sought, but we still have not received a response. The offer

was more than I had expected from Cabinet. The Finance Minister revealed the offer in the House on Friday of last week, which the majority of Regular MLAs appeared poised to accept.

Few will ever know how hard the Regular MLAs had to work and work together on behalf of our residents to extract any concessions from Cabinet. It was far worse than pulling wisdom teeth, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to avoid that again next year.

I have proposed a number of ideas to ensure that future budgets are developed in a more collaborative approach, and I'll discuss them again at the end of my speech here.

The requested revisions from the Regular MLAs amounted to a very minor proportion of a \$1.7 billion overall budget, less than 2 per cent. To be clear, there were no true negotiations. Exchanges of written ultimatums were made with limited discussions. In my view, Cabinet was never willing to openly negotiate. What could be viewed as a command-and-control model of leadership does not seem consistent with the principles of consensus government.

I'll move on to the offer from Cabinet. I won't repeat the Minister's statement from last Friday, but I offer some observations and know that there are a number of limitations around the budget offer. There will be some welcomed new investment in the social envelope, including homecare, suicide prevention, and anti-poverty projects. I support these initiatives and clearly made the case for an increase in the anti-poverty funding in our Committee of the Whole discussions last month.

On the economics side, I support the increased investment in our fishing sector and small communities. However, increasing subsidies for mineral exploration is something I have some difficulty with. Repeated studies have shown, and GNWT's economic multipliers show, that if you invest the same amount of money in virtually any other economic sector more jobs will be created, whether it is arts and culture, agriculture, forestry or anything else. If the objective is diversify our economy and even to create a more equitable society, these funds could and should be better invested.

Now for the loose ends. The homecare increase may not be as large as it seems and some of it may actually be needed to make up for losses in federal funding. Ministers have noted that some new programs will need to be designed or old ones modified and implemented to get some of the new money out the door, including homecare, suicide prevention, and converting the Small Communities Employment Fund into a job creation program.

In my mind, the most problematic part of the Finance Minister's announcement about a budget deal last week was the mention of the deferral of Aurora College programs. As far as I can tell, there are no changes in Cabinet's approach. The Minister of Education has already approved that no new students will be allowed into the programs. Teachers will now be under-utilized and fewer grads will emerge, all leading to conditions supporting the full cutting of these programs. I cannot condone and do not support this approach.

The problem is with the programs, so redesign them and better support students. Don't cut the intake of students and then cut the programs.

I'd like to move on, Mr. Speaker, to the amended budget. I've already covered the good things in this budget in my reply a month ago, including 911, income assistance increases, homelessness, aging-in-place, and others. I can support these items, but let's look at the bigger picture. Regular MLAs attempted to get more strategic investments that benefit the greatest number of our residents, help diversify our economy, and create lasting benefits or avoid future costs.

We were able to extract over \$20 million from Cabinet in rolling back some reductions and in making new investments. In terms of the overall budget of \$1.7 billion, this amounts to 1.2 per cent. Undeniably, the budget as amended is better, but as my colleague, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, said earlier in the session: good is the enemy of great, or in this case better does not necessarily mean good or even great.

Overall, this budget continues Cabinet's fiscal strategy of cuts to jobs, programs, and services. Seventy-nine positions will be lost through the discontinuation of programs and services and reductions. Whether the positions are currently filled or not is not the issue. Some of our neighbours will lose their jobs and some will move away. There will be less spending, less money in our local economies, less taxes paid, and reduced payments under the Territorial Formula Funding Agreement. Cabinet did not do any economic analysis of the impacts of these reductions and, if it was done, it was certainly not shared with Regular MLAs.

There are \$68 million in reductions according to the budget address; more than three times the concessions the Regular MLAs were able to extract from Cabinet. Cabinet seems still locked into the roads to resources paradigm when we should be developing plans and strategies for adequate housing and early childhood programs so our residents can engage in the economy.

We need to get our housing out of core need while creating local jobs, provide stronger support for tourism, agriculture, and the fishing industry, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower the cost of living, and develop a real post-secondary education system with a university of the Northwest Territories. These sectors also create more local jobs than non-renewable resource development. That was the kind of vision and leadership I had hoped would be reflected in the budget.

The only new tax initiative in this budget is a small increase in tobacco taxes. I cannot accept Cabinet's approach of continual cutting without some corresponding and commensurate effort at raising additional revenues. I will repeat my words from the reply to the budget address:

"The world, this country and the Northwest Territories have witnessed growing and unparalleled gaps between rich and poor. Our government has done little to address this issue through the tax system. For example, we should create a new income tax bracket for our high income earners. Competitiveness and capitalism rule in our race to the bottom.

If our government is to have any credibility and moral authority to implement the drastic austerity it preaches, there must be an equal effort to raise additional revenues through our tax system and a fair return to government from the extraction of our non-renewable resources."

Some of the specific reductions that I believe are particularly short-sighted and harmful include things like:

- The environment is not really, in my opinion, being a high priority with Cabinet. No new investment in renewable or alternative energy, but a decrease through the sunset of \$760,000 of funding leveraged by Regular MLAs during the bail-out of the NWT Power Corp. for diesel to replace hydro power during low water levels. To be clear, Regular MLAs proposed an increase in funding for the Arctic Energy Alliance of \$1.5 million a year, but this was rejected.
- Within Environment and Natural Resources there will be five positions cut at headquarters, four of these in corporate management, that are related to communications, policy, and legislation. My main concern is the internal capacity of this department, which has a lot on its plate with a high number of complex legislative initiatives, major public policy initiatives including the Climate Change Strategic Framework, and a heavy communications responsibility with caribou and fire management. This work is already well

behind schedule, and I will continue to call attention to further delays.

- The Department of Lands, which will also take some of the heaviest cuts, of almost 7 per cent, or almost \$2 million. Travel for field operations or inspections is being slashed by a whopping 33 per cent, or \$415,000. When pressed, the Minister could not produce any evidence of a reduced workload for our inspectors. We already have funding to do this work from the federal government, and this will now be diverted to fund a surplus for infrastructure. Hardly consistent with the promises made by our Premier at the time of devolution.
- Severe cuts are being made to our efforts at economic diversification and business support. Seventeen per cent, or \$2 million, will be cut from grants and contributions compared to last year.
- There is about a 14 per cent reduction in the NWT Housing Corporation total expenditures between the revised 2016-17 estimates and 2017-18 mains. Not good when our housing stock continues to decline, without a real plan to get our housing out of core need.
- Off-loading costs onto others jurisdictions, including the implementation of junior kindergarten. The Minister of Education continues to talk of full funding but neglects to mention that this is under the current formulas that do not include junior kindergarten students. This is not fooling anyone, especially the education authorities.
- The contribution to education authorities is also to be reduced by \$1.86 million at a time when they are being told to take in junior kindergarten students without increases to inclusive schooling and Aboriginal culture funding and no plan for busing of junior kindergarten students. Ordering school authorities to do more with less funding is not something I can support.
- I've already mentioned the cuts to Aurora College. What a bad idea in the middle of a -- I guess now it's going to be called a foundational review, the outcome of which seems to inevitably point towards further cuts.
- Departmental amalgamations are driven by the goal of cost cutting alone. Again, let no one be fooled that the motivation is to improve public services and find efficiencies. I am particularly concerned with the amalgamation of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations into the Executive, where there will be a continued decline in capacity to carry out negotiations on

land rights with Indigenous governments.

With all of these significant cuts to the environment, education, housing, economic diversification, and our workforce, this budget takes us in the wrong direction, even with the changes the Regular MLAs have championed. At a time when our economy needs more public investment, Cabinet's reduction strategy rules the day.

How can we all avoid this painful process next time around? There need to be earlier, meaningful consultations with Regular MLAs about the overall fiscal context and direction of the budget, even before the development and review of the business plans or departmental budgets.

The review of the business plans was a failure this time around. There was little room for dialogue or discussion as Cabinet had already set reduction targets. Cabinet needs to be open to a more collaborative process, with real negotiations, done face-to-face rather than through written ultimatums. I think we also need to develop a process convention for the budget.

Conclusions. Undoubtedly, this is a much better budget as a result of the Regular MLAs working together on behalf of all of our residents. I am proud of the Regular MLAs for having pushed for these improvements, and I am very happy to continue to work together.

However, even with these changes, there are significant cuts in terms of the environment, our education system, and economic diversification. The overall direction from Cabinet's fiscal reduction strategy of cutting jobs, programs, and services to fund infrastructure continues unabated.

I cannot support this direction or that vision of the NWT and will be voting against the budget appropriation bill. At the same time, consensus government is not working well around the budgeting process. There were no real negotiations, only a series hard lines and ultimatums, and that includes our side, as well. Budget consultations with Regular MLAs have to be meaningful and earlier in the process to help determine the overall direction.

There are some exciting initiatives in this budget, and I sincerely thank my Cabinet colleagues and their staff and my Regular MLAs and our staff for all the hard work that we've done to get us to this point. However, on balance, I cannot support the 2017-18 budget, given the fiscal austerity and debt-management approach of Cabinet over the needs of my constituents and, indeed, all of our residents. I will be voting against this appropriation bill. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we started out on this adventure, looking at the business plans last September, it was about how we could deal with the cuts proposed by the government. We soon realized that we needed to start looking at this process a bit differently, so we focused on strategic investments that would help the NWT.

I would like to thank all Members for all the hard work we put into the 2017-18 budget process, Cabinet and Regular MLAs. I agree with the Finance Minister that Cabinet sort of listened and did listen and then made some of the Regular MLAs' proposed adjustments. These were reflected in his Minister's statement on Friday, March 3, 2017.

I am happy to see such things as:

- Implementation of 911 service;
- Supports to address homelessness and addictions;
- Enhancement to the NWT Housing Corporation's repair programs to support seniors age in place;
- Increased funding for junior kindergarten implementation costs for remaining schools;
- Anti-Poverty funding;
- A boost to the Community Access Program for small community roads;
- A Mineral Incentive Program increase;
- Enhancement of the Small Community Employment Support Program;
- Increased homecare; and
- Funding for a youth-in-crisis initiative.

As well, there was something the public was not aware of. We saw nine proposed reductions reversed, for a total of \$3,974,500, and this past Friday Cabinet announced that reductions to Aurora College's teacher education and social work programs will be deferred, pending completion of the strategic review, which is now the functional review. Unfortunately, we will see no additional intake for the social work program or the teacher education program while this review is taking place. This deferral amounted to \$690,000. All good news, right? Well, unfortunately, I can't say it is.

Mr. Speaker, when somebody offers you something, you need to consider it further and look into it a bit closer.

Working with public servants. In my reply to the 2016-17 budget and the 2017-18 budget, I strongly recommended that we ask the public service to come up with money-saving ideas. In my conversations with front-line workers, this has not happened. I firmly believe that, if the public service was given the opportunity to make suggestions on ways to make the government more efficient, we could save millions of dollars and potentially a lot of filled positions.

Unfortunately, for these past two budgets, senior bureaucrats were given a percentage that they needed to cut from their department's budget, and off they went. From my viewpoint, jobs cuts were the easiest approach. They looked at vacant positions, then at positions where the person was close to retirement, and then, finally, in my opinion, positions where they could use the standard answer: "We feel that the other staff can cover the workload," et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, don't get me wrong. I understood that there might be a need to reduce positions if the departments followed a logical approach to doing things, such as a true zero-based budgeting exercise. I understand it will take work, but it would bring a better, evidence-based approach to the task.

Job cuts. Mr. Speaker, this year, we saw a cut of four positions in the Dehcho region. I realize that it does not compare to the net cut of 38 positions in Yellowknife. However, when those four job positions come from one community with a population of 1,202, to have the same impact in Yellowknife, the government would have to cut 65 positions.

It saddens me when this government cuts positions in the first place, but it is very frustrating when they look first at smaller regional centres to make the cuts. It makes me think that one of the items in our government's mandate, "We will develop and implement a strategy to increase employment in small communities," isn't really a priority.

If this government was sincere about making sure we had a strong NWT, they would seriously look at where cuts would have the least impact on all residents.

Designated authorities. Mr. Speaker, as I have said previously, I represent six communities and four of them are governed by designated authorities. We heard from the Auditor General of Canada about the importance of working with them. How does this government do this by cutting positions in the

region that could help build capacity? Then we hear the logic, "Don't worry. We have somebody from Yellowknife or Fort Smith who will help out." That is lip-service, not real capacity-building. A phone call or a video-conference is not going to do this. Regional staff need to be in the communities, working with the people. If we are not doing that, we are going to continue in the same situation we are in now.

Business Development and Investment Corporation funding. Having a vibrant and competitive small business sector helps our northern economy prosper. Small businesses provide jobs, serve as a vital source of economic renewal, and provide valuable goods and services to our residents and other businesses.

One of BDIC's missions says that by building on the strength of our small businesses vibrancy, optimism and talent, we can ensure they become our path to prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at the BDIC, I see a Crown corporation that provides a range of programs and services to help northern businesses succeed, including start-up help. Unfortunately, it seems that this government may not agree. BDIC was treated like other departments. They were given an amount to cut and sent on their merry way. They did not ask BDIC how they could become more efficient and effective, they just cut.

Throughout my travels and talking with small business owners, I have seen and heard about the benefit of BDIC assisting communities in capturing economic development opportunities, and helping to develop a diverse and viable northern economy. Our small northern companies are very much the backbone of the NWT.

If the BDIC was able to identify funds that could be cut from administration, fine, but those savings need to be placed back into programs, not just be cut.

We need to promote and maintain economic development and employment. This is being done by the BDIC. I realize there is a need for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, but we need a strong, arm's-length corporation removed from the political environment that is able to:

- Encourage the creation and development of businesses; and
- Provide information and financial assistance to businesses.

Multi-sport games. Mr. Speaker, people know that I am very passionate about the sport, recreation, youth, and volunteer world. I know it may not sound

like a lot, but by cutting multi-sport games funding by \$150,000, this is the start to the government eliminating this line item. It is like the old saying, "Don't let the fox into the hen house." Well, we have. By allowing the GNWT to start reducing this program and using lotteries after \$5.1 million is given to the five sport and recreation NGOs, 80 per cent of any surplus will go to the games instead of the programs that help grassroots development.

The multi-sport funding is for games that are national or international competitions, and the government needs to take responsibility for running these games. Unfortunately, now the government is looking to the lottery system to cover these costs. This is wrong. The government needs to fund these games and stop taking funds primarily earmarked for grassroots development. It is very sad to see us now going down this road.

Social work and the Teacher Education Program. As I stated previously, it was great to see the deferral of reductions to these programs. However, by not allowing new students into the programs this September, we have put another nail in the coffin, so to speak.

In the very beginning the college was given direction to make large cuts and these two programs were identified because they appear to be not as efficient and effective in their present form. Even with the strategic planning process being folded into the new foundational review, I can see the writing on the wall. I hope I am wrong, but I could see these two programs being eliminated.

I have witnessed this type of approach before. Stopping the intake of students while the foundational review is being done or the strategic plan is done or a study is being done causing students to lose interest in the program.

It means that students wishing to be educated in these professions must go down South, leaving behind their support system, or not go at all. Cutting the teacher education and social work programs will result in fewer northern teachers and social workers, simple as that. My estimate is that we will lose at least one-third of our entry-level students, maybe more.

Mr. Speaker, there will be lots of jobs for northern teachers if we can train them. Last year the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tabled a labour market forecast from 2015 to the year 2030. It lists the top 50 occupations by job openings that will be available. Number two on the list? We will need to hire 777 elementary and kindergarten teachers, and that is the base-case estimate.

Number seven on the list is secondary school teachers. Our territory will need to fill at least 577 positions.

Number eight on the list of top occupations is social workers and community service workers. The estimated demand is 479 of them.

Coming in at number nine: early childhood educators and assistants. We will need to fill at least 448 positions between now and 2030.

Just to drive my point home, the 13th occupation is college and vocational instructors. We will need to hire for 382 positions if we don't eliminate their jobs and send our students south.

The demand for teachers at various levels tops the list of occupations in high demand. For comparison, our territory will only need to fill 285 financial manager positions and 386 for heavy equipment operators.

I would like the economic planners in Cabinet to add up those numbers as they cut Aurora College's budget to train teachers and social workers. I hope further study of the numbers will inform the functional review of Aurora College.

When you look at the TRC, these two programs were some of the ways the GNWT was addressing the recommendations. The TRC called on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to "provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms." By undermining these two programs, our government has done just the opposite.

I am also concerned that reductions to the core academic programs at Aurora College will have an impact on other programs. A college is a forum for students and a place to be inspired to learn new things. If we cripple our academic programs at Aurora College we take away opportunities for students who are upgrading as well. We have to recognize that academic programs lead to jobs too, and have produced many of our leaders over the years.

Mr. Speaker, we heard in this House that the teacher education and social work programs cost a lot more money to run than down South, with our smaller classes and lots of face-to-face time with instructors. Well, this is the reality of doing business in the North. Things cost more up North. However, it creates opportunities for students who wish to stay up North and be educated.

Instead of cutting the programs, we should be seeing how we can improve them while we continue student intake. Does this government want to get rid of the Business Incentive Program for

northern businesses because it costs money? I hope not, but if you use the logic of the Minister and this government, we could see this happening sooner rather than later.

Increase in homecare. What I found very interesting about the \$2.5 million increase in homecare funding was that \$1 million is to replace funding from Canada as a result of modifying the federal formula on how those dollars are distributed throughout the Northwest Territories. That could have resulted in some of our regions receiving less money for homecare than they currently get.

So some if not all of the million dollars is intended to make sure that some of the regions do not have reduced homecare services due to the potential change in the federal formula. This is a great idea, but the remaining \$1.5 million won't be ready to roll out on April 1st.

The Health Minister made it very clear in the House that they have a significant amount of work to still do. The department is working on the NWT Care Services Action Plan, scheduled to be done by March 31st. The action plan includes homecare services, but this is only the first step.

The department needs to understand what services are necessary to residents and communities in the Northwest Territories. They need to assess the gaps, comparing what is out there against where the department needs to be. Only then will the department know what resources are needed to fill the gaps. This was the nub of the discussion.

As well, the department is not sure what the guidelines are for the new federal money. Unfortunately, all this work will take time and from what I heard in Committee of the Whole, money is not likely to roll out until sometime later this year.

I appreciate that we are working on a plan and that the Minister made a commitment to move that work along as quickly as he can. However, if it does not get done and all dollars are not fully spent, that money will remain in the government's general consolidated fund.

Mr. Speaker, this is where they lose me. Some of these funds will not be used, but we still have homecare issues. The lapsed money will then be used to help address our debt, not the strategic spending we are looking for. This is what I cannot support.

Youth-in-crisis initiative. Similar to homecare, the development of Youth-in-Crisis Program is very important to me. However, as we heard in Committee of the Whole, the department is working on the development of action plans. This will help quantify physical needs as we prioritize these initiatives in the 2018-19 fiscal year. This is more

work on top of the NWT Care Service Action Plan that needs to be done.

We heard the first action plan will be done this summer which will give the department time to discuss things with the Social Development Committee during business planning sessions.

The problem with this is that the money is not out there helping the youth as needed. Again, like homecare, if the funds are not used for the youth, they will be needed instead to reduce debt.

Land lease increases. Mr. Speaker, increases to land lease rates will have a serious impact on people across the Northwest Territories. It is especially unfair where people are already paying very high rates and will never have the opportunity to acquire tenure.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the government is trying to bring lease rates for Commissioner's land and territorial lands more in line with each other, but we need to look at issues around affordability; maybe a phased in approach, and expanding land tenure opportunities. We need a solution for people paying unreasonably high taxes on lands in areas with unsettled claims.

Enhancement of the Small Community Employment Support Program. Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the government add \$3 million to the Small Community Employment Support Program. However, I was not happy it was still going to be a subsidy partnership and not a job creation program.

Like the other two areas I spoke about previously, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment plans to spend the next several months looking at how to ensure that additional money is fully utilized.

However, if the funds are to be used for subsidies and partnerships only, it will not actually be used for that purpose at all. Again, Mr. Speaker, the biggest problem is that if communities do not have their share of the money, they cannot access this program. If they cannot access this program, people cannot go to work.

If people cannot go in to work, they must go on income support. Not a good solution. When asked in the House if the program rules could be changed, the response was that ECE will look at a more comprehensive approach and strategy for small community employment by the fall.

With this limited approach, I wonder when -- and if -- we will see the job creation that is needed in the small communities.

To sum it all up, Regular Members have done a lot of work and negotiated hard with Cabinet to

improve this budget, and it is definitely improved since the business plans we saw last fall. In the end, this budget fails because it was so focused on cuts to spending without thinking enough about the impacts. Cutting jobs in communities and deep reductions to Aurora College will not bring savings in the long run. This approach does not serve my region well, and I do not think it serves the Northwest Territories well either.

Mr. Speaker, these are the reasons I will not support the 2017-18 budget. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Bill 19 has had a second reading. Item 19, 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), Committee Report 7-18(2), Committee Report 8-18(2), Tabled Document 261-18(2), Tabled Document 315-18(2), Tabled Document 316-18(2), and Tabled Document 317-18(2) with Member Hay River North in the Chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to continue considering Bill 13, Marriage Act; Tabled Document 315-18(2), Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditure) No. 3, 2016-2017, and Tabled Document 316-18(2), Supplementary Estimates, (Operational Expenditures) No. 2, 2016-2017, and Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2017-2018. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. I just want to clarify with Mr. Beaulieu. Bill 13 was the first one that you wanted to consider, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee, and that is what committee agreed to. So we have agreed to consider Bill 13. I will ask the Minister responsible for the bill to introduce it. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I am pleased to be here today to introduce Bill 13, Marriage Act.

This bill will replace the current Marriage Act. The current act predates the 1988 consolidation of Northwest Territories health statutes. Minor amendments have been made to the Marriage Act since then; however, none have kept pace with the Federal Government's Civil Marriage Act and with other provincial and territorial marriage legislation.

It is important that we update the existing legislation now to ensure compliance with the federal Civil Marriage Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The bill reorganizes the provisions in the Marriage Act in a more logical way, and adopts plain language so that residents can better understand the requirements and procedures for getting married in the Northwest Territories.

The proposed bill is consistent with other jurisdictions' marriage legislation while recognizing specific needs of the Northwest Territories, for example by making it easier for residents in smaller communities to get a marriage licence.

The bill proposes several key changes to the existing act including:

- Marriage of individuals under the age of 16 will be prohibited to comply with the federal Civil Marriage Act;
- A public registry of marriage licence issuers will be established to make it easier for residents to find a marriage licence issuer closest to them;
- Allows for the establishment of a public registry of marriage commissioners and registered clerics in the future;
- There is greater clarity around the provisions regarding the consent required for minors wanting to marry;
- Individuals will be prohibited from being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time they are requesting a marriage licence, requesting bands, or at the marriage ceremony;
- Gender specific references will be removed;
- Provisions relating to persons who were

previously married are simplified;

- Confidentiality provisions are included to protect the privacy of individuals; and
- Eligibility requirements for individuals applying to be appointed as marriage commissioners will reflect current administrative practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Standing Committee on Social Development for their review of the bill and their comments.

I am pleased to answer any questions Members may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will now turn to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Development, the committee that considered the bill for opening comments, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Social Development concluded its review of Bill 13, Marriage Act on January 20, 2016. The public hearing was held here at the Legislative Assembly Building. Although the committee received no public submissions on the bill, Members understand that this bill has been long awaited in the legal community and are pleased that the Northwest Territories will now have marriage legislation in keeping with federal standards and national best practices.

The committee was satisfied with the Minister's fulsome response to its questions and welcomes the implementation and new statute, which is coming into force. Individual Members may have additional comments or questions, as we proceed with consideration of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, please.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Denise Canuel, who is the director of policy with the Department of Health and Social Services. On my right, Mr. Druyan, who is the legislative counsel with the Department of Justice, who worked on this piece of legislation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister, and welcome to the witnesses. I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 13. General comments? Seeing none, does committee

agree that we proceed to a clause-by-clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee, there are 52 clauses. Would committee like to look at the bill 10 clauses at a time? Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will defer the bill number and title until after the consideration of the clauses. Please turn to page 5 of the bill. Clauses 1 through 10. Comments or questions? Seeing none. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Clauses 11 through 20. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Chair, we have a problem, in that we don't have a hard copy of the bill. The binders are no longer present. Could we be advised of where to find the copy of the bill?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The hard copies of the bill were circulated earlier in the afternoon, were they not? Committee pause while we figure this out.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call the Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, when we left off we were considering Bill 13, Marriage Act. Now that we all have hard copies distributed, we'll go through the clause-by-clause consideration. We are agreed on clauses 1 through 10. Now I will call clauses 11 through 20. Comments or questions on clauses 11 through 20, which begin on page 7. Thank you, committee.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Clauses 11 through 52 inclusive approved.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Committee, to the bill as a whole. Does committee agree that Bill 13, Marriage Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Bill 13 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 13, Marriage Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Committee. Thank you, Minister, and thank you to

your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 315-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017 next. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017. This document provides for an increase of \$7.6 million to the 2016-2017 infrastructure expenditures budget. The major items in these Supplementary Estimates include:

1. \$5.2 million for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the shortfall in the Air Tractor Fleet project due to the significant decline in the Canadian dollar resulting from declining oil prices in 2016.
2. \$2.6 million for the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with the preparatory and environmental assessment work for the Tlicho All-Season Road project. This expenditure is partially offset by revenue from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the House?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right I have Mr. David Stewart, the deputy minister of the Department of Finance. To my left, I have Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar who is the deputy secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Committee, I'll give you a moment to find your copies of the supplementary estimates. Do we have general comments on the supplementary estimates? Seeing none, we will begin considering the document. It begins on page 6. Committee, just to make sure everyone has their documents. Does committee agree that we begin considering the detail on page 6?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 6, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures summary, administrative and support services. Do we have comments or questions on this page? Seeing none, I will call it. Health and Social Services, operations expenditure. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to clarify the establishment of the NWT Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. When is the expected go-live date of that project now that we are securing funding for it?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the expected start-up date is 2017. As for the exact time, I'd have to maybe confirm that and share that with Members, but it is 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding, this was something that was approved by a previous -- not approved, but a lot of work went into this in the 17th Assembly and I wonder if there is any detail as to why the funding originally allocated to it from the midwifery program was not spent to establish it in the 17th Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister, how would you like to answer this question?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'd like to direct that to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. We did a significant amount of work on this in the previous Assembly, where legislation was actually passed to allow us to support human and tissue donation. In the Northwest Territories it was agreed at that time that given the magnitude of the project and the small size of the jurisdiction it made more sense to actually cooperate and join with Alberta on their registry. They have far greater capacity than us. We had actually entered into negotiations with them at that time and had some dollars set aside and allocated to support this project.

Unfortunately, they had an election, at which point they had a significant change in leadership in the province and asked us to defer, or rather they

chose to defer the negotiations until they were a little bit more stable and set up. We've been looking to them to reinitiate those negotiations. We were hoping that we might make a little bit of progress last fiscal year. We did insofar as they said, yes, we're ready to start talking and we're looking to move forward with actually our inclusion in their registry in the 2017-18 fiscal year. It is a negotiation process. There is a bunch of work that needs to be done, some boxes to check off, but we're feeling pretty good that we should be able to get that work done in 2017-18, and open the registry up for residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: I'd like to thank both Ministers for their clarification. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Seeing nothing further, I will call this page. Health and Social Services, operations expenditure summary, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, negative \$289,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$289,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 7, Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the department if they gave any consideration to, I will call it, hedging this investment? Maybe the department can enlighten me on what the original contract value was of the air tractor fleet? I believe it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$30 million to \$35 million, somewhere in that neighbourhood, and it just seems that, if we are in a situation where we are at risk because of the Canadian dollar losing value, that it's going to ultimately cost us an additional \$5 million, that we should give consideration to hedging our investment. I wonder if the department can just inform us as to did they in fact look into that, and, if so, why did we not choose to hedge the original contract? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we first entered into the contract with the supplier, we contemplated hedging, but there are some risks involved in terms of entering into hedge, and there are some expenses to do it. When the dollar started dropping in relation to the American dollar, it was dropping so fast that the benefits of a hedge were no longer actually there. So, by the time we actually thought about it, it was too late because the dollar had dropped so fast, so quickly. In the future, what is going to be suggested is that we actually build sufficient contingency into the project budget to deal with these types of currency rate fluctuations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: That is good. No further questions. I appreciate the answer. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Seeing nothing further, I will call this department. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$5,212,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$5,212,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 8. Comments or questions related to Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures on page 8? Seeing none, I will call this page. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$20,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$20,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 9, Transportation, capital investment expenditures. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call this department. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$2,620,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$2,620,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 315-18(2)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 77-18(2):
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 315-18(2): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) NO. 3, 2016-2017, CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 315-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017 now be concluded and that Tabled Document 315-18(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor, and it is being distributed. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you, committee. Next, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 316-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017. I will again turn to the Minister of Finance for any opening remarks. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017. This document provides for an increase of \$28.4 million to the 2016-17 operations expenditures budget.

\$22.9 million of these supplementary estimates is for the Department of Health and Social Services to provide additional funding associated with the higher-than-projected utilization of health programs, such as: hospital and physician services provided to NWT residents in southern jurisdictions; the residential placement of NWT adults and children in southern facilities so that they can receive the

specialized care that is not available in the NWT; and the provision of supplementary health benefits.

Other major items in these estimates include:

- \$2 million for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment for the Slave Province Geophysical, Surficial Materials, and Permafrost Study.
- \$884,000 for the Department of Public Works and Services, for the costs associated with the planning and implementation of NWT marine operations.
- \$606,000 for the Department of Justice, for the Framework for Enhancing Victim Services Agreement in the NWT, 2016-2021.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. You may take your seat at the witness table. I will note for the record that Mr. Stewart and Mr. Kalgutkar are still at the witness table. Does committee have any general comments on this tabled document? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering if the Minister can tell us how close we are to the supplementary reserve limit? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. After accounting for the items that are in this supplementary bill, there will be approximately \$6.4 million left in the supplementary reserve for O and M for 2016-17.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Nothing further from O'Reilly. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just on the health, the \$22.9 million of the supplementary estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services: year on year, it's typically around a 20 per cent overage as the average that the Department of Health and Social Services exceeds its projected estimates, and committee looked into this, and this is not in recent years; it's over a range of years. It's a historical fact that the health department consistently exceeds its estimates.

So why do we continue to budget this way when we do have an average forecast of when estimates are going to be exceeded? If the Minister could respond, I guess, instead of just allowing me to go on for 10 minutes? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. I will ask you to hold that until we get to page 7, the Health department, as this is time for general comments. Seeing no further general comments, we will proceed with consideration of the document, starting on page 4, Legislative Assembly. Comments or questions on page 4, Legislative Assembly? Seeing none, I will call this page. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, statutory offices, not previously authorized, \$270,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$270,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 5, Education, Culture and Employment. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$139,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$139,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 6, Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call this page. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, wildlife, not previously authorized, \$310,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$310,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 7, Health and Social Services. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I misspoke. It is around 5 per cent, \$20 million dollars' variance, or amount exceeding the estimate, so same question to the Minister. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member's point is well taken, and we have seen these supps come forward for higher costs than usual. I have committed, I believe, during our briefings, to work with the Minister of Health and Social Services to see if there are ways that we can build a bigger base in the Health and Social Services budget, which he had no issue with. We will do that. That way, when we come forward with supps, we would hope that they won't be as large as they are now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Nothing further, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. I was trying to get here before the mic went off. With nothing further, I will call this page. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$280,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, ambulatory care, not previously authorized, \$12,922,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$7,004,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$2,745,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$22,951,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 8, Industry, Tourism and Investment. Comments or questions from committee? Seeing none, I will begin calling this page. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations

expenditures, economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$83,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$171,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$2,254,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 9, Justice. Comments or questions? I see none, so I will proceed to call this page. Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and policing, not previously authorized, \$606,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Justice, operations expenditure summary, total department, not previously authorized, \$606,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 10, Municipal and Community Affairs. Comments or questions? I see none. I will call the page. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$662,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$662,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Next page, page 11. Public Works and Services. Comments or questions? I see none. I will

call the page. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$884,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$884,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Last page, Transportation. Comments or questions from committee? I see none. I will call the page. Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Transportation, operations expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$140,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Transportation, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$340,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Tabled Document 316-18(2)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 78-18(2):
CONCURRENCE OF Tabled DOCUMENT 316-
18(2): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2016-
2017,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 316-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2016-2017, now be concluded, and that Tabled Document 316-18(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration, in a formal session, through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Thank you, committee. On to the final supplementary estimate. It is Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018. Again, I will turn to the Minister of Finance for opening comments. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018. This document provides for an increase of \$3.5 million to the 2017-18 infrastructure expenditures budget.

These estimates include the transfer of funding to the Department of Infrastructure, from the Department of Public Works and Services, and the Department of Transportation. This transfer will ensure the Department of Infrastructure has a full appropriation authority, starting April 1, 2017, to make capital investments in 2017-18, that were previously approved for Public Works and Services and Transportation, as approved by the Legislative Assembly last fall.

Other major items in these estimates include:

- \$4.1 million for the Department of Infrastructure, for the pre-development costs associated with the Tlicho All-Season Road Project.
- \$543,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services for the costs associated with developing the Northwest Territories' Organ and Tissue Donation Registry.

These increases are partially offset by the decrease of \$809,000 to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' infrastructure budget, to reflect the establishment of an unconditional grant that will now be provided to the Deline Got'ine Government. That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. You may take your seat at the witness' table. Again, for the record, we have the same witnesses in front of us. I will open the floor to general comments. Are there any general comments on Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018? Seeing no general comments, we will begin considering the details, which begin on page 6, with Municipal and Community Affairs.

Do we have comments or questions on this page? Seeing none, I will call the page. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, negative \$809,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$809,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 7, Infrastructure. Comments or questions. Seeing none, I will call the page. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Infrastructure, operations expenditure, total department, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 8, Public Works and Services. Any comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 9, Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, negative \$300,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, total department,

not previously authorized, negative \$300,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 10, Health and Social Services. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative support services, not previously authorized, \$543,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$543,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 11, Infrastructure. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$94,201,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, \$1,600,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$95,801,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 12, Public Works and Services. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$10,617,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, negative \$1,400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$12,017,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 13, Transportation. Do I have comments or questions from committee? I see none. I will call the page. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$79,494,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, negative \$200,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Transportation, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$79,694,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 79-18(2):
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 317-
18(2): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2017-2018,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018 now be concluded and that Tabled Document 317-18(2) be reported and recommended as ready for consideration in a formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order.

To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair rise and report progress.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report, Member for Hay River North.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13: Marriage Act; Tabled Document 315-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017; Tabled Document 316-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017; and Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018, and would like to report progress with three motions being adopted, that Bill 13 is ready for a third reading, and that consideration of Tabled Documents 315, 316, and 317 is concluded and that the House concur on those estimates and that appropriation bills to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Mackenzie Delta.

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

Third Reading of Bills

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), 2017-2018 be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: The Member requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

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

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh. The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please stand. Masi, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, 16; opposed, two. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 19 has had its third reading and is ready for assent. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the honourable Gerald W. Kisoun, is ready to enter the Chamber and assent to the bills.

Assent to Bills

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Mr. Kisoun): Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, good afternoon. Quyanainni, qaiqqafi, and shiik kut hai cho. Now, as Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bill:

- Bill 19, Appropriation Act, Operations Expenditures 2017-2018.

Thank you. Hai cho. Quyanainni. Merci beaucoup. Mahsi cho. Koana.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 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
 - Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
 - Committee Report 7-18(2), Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines
 - Committee Report 8-18(2), Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills.
 - Bill 13, Marriage Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

