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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 1, 2017****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Julie 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 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

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

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 188-18(2):
GNWT MARINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, in December of last year, the GNWT took steps to ensure the North did not lose an important transportation link that delivers essential petroleum products and cargo, including consumer goods and construction materials, to communities and customers on Great Slave Lake, the Mackenzie River, and the Arctic coastal region, when it purchased the assets of Northern Transportation Company Limited. These assets included the Hay River shipyard, properties in Hay River, Norman Wells, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, and a fleet of specialized tugboats and single-hulled barges for transporting deck cargo to all NWT communities that rely on marine transportation.

We have also purchased two double-hulled barges that were not included in the original assets, to satisfy Transport Canada regulations for transporting fuel in oceans. We will continue to update and improve our fleet to provide these essential services to our communities. We are working with our federal counterparts to determine how we might access federal funding that is being made available for northern marine initiatives. We are now taking stock of these assets and preparing them to ship goods and services. We are confirming the properties and leases for ongoing operational requirements and determining the best and highest-use options for surplus lands. We are currently registering owned properties and confirming crown lands and revenue leases.

Mr. Speaker, we take our responsibility to protect the environment seriously. Phase 1 environmental site assessments for all these sites with leases on

Commissioner's and territorial lands have been completed. We will continue to work with Environment and Natural Resources this summer to conduct phase 2 environmental site assessments on the lands we have acquired. This program will continue over the next three summers to determine what remediation activities will be required. I would like to give all Members an update on where we stand now, as we approach the 2017 sailing season. We have developed a sailing plan and have posted a schedule to our website. Our cargo office in Hay River is up and running, our website has been launched, and a toll-free customer service number has been established. We have run advertisements in all local newspapers and on social media, and we have been receiving daily inquiries. We will visit all NWT marine-accessible communities this season, and we have confirmed that we will also provide service to Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay.

A business model is currently under development with the assistance of Ernst & Young, which will help inform how Marine Transportation Services will be operated in the future. The summer operations will inform the analysis as to which business model is likely to be the most appropriate. In the interim, we are proposing that a revolving fund be established for Marine Transportation Services. The establishment of a Marine Transportation Services revolving fund will enable the marine operations to be self-financing until the determination of a long-term business model is made. It will allow for the management of costs associated with the ongoing operations, maintenance, and capital expenditures in a manner that does not require the GNWT to fund the capital, operations, and management through appropriations, as is required for normal program delivery.

We have established freight and cargo rates for this operating season. They are lower than the 2016 rates. This gives us a business benchmark for expenses and revenues, as we consider factors like reliability of service, reducing risk to the GNWT, return on investment, opportunities for NWT businesses, and employment opportunities for NWT residents. Our contractor's maintenance crews are now in Inuvik, making the vessels ready to sail. Three vessels have been dedicated to our core community business, as well as our Kitikmeot and

Prudhoe Bay services. These will arrive in Hay River during the third week of June, where they will be dry-docked and inspected. The first cargo-loaded vessels will set sail from Hay River on or about the 1st of July. Customer cargo is rolling in to our Hay River yard. Fuel orders are currently being placed with our fuel supplier. We have made arrangements with the NWT Housing Corporation to move construction materials to northern communities. We will move goods for the northern stores and for Arctic cooperatives, and we are concluding contracts for the movement of fuel and cargo for various other large customers.

Increasing Marine Transportation Services business will help us keep rates affordable, keep our revenue projections on track, and sustain this service for Northerners. We have been awarded a contract to provide maintenance work for the Canadian Coast Guard on two buoy tender vessels that are dedicated to providing essential aid to navigation services on the Mackenzie River. This contract positions us to serve the coast guard with their ongoing and future needs and demonstrates the ongoing value of the Hay River shipyard. While we are on our way to making this sailing season a success, we are also already looking to the future of Marine Transportation Services, a critical role in the North. It reaches from Canada's northernmost port in Hay River all the way up to some of the highest communities in Canada. There are very few businesses like this in the world.

We are determining how this business can be sustained and improved to meet the needs of our residents and other customers and be positioned to seize the opportunities that the future may present. We have engaged a business consulting firm to assist, and we are working with the Department of Finance to analyze operations over the course of this season, determine optimal business structures and operating models for the long term, and produce a comprehensive analysis and report with recommendations by the fall of this year. Our purchase of the shipyard, terminals, and marine fleet is a strategic investment in transportation infrastructure that provides jobs, helps stimulate our economy, and will maintain the Mackenzie River as a primary route to safely and efficiently move essential goods to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 189-18(2):
SENIOR CITIZENS' MONTH

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that June is Seniors Citizens' Month, June 1st is Intergenerational Day, and June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I would

like to invite all Northerners to join me in recognizing seniors across the territory and their valuable contribution within our families and communities during this month. Seniors are currently the fastest growing population in the Northwest Territories. It is projected that the number of seniors over the age of 70 will nearly triple between 2015 and 2034. This will increase the need for home and community care and long-term care solutions.

Our government has made a commitment in its mandate to support elders to live in their own homes for as long as possible and to ensure adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so. Today, I want to provide you with an update on some of the progress that our government has made to better serve our seniors. We have completed a review of the long-term care program. The review identified the need to expand long-term care capacity in Yellowknife and in other regions of the NWT. It is projected that, by 2026, there will be a shortfall of 258 long-term care beds in the NWT. The review helps us to plan and prioritize investments.

We have made and will continue to make investments in health infrastructure for long-term care, such as the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home that was completed earlier this year. Work is also underway on the construction of the new 18-bed long-term care facility in Norman Wells. The additional 10 long-term care rooms in the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home and the long-term care facility in Norman Wells, once completed, will help reduce the wait list for long-term care in the NWT. Funding has also been approved to begin work in Yellowknife for long-term care beds, with planning currently underway. The GNWT is also committed to continue working with Avens on their proposal for a 48 bed long-term care facility. A business case for this has been completed, and we are exploring options to redevelop the old Stanton hospital into a 72-bed long-term care facility. We have also been working with the NWT Housing Corporation to support elders' programming in their new seniors' independent living units. The Fort Liard facility was completed last October, and elders' programming will be beginning soon. Construction is underway in Fort McPherson, Whati, and Fort Good Hope. We expect construction of all these facilities will be completed this year, and then we can begin offering activities for elders.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to ensuring that seniors not only remain in their homes for as long as possible but remain independent, safe, and actively engaged in their communities. To achieve this, we are developing a Continuing Care Services Action Plan that includes actions for enhanced home and community care services and expanded

palliative care services with an additional \$2.5 million in funding. The action plan will build upon the seven priorities identified in the Our Elders, Our Communities framework which was released in June 2014. In addition, the Continuing Care Services action plan will kick off a comprehensive review of home care services that will be initiated later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the work of the NWT Seniors' Society. The society is a non-profit organization that we work closely with, and our government provides funding annually to the society so that they can support seniors across the NWT. Some of the work that the society does includes raising awareness of programs and services specific to seniors, supporting the Seniors' Advisory Council, providing a community outreach program and a toll-free seniors' information line. In addition they support Senior Citizens' Month in June by providing resources to communities to honour and recognize seniors. I would also like to highlight the important work the Seniors' Society does in the prevention of abuse of older adults. Abuse of older adults can be verbal, physical, or financial. This problem is present in our communities, and the society has been actively creating conversations about this problem and educating NWT residents about the role we can play to find solutions. The society has also played an important role in establishing and providing ongoing support to the NWT Network to Prevent the Abuse of Older Adults. I would like to recognize their commitment to educating and working with partners to reduce, prevent, and ultimately eradicate the abuse of older adults. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is working with the NWT Seniors' Society to develop fitness and recreation programming for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, it is only by working together with partners like the NWT Seniors' Society that we are able to improve our programs and services to help support seniors so that they can continue to remain safe, independent, and actively participate in their communities. I wish seniors and the NWT Seniors' Society all the best in celebrating these three important events in the month of June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 190-18(2):
RECREATIONAL LEASING MANAGEMENT
FRAMEWORK

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, this government committed in its mandate to complete a framework for managing recreational leasing and completing a recreation management plan for the Yellowknife periphery area. In March, we fulfilled

the first part of that commitment by releasing the Recreational Leasing Management framework, which will guide land management decisions for years to come. This framework outlines our vision, goals, and short-term and long-term priorities for improving the way we plan and manage recreational leases and other recreational uses. By working towards the goals in the framework, we aim to have an efficient, effective, and transparent recreational leasing system in the Northwest Territories.

Today I want to highlight the efforts we are taking to support recreation management planning in the priority areas, one of six goals outlined in the Recreational Land Management framework and a key component of our mandate commitment. As you are aware, we have already begun working on our first recreation management plan for the Yellowknife periphery area, which includes the public land surrounding Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Detah. Since last year's public engagements, we have been working with an external planning advisory group and engaging with Aboriginal governments and organizations in the area. We are doing this to determine what kind of recreational opportunities are wanted, based on the information we have collected through our research and public engagements. We are also working with other stakeholder groups to advance this work.

On-the-land activities, whether recreational or traditional uses, contribute directly to the quality of life, health, and wellness of the residents of Detah, Ndilo, and Yellowknife, today and into the future. The planning process takes time and significant effort. We are extending our timeframes so that we may continue to work directly with Aboriginal governments and organizations to ensure that their ideas are reflected, that we have adequately considered Section 35 Aboriginal and treaty rights, and have provided accommodations where appropriate. Based on this work, we look forward to establishing a plan that will provide for better management of recreational uses in the area, greater awareness of the cultural and historical value and of respectful uses of the land and water, and greater clarity around recreational cabin leasing. We are hoping to have a draft of the plan ready for public comment later this year. Moving forward on the goals outlined in the Recreational Leasing Management framework and completing our work on the Yellowknife periphery area recreation management plan are important steps in meeting our mandate commitment. This work requires the cooperation and participation of all interested parties and governments, and I look forward to continuing our collaborative work over the life of this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OCEAN POLLUTION

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, pollution from human activities can be found all across the ocean's vast expanse. Rivers carry waste substances into the ocean. Discharge spills and waste from shipping and pollutants discharged into the air are also deposited into the ocean. Microplastics, agricultural run-off, untreated sewage and waste water, oils, nutrients, sediments, and marine debris; human activity like agricultural practices, port and harbour developments, damming of rivers, urban development and construction, mining, fisheries, aquaculture, and manufacturing, are all sources of marine pollution threatening coastal and marine habitat as well as human health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations estimates that currently at least two billion people do not have access to regular waste collection, and a large portion of the uncollected waste ends up in waterways and the ocean. Plastic debris causes deaths of large numbers of sea birds, as well as marine mammals, traditionally the main sources of food for the Inuit. Many uncertainties remain around the human health risk and microplastics in seafood and the possible effects of nano-sized plastic particles, which are capable of crossing cell walls.

Pollution from ships takes the form of both catastrophic events and chronic pollution from regular operations. Ballast is essential to the safe and efficient operation of ships, but the exchange of ballast water is a possible route for the introduction of invasive species, which can also be caused by aquaculture, ocean research, tourism, and sport fishing, Mr. Speaker. Human activities in the oceans are also responsible for generating increasing levels of underwater noise that disrupt marine habitat. More research and policy development is needed in addressing microplastics, endocrine-disrupting compounds, and harmful algal blooms.

Mr. Speaker, governments can help:

- raise public awareness on the impacts of plastic pollution and the benefits of recycling, including new regional recycling and waste collection centres;
- improve the sustainability of ports especially relating to waste management and reception facilities; regulate shipping emissions;

- strengthen implementation of the legal regime for the protection and preservation of the marine environment through activities and partnerships with Indigenous governments;
- also, by provide training and technical assistance on the development of legislation and policy, as well as developing the scientific and Indigenous knowledge capacity to monitor and address marine pollution.

Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member's statement. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO EDUCATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE TERESA JAFFRAY AND RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN FORT LIARD AND FORT SIMPSON

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the school year is ending very soon and grad season is about to begin. In my riding, there are two high schools, Acho Dene School in Fort Liard and Thomas Simpson High School in Fort Simpson. The Fort Simpson school accommodates students from Wrigley, Samba K'e, Nahanni Butte, and Jean Marie River. The two schools will be hosting their graduation ceremonies on June 15th and June 17th respectively.

Mr. Speaker we will see 19 high school students graduate. They will represent part of the future work force, and I am proud of them for completing the first of their educational achievements. I look forward to celebrating this major achievement with them later on this month. Mr. Speaker, as part of the celebration of education, I would like to congratulate this year's Dehcho Education Hall of Fame Inductee, Teresa Jaffray. Teresa Jaffray, known mostly as Terry, has had an astounding 35-year-long career with education in the North. Terry taught across the North before arriving to Fort Simpson. During her teaching career in Fort Simpson, Terry taught all my children. Her capacity as an educator is enormous, and her heart is truly in educating the youth. For this I am thankful.

Mr. Speaker, the next logical step for Terry was to become the principal of the Bompas Elementary School. During this time, I had the opportunity to work with Terry as I sat on the DEA. Despite all that Terry had already accomplished, she still wanted to make a greater impact on more students, so she became associate superintendent and then became the superintendent of the Dehcho Divisional Education Council. During this time I have had the honour to work with Terry in my other role, as the sport and recreation person.

Mr. Speaker, all of her colleagues would say she has always lead by example and has always been a contributing team member, even with her hectic schedule. With her position on the DEA, Terry continues to provide guidance and leadership to staff as well as input and direction for the board and community. No matter what the situation is, Terry always has the children's well-being in mind. Terry's induction into the Education Hall of Fame represents the insurmountable work that she has done for education in the North and the care she has for the students. She is always encouraging students and providing them with any support she can for the opportunities that come their way. She has taken her abundant expertise of education in the North and big-heartedly shared her knowledge and support with anyone who needs it. Mr. Speaker, Terry's countless achievements speak for themselves. Inducting her into the Education Hall of Fame is an honour that Teresa Jaffray well deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PREPARING FOR GROWTH

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Speaker, it's a slow economy we live in, not only in the North but around the world. Low commodity prices, sluggish exploration spending, looming climate change concerns, international security and safety, unpredictability in Washington, understandably, it's a nervous time. Economic cycles happen, meaning that, following each decline, there is inevitably a rebound. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment's statement earlier this week, outlining a broad multifaceted approach to economic development in the Northwest Territories because moving ahead on many different fronts is what will prepare our economy to be ready when investment is ready for us. We already have bright prospects. The Whati road will support exploration and mineral development but also tourism and traditional economy. The TerraX exploration program returns a promising level of activity to the Yellowknife area. There is even positive interest once again in Pine Point.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT's world-class resources will continue to attract attention and ultimately investment, but we have to be ready. How? We must develop strategies based on the needs of our citizens and communities that will show potential investors we are open for business. For the economy, we must have strategies in place. Our mineral development, oil and gas, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, climate change, and energy. We must be prepared to develop our natural assets

in a way that serves our people and communities and honours and sustains our land. For our people, we must resolve our land rights and Aboriginal self-government questions to provide certainty for all. We need to build an educated, capable work force that's ready to step into employment and training opportunities. The highest priority is healthy families and communities and security for our children and elders.

I was encouraged by the Minister's approach to economic development. It promotes the principles of a stable resource sector as the foundation of our economy while simultaneously prioritizing investment in our people and growth for new areas like agriculture and fisheries. A diverse economy will be a stronger economy. Mr. Speaker, these strategies and commitment to the goals we set in the mandate will help us kick-start the economy from the inside out. When investors look again to the North, they'll see the kind of certainty and confidence that they're looking for. Let's be prepared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SAHTU REGION TOURISM POTENTIAL

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In recognition of Tourism Week, tourism is the largest renewable resource-based industry in the Northwest Territories. The Central Mackenzie Valley draws attentions from Great Bear Lake, the Mackenzie River, and the Mackenzie Mountains. With endless opportunities with hunting, cultural sightseeing, fishing, and hiking, we can no longer ignore one of NWT's best-kept secrets, the Sahtu Region and Central Mackenzie Valley, with huge potential that needs unlocking. Mr. Speaker, in the fiscal year 2014-15, NWT Tourism expanded from \$146.6 million to \$167.1 million in 2015-16, an increase of \$20.5 million. These statistics are beyond our expectations and continue to grow. Tourism can offer opportunities to assist achievement of personal career aspirations, the vision that communities hold for their future, and the business opportunities objectives of tourism enterprises. I congratulate the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment for exceeding these expectations and targets. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING ISSUES IN NORTHLANDS TRAILER PARK

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Recently, I had two constituents contact me with

regard to housing issues in Northlands Trailer Park. About 1,100 people live in this area of Yellowknife. This neighbourhood has a long and complicated history. It was developed around 1977 by a private developer and was turned into a condominium corporation in 1989. At that point, the infrastructure became the responsibility of the corporation. In 2010, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation stopped offering assistance with mortgages in this area due to the poor condition of infrastructure. A deal was reached between the condo corporation and the City of Yellowknife in 2013 to replace the infrastructure, with the city up-fronting the money and recovering through local improvement charges on individual properties. I applaud the efforts of the condo corporation board and the city in reaching this arrangement. The infrastructure has now been replaced, and the city will take over the responsibility for its maintenance. CMHC is again providing assistance with mortgages, and there is significant redevelopment happening within Northlands.

All of this is good news, but some residents in Northlands have found it difficult to adjust to the local improvement charges and the continuing condo fees. I am confident that the condo corporation board is making every effort to keep the condo fees as low as possible. Much of this situation is a matter between the condo corporation and the City of Yellowknife, but it does highlight a gap in support for our residents, especially those on a fixed income. We have the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation programs that can assist homeowners with retrofits and programs for seniors to assist with home heating and municipal taxes, but there are still problems with affordability. One of the five priorities of the NWT Seniors' Society is to "support more seniors and elders living independently in their own homes."

We should be doing more to enable citizens on fixed incomes to stay in their own homes and not go into arrears on municipal taxes, local improvement charges or condo fees. I support the efforts of our Housing Minister in carrying out the housing survey and beginning to redesign our programs and services. She kindly agreed to meet with a couple of my constituents recently to talk about the issues at Northlands and had some helpful suggestions. I'll have questions for the Minister later today on assistance with housing in Northlands. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member's statement. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON VOICES ON HOUSING AND MOULD REMEDIATION

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like my colleague the Member for Yellowknife Centre did yesterday, I want to talk about the Voices on Housing report. This report on the results of the NWT Housing Corporation's recent engagement survey was tabled in the House last week. You can find it online or at our Legislative Library. Mr. Speaker, I have followed the progress of this survey closely. Many of my constituents wanted to participate, and I was pleased that the Housing Corporation extended the survey to let more people share their views and that it worked with residents to help them complete the survey. In the end, the corporation received about 1,500 responses and estimates that the results represent about one out of every 10 households.

Like my colleague mentioned, many comments focused on homelessness and housing affordability and availability, but many residents who wrote in also talked about maintenance. Some wrote positively of the corporation's maintenance staff, while others talked instead about the need for more timely maintenance. One common theme was the desire to engage tenants in the maintenance of their units; another, to ensure that local people are trained and employed in maintenance- and repair-related jobs. This echoes what I have heard, myself, from the people of the Mackenzie Delta. Beyond regular maintenance, Mr. Speaker, we need to talk about critical repairs and remediation. My constituents tell me about serious problems with mould in public housing units.

Mould is a danger to tenants' health. It causes eye and nasal problems, skin irritation, night asthma, and in serious cases, respiratory infections. It can't be solved with a bit of cleaning and a slapped-on coat of paint: it requires professional remediation. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Voices on Housing tells us that one resident wrote, "The Housing Corporation needs to be aware that some repairs cannot be made by tenants themselves. Example: mould is not always the result of poor cleaning habits." Our sister territory, Nunavut, knows this. Their government plans to use \$2.6 million in federal money for repairs to tackle their territory's major mould problem. As we know, Nunavut will also see \$240 million in housing money over the next decade. Meanwhile, the NWT will see just \$36 million.

That begs the question, Mr. Speaker, just what is the Housing Corporation going to do about housing

units that are a danger to tenants' health and safety? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, immigration enriches our communities, enhances our economy, strengthens our diversity, and grows our population, which is a very important goal for this government. Though the benefits of immigration are indisputable, the policies that govern immigration are often complex and difficult to make effective in various jurisdictions in Canada. Mr. Speaker, immigration is a shared responsibility and much of it is under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Our government operates its own nominee program through the Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Education, Culture and Employment. This program can fast track applications for permanent residency, assist prospective employers, and help foreign workers and their families make NWT their permanent home.

Immigration has been raised to a high profile through its inclusion in our mandate, which commits to increasing the number of immigrants working in the NWT and investment by immigrants by implementing an immigration strategy, which is now underway. Mr. Speaker, we will talk about where this strategy does not touch, which is family reunification. Many of the people who come here through our nominee program contribute valuable services to the community, enhance our labour pool, and open small businesses, but it's very difficult in many cases for them to have their family members join them, extended family members, not immediate family members. I met with some new Canadians in the Northwest Territories, and they said it is easier to bring a nanny in to help them than their own grandparents to help watch their kids. It just doesn't make sense, Mr. Speaker. Their concerns are that, without that family reunification piece in place, where other provinces are doing it better, the NWT is a less favourable place to live.

We need to strengthen this aspect that worked for the federal government to build a stronger family reunification program so we can ensure that all of our residents and, in this case, particularly newcomers to Canada can bring their families here and enjoy the quality of life that they expect and that they could find in other places in Canada and the world. We need to make the NWT the best it can be on immigration. I know we have willing partners with both Ministers across the aisle to make this happen. I'll have questions for the

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on how we can make this happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVEY

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in her most recent report, the chief coroner noted that four out of five murders in the NWT in 2015 involved domestic violence. This is a repeat of 2012, where four of out five murders also involved domestic violence. That's 80 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The rate for Canada as a whole is less than half that, at 36 per cent in 2015. In discussing her findings with the media, the chief coroner said the territory needs a massive shift in attitudes so people realize that this is not normal and not acceptable. To make this shift, there needs to be education for young people, public advertising campaigns, and culturally appropriate on-the-land programs.

This government and previous governments have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in what our mandate calls the crisis of family violence, mostly on crisis responses. Money has been spent on prevention but to no effect, taking the unchanging murder rate as an indicator. Today I am renewing my call for this government to budget the necessary funds in the next business plan to redo the 2007 Family Violence Survey. You may recall, the NWT Bureau of Statistics surveyed 753 people in communities large and small 10 years ago to gauge their understanding of family violence. The good news is that 88 per cent of respondents said they were either very worried or somewhat worried about family violence, but the detailed findings are revealing. An important finding is that a quarter of men and 16 per cent of women still believe that physical violence between a couple is a private matter to be resolved within the family. There is a general reluctance to define family violence as a problem for which help is needed. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that family violence is a problem, in fact a crisis, and that help is needed. Updating the family violence survey will give us the information we need to create an effective action plan, one that is aimed squarely at the attitudes that perpetuate family violence. It will tell us why what we're doing isn't working. It is time for us to strengthen the prevention of family violence, to work in smart and consistent ways to ensure every NWT resident hears the message that violence is not inevitable and it is preventable. I will have questions for the Minister of Justice. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, allow me to draw your attention to the presence at the table of Mr. Anthony W. J. Whitford. As many of you know, Mr. Whitford has many roles: former Commissioner, former speaker, former Minister, former Member, former Sergeant-at-Arms, honorary clerk at the table, and member of the Order of NWT. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Whitford to the House this afternoon. It is always a pleasure when he is a visitor to this House. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize eight individuals who have made a strong and lasting impression on northern education, and were inducted into the Northwest Territories Education Hall of Fame today: Annie Felix from Tuktoyaktuk, Teresa Jaffray from Fort Simpson, Merril Dean from Yellowknife, Al McDonald from Yellowknife, Denise Bowen from Yellowknife, Chuck Lirette from Hay River, Shane Brewster from Inuvik, and Dave Roebuck from Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank and recognize their families and their guests. Many have travelled to be here today for supporting these individuals and all the work that they do and their education, and for making a lasting impression on Northerners, our students now and the ones that are in the future, touching many hearts and many minds along the way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I, too, on behalf of the House, would like to congratulate all the Education Hall of Fame inductees. Welcome to our Chamber. It is always great to have an audience. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome my constituent, Merril Dean who, as the Minister said, was inducted into the Education Hall of Fame today. Welcome and congratulations and, more importantly, thank you so much for all your contributions to the youth of the Northwest Territories. You and your efforts are truly appreciated. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity in celebration of Seniors' Month.

I would like to welcome some people to the Chamber: first up, Barb Hood with the NWT Seniors' Society, Joseph John Soderberg from the Yellowknife Seniors' Society, Merlyn Williams from the Yellowknife Seniors' Society, Joyce Williams,

Gordon Graydon, Yvonne Quick from the Yellowknife Seniors' Society, two of my very favourite people in the whole world, Dick and Loretta Abernethy, Martha MacLellan from the Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and Annmarie Senhouse from the Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Thank you all for being here in the gallery today, and happy Seniors' Month. Thank you.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize the man of many hats but also a very humble and well-respected neighbour in the riding of Yellowknife North, Mr. Tony Whitford. I, too, want to recognize the many seniors who have come here today, and acknowledge that June is Seniors' Month. In particular, I want to recognize Barb Hood and the work that she does for the NWT Seniors' Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Al McDonald, my constituent from Yellowknife South, is here so that we may celebrate his induction into the Education Hall of Fame. Al McDonald has been teaching in the Northwest Territories for over 40 years. He is a coach, a past NWTTA president, president and vice president for the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and for the last many years, has been the vice principal at Sir John Franklin High School. He is an inspiration to his colleagues and students, and his impact on education in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories cannot be understated. I want to thank Al McDonald and congratulate him on his induction in the Education Hall of Fame, and I hope we can get a golf game in soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize two of the constituents from Range Lake who were also inducted into the Education Hall of Fame today. I will start with Mr. Dave Roebuck. Mr. Roebuck was inducted for his support, counsel, and guidance given to so many educators across the Northwest Territories within his role as executive director of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association for the past 18 years. His dedication and service to northern educators is long-lasting. I hear today that he will be retiring and moving from the territories. It is a sincere loss to not only the territories, but to my riding, as well.

The next person I want to recognize is Miss Denise Bowen from Yellowknife, who was also inducted into the Education Hall of Fame today. Miss Bowen has established and supported numerous health and human service programs through Aurora College, including the highly successful four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. I also want to congratulate her on her weekend retirement, because now she has accepted a new position and will be remaining in the constituency of Range Lake. Congratulations to you both.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to welcome my constituent from Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Angus Emaghok, as well as my "atic," which means my "namesake," Mr. Herbert Felix and his wife, Loretta Felix. Welcome to the inductees of the Education Hall of Fame, Mr. Shane Brewster and Mr. Chuck Lirette, who taught in Inuvik, and all of the inductees today. Finally, I would like to congratulate my constituent from Tuktoyaktuk, Annie Felix, who is also the vice principal of Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, Miss Felix's strong relationship with her students, colleagues, and community has enhanced the knowledge and wellbeing of so many around her. Her commitment to culture inside and outside the classroom is an inspiration to all northern educators, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say thank you to Annie for the years of service and dedication to Inuvialuit at Mangilaluk School, and congratulate you on your induction to the Education Hall of Fame. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Terry Jaffray, or Teresa Jaffray, as I found out her real name was today, or yesterday, actually, and her husband Brian Jaffray, who both are constituents in my riding, as well as Mayada Echtay, who is one of my new constituents' assistant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Rami Kassem, the owner of Javaroma, who provides fantastic catering for our building here, and makes sure I can stay away from those committee meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I, too, would like to recognize a constituent, Yvonne Quick, who is here on behalf of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society today. I also want to recognize her years of volunteer work on behalf of the Northern Frontier Visitors' Association. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Chuck Lirette from Hay River, who was introduced into the Education Hall of Fame today. Mr. Lirette is a dedicated educator, and has always been an active part of his community. As Herb said, he has been in Inuvik and Hay River. His positive influence in helping students engage with science has made a lasting difference in their lives and in their school community. It is an honour to congratulate Mr. Lirette today and all of the inductees, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to use this opportunity to recognize Shane Brewster, who was inducted into the Education Hall of Fame. Mr. Brewster dedicated his entire teaching career to elementary education in Inuvik, first at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School -- we all remember where that was -- and then East Three Elementary School. Congratulations, Shane, on your well-deserved induction in the hall of fame. Also, sitting next to Shane is his very proud daughter, Jasmine. Welcome. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we are missing anyone in the gallery, welcome to our proceeding. It is always great to have an audience. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgments. Member for Nahendeh.

Acknowledgments

ACKNOWLEDGMENT 24-18(2):
BERNICE HARDISTY-ISAIAH, 2017 PREMIER'S
AWARD FOR COLLABORATION RECIPIENT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my constituent, Miss Bernice Hardisty-Isaiah, for receiving the Premier's Award for collaboration for implementation of the NWT cancer strategy. I've had the pleasure of working with Bernice in previous positions and I'm happy to see her hard work recognized. With a big heart and sympathetic spirit, she has always been dedicated to the entire well-being. On behalf of the region, I would like to express the pride we have in her for receiving this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Acknowledgments. Member for Hay River North.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT 25-18(2):
DR. MATTHEW SCARBOROUGH, PHD
GRADUATE OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Matthew Scarborough, who, at the age of 31, has just earned a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, putting him in a league with some of the greatest minds in history. Mr. Scarborough grew up in Hay River, where he completed kindergarten through grade 12 before continuing with his education at Grant MacEwan University, the University of Alberta, and finally Cambridge. I would like the House to join me in acknowledging the great accomplishment of Dr. Matthew Scarborough.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Acknowledgments. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move to Item 12, reports of standing and special committees, on the orders of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees is now moved as item 7. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Special and Standing Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 12-18(2):
REPORT ON THE PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning is pleased to provide its report on the progress review of the mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, and commends it to the House.

Purpose of the Mandate

The 18th Legislative Assembly's decision to set out a four-year mandate for its term represents an important evolution of consensus government. For the first time, all 19 Members agreed on defined actions to advance the priorities they set. These were set out in the Mandate of the Government of

the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 and approved unanimously in the Assembly. More importantly, the mandate is the 18th Assembly's promise of action and performance to residents of the Northwest Territories.

It is appropriate at the halfway mark of our term that this Assembly takes stock of progress on the work we set out to do. Members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, that is all Regular Members, offer this report as our contribution to the process of taking stock. We want to make sure that we are doing our best and correct our course if we are not. We have made every effort to be fair in our evaluation of the work done to date. We are fully prepared to be accountable to the public in doing so.

No government's performance is perfect, and we are no exception. Our review of progress in delivering on our mandate is an opportunity to learn from our mistakes as well as our successes. This review is also the first evidence-based step in the mid-term review process our Assembly adopted in its initial year of work. It is significant that the 18th Assembly is the first in the NWT's history to provide such a detailed public accounting of its goals and progress. The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning acknowledges the hard work done by Cabinet, Regular Members, and the public service to realize our aspirations for the NWT. We stress that effective consensus government is the art of finding common ground, listening carefully to each other, and compromising when it is in the best interest of our territory.

Evaluating Our Progress

The 18th Assembly set many diverse goals to achieve by 2019. It is the job of four standing committees to closely monitor the government's progress, providing input to Ministers and holding them accountable to the Assembly. The four committees are the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning; the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment; the Standing Committee on Government Operations; and the Standing Committee on Social Development. Each has either five or six members.

To begin this progress review, each committee reviewed each mandate item for which it is responsible in its oversight of the work of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Each committee revisited its correspondence with Ministers and briefing materials, referred to the government's Status of Mandate Commitments website, and reviewed the government's Annual Report on Implementation of the Mandate, 2016-2017, tabled on March 6, 2017. In addition, Members provided observations on the effectiveness of work done from their own

experience and the perspective of their communities and regions. On the basis of this information, each committee rated progress to date and commented on each mandate item for which it has oversight. These assessments were further reviewed by the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning. The final results can be found in appendix A of this report.

Each standing committee also considered general progress on the key themes of our mandate: economy, environment and climate change; education, training and youth development; cost of living; community wellness and safety; and governance. The views of all standing committees are taken into account in this report, which represents the consensus of all Regular Members.

Overview of Our Progress

Fiscal strategy

In 2017-2018, the government plans to spend \$1.7 billion to deliver programs and services, plus \$266 million for infrastructure and capital projects. Skilled financial management is essential and must be rooted in a fiscal policy that ensures the government can meet its ongoing obligations. Reliable projections of revenue and expenditures over extended periods are crucial elements of effective fiscal policy.

Cabinet properly takes these duties very seriously, and this is reflected in the high-quality updates and forecasts provided by Finance to the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning. Management of public finances is good, and an excellent job has been done to minimize the cost of the government's borrowing. Members recognize that diligence in this area brings stability and, ultimately, the ability to reach the goals we have set in our mandate. For this, the government is to be commended. While we agree on the need for fiscal responsibility, there are deep differences of opinion in what this entails.

Ensuring the ability to address mandate priorities does not mean this ability was exercised. Many priorities are not being met. In drafting the mandate, Cabinet proposed a reduction target of \$150 million for operating expenses. This provision was deleted by majority vote in the Legislative Assembly. Regular Members do not support such deep cuts given prevailing economic and social conditions. Despite the Assembly's rejection of the \$150-million reduction target, it persisted as government policy through the 2016-2017 fiscal year and into 2017-2018, driving a major reorganization of government, large program and service cuts, and diverting government's energy and resources from the mandate. This caused a four-month wrangle before the committee and Cabinet reached a compromise on the 2017-2018 budget to fulfill some of the most

important measures to improve the lives of residents and nudge the economy in the right direction. It is the committee's view that a consensus of the Assembly was dismissed by Cabinet for far too long, deflecting time and effort from advancing our collective priorities. This must not be repeated. The committee strongly recommends a more collaborative process in the future if we are to live up to the promise of our mandate while also reducing our debt. The committee has suggested moving quickly on the mandate items to boost employment and health outcomes, for example, and lower demand for costly government services. We repeat that advice today while the next budget is in its drafting stages.

Regular Members remain concerned that action on the compromises reached for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be slow to roll out and that lingering support for a more extreme reduction target will influence Cabinet's willingness to deliver on these aspects of the mandate. The committee is confident that the government will invest strategically in people and infrastructure as it has promised. Doubt is sown among Regular Members when funding is regularly found for initiatives supported by Cabinet but not mandate items strongly supported by Regular Members. Consensus government cannot prosper without good faith between Regular Members and Cabinet.

The committee shares the government's concern over the slow growth of federal transfers expected in the next few years. These funds account for approximately 70 per cent of the government's revenue. Members advise that Cabinet focus even more energy on the federal engagement strategy to secure funding to safeguard the environment and adapt to climate change, build key infrastructure, diversify the economy, and to support and invest in our people. The recent addition to federal support for Aboriginal languages is a good example of what is required. Social development and immigration are important to our future, as well as physical infrastructure.

Common Issues

Action plans, strategies, and frameworks now cover many priority areas and describe many positive measures to be taken to benefit the NWT for decades to come; however, action plans are not outcomes. Only two years remain in our term to advance badly-needed actions and produce meaningful results for the people, communities, and economy. Some action plans lack evaluation tools. These should be developed up front as part of every action plan so that results can be measured. Care should also be taken to ensure that activities identified to support mandate commitments are directly related to the spirit and intent of that commitment. Activities not directly related to a

particular mandate objective should not be considered as progress in that area.

The committee also notes an imbalance in the planning taking place for some projects as compared with others. While action plans were written to guide critical spending on mandate priorities, monster projects such as mergers of departments and staff layoffs were quickly given the green light. Junior kindergarten's implementation, started in the 17th Assembly, grew into a monster project in our term and was seriously mishandled. Several such problems could have been avoided had committee input been heeded by Cabinet. It is also common for an action plan, framework, strategy, or terms of reference for a project to be provided to a standing committee for comment with a deadline of two weeks or less, sometimes with the warning that any delay will interfere with timely implementation. Such short deadlines for input are sometimes impossible to meet, prevent meaningful consultation, and show a lack of desire to receive considered advice from Regular Members, eroding the relationship between committees and Cabinet.

These instances undermine Regular Members' confidence in crucial communications from their executive branch. In some unfortunate cases, Regular Members have learned of large investments and controversial policies in the media or from reporters seeking comment. These cases inevitably distract from the issues at hand, and undermine the government's reputation inside and outside the Assembly. Poor communication has also affected the legislative agenda, a key area of work for both the government and standing committees. Amendments to the Education Act and the creation of the revolving fund for the Yellowknife Airport are cases in point, yet neither were mandate priorities. The committee is concerned about the slow pace of legislative change generally, and particularly with respect to responsibilities for lands and resources gained through devolution from Canada. In addition, the legislative agenda is not well connected to the mandate.

Results of Our Evaluation of Progress on Mandate Priorities

With a few exceptions that demanded it, the committee has rated progress on individual mandate items as good, acceptable, or poor. In several instances, a fail rating was issued. The full results are set out in appendix A, with our comments on each item. The breadth of the Assembly's collective goals is impressive; our mandate is very ambitious. The bar by which we now measure ourselves is high. In that light, the list of good and acceptable results is heartening. The committee congratulates our Cabinet colleagues, their departments, and the public service in every

area where progress has been considerable. This progress is built on a tremendous amount of work.

Unfortunately, there is also a long list of priorities on which progress is poor or nonexistent. The committee stresses that we did not expect completion of all these goals, some of which will continue for decades; we are only evaluating progress. Areas showing poor progress should serve as a strong message to Cabinet that improvement is required. It is also significant when the committee deems progress acceptable but makes qualifying remarks. The committee hopes the public will find this report useful in holding Cabinet and Regular Members accountable for the mandate we have set out. We look forward to your constructive input and advice. Now, I will turn over this report to the honourable Member for Yellowknife North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Economy, Environment, and Climate Change

Many issues related to the economy, environment, and climate change are longstanding, namely the need for sustainable energy sources, diversifying our economy, and strengthening transportation corridors. Mandate commitments in these areas should be given high priority and specific outcomes targeted for completion within the next two years. Improvements are being made in the development of northern arts and tourism, but the closure of the Northern Frontier Visitors' Centre, with its decades of experience and 4.5-star rating on Trip Advisor, is a grievous loss.

The NWT must move quickly to seize opportunities in fishery, forestry, and agriculture, improve the labour market, and enhance its readiness at all levels for mining, oil and gas, and major transportation projects. The long-awaited Agriculture Strategy has been released and the government is clear in its support for community gardens. Funding needs to be specifically allocated for the implementation of this and other strategies. Actions to promote harvesting and distribution of country foods have yet to be implemented, and the development of strategies on the use of oil and gas resources and northern manufactured products is lagging. Support for entrepreneurs and small business is essential to promoting economic growth and diversification. Frontline services must be streamlined and red tape reduced.

The bold decision to purchase and operate the marine assets of the former Northern Transportation Company preserves a vital service for many communities from Hay River to the

Beaufort Delta. Freight service on the Mackenzie River is important to many sectors of our economy and community well-being. Committees are closely scrutinizing the rebirth and ongoing development of this business, under the GNWT flag as Marine Transportation Services. The impacts of climate change have significant and noticeable effects in the NWT. Communities, wildlife co-management boards, industry, and government are all grappling with changes, and the NWT needs to respond proactively. Progress on both a new energy strategy and climate change strategic framework has been very slow, and the government has been reluctant to adopt a carbon-pricing model. These are examples of overarching strategies targeted for completion within the mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly that must speak to as many aspects of northern life as possible. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to turn it over to my honourable colleague from Nahendeh.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Education, Training, and Youth Development

Lifelong learning, skills development, training, and employability are major priorities of the 18th Assembly, but progress in these areas has been difficult and slow. Government initiatives on junior kindergarten and school instructional hours have demanded a significant proportion of the department's and committees' limited time. The department's progress was continually challenged by funding shortfalls and poor, inconsistent communication.

The cost and availability of childcare is a growing concern, but the department is not on track to fulfill its commitment to a universal daycare action plan within two years, nor does its planning distinguish between childcare programming and the education system. Progress is being made to revitalize Aboriginal languages, yet funding for inclusive schooling and Aboriginal language and culture-based education has not been allocated for new junior kindergarten students. The committee has also repeatedly seen the divergence of the government's and Regular Members' vision of post-secondary education in the territory. Members have called for legislation to enable the establishment of a northern university, for which we continue to await a legislative proposal, and for a broad range of local academic and technical programs responsive to educational and labour market needs. In seeking to eliminate the Teacher Education and Social Work Diploma Programs at Aurora College, departmental initiatives have instead disregarded authoritative labour market forecasts and sought to narrow local course options and to close some community learning centres. This programming was preserved

only through advocacy by Regular Members and public pressure.

However, some successes have resulted from collaboration and compromise. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment has lately been responsive to some, though not all, committee recommendations on junior kindergarten and school instructional hours. Government advocacy secured much-needed federal funds for the support and reservation of the territory's Aboriginal languages. Advocacy from Regular Members enhanced the existing Small Community Employment Support Program and reversed reductions to school staffing and Aurora College programming. Members also productively engaged the department on actions plans on Skills 4 Success, apprenticeships, and culture and heritage, and on the renewed Aboriginal languages framework, helping the government to move these projects forward. At this time, I would like to turn the report to the honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Cost of Living

Housing is at the root of difficulties we face in addressing the cost of living. Without housing security, many Northerners face severe challenges in seeking and securing education or employment, in maintaining and fostering their health, and in raising happy, healthy families. We cannot expect prospective new residents to make their homes in communities where homes are not both available or affordable. Together we have made significant strides, and the NWT Housing Corporation has fulfilled its mandate commitments to date. Nevertheless, our territory's housing crisis has only deepened and we must revise our approach. The Housing Corporation's budget has been reduced over the last two years, while our constituents, our neighbours, are sometimes living in terrible conditions, overcrowded and lacking continuous heat and/or running water. This Legislative Assembly must take action, and our mandate must reflect the urgent need to find a solution. We must add to public housing stock, complete aging in place renovations in seniors' and elders' homes, and ensure that local housing organizations are supported by functioning boards. With renewed federal interest in housing, this should be a priority of our engagement with Canada. Increased support for the Nutrition North program and indexing of northern resident deductions to inflation are also mandate items in need of attention.

Efforts to reduce the cost of living are closely tied to commitments related to the economy, environment, and climate change, and to education, training, and youth development. The current and previous Assemblies have identified areas where the cost of living could be reduced, with lower rates for electricity, improved community infrastructure and connectivity, increased food security, improved childcare cost and availability, access to sustainable, adequate, and affordable housing, and reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels. Overall, progress on mandate commitments has been limited. Although a difficult task, the NWT has the collective capacity to work toward solutions. Indeed, there is no other option but to do so. We risk further population decline and the subsequent dwindling of the territory's revenue base and already limited economies of scale, driven by the high cost of living and compounded by changes in the climate and the economy. If meaningful progress is made in these areas, the 18th Assembly will have achieved critical objectives and set the stage to reduce the cost of living for the long term.

Community Wellness and Safety

Housing, family violence, and services for seniors are among the most serious matters facing the NWT within the social envelope. Work on these matters must focus on systemic improvement and grassroots action. The committee has seen significant work on mental health, particularly youth mental health, but Members remain concerned that the tendency toward frameworks and action plans will continue to unnecessarily delay critical action. All Members are committed to supporting Northerners to age in place in the comfort and security of their homes and communities. Similarly, we know that all Members understand the urgency of looming long-term care capital needs. The committee commends the Department of Health and Social Services for its detailed analysis of these needs and its plan to prepare, including tackling chronic conditions to reduce future demand for long-term care. However, the plan for continuing care is now long overdue and holding up urgent action and spending. In the here and now, the government must ensure that all 18th Assembly funding allocated to aging in place is spent for that purpose, including both home renovation programs and homecare supports.

As we are all too aware, the territory has the second-highest rate of police-reported family violence in the country. Such violence bars women and children from their human right to safety, security, and free participation in public life. The evaluation and renewal of the A New Day healing program for men who use violence in intimate partner relationships has been a failure. Service continuity has been disrupted, stakeholders and clients alienated, and a largely successful program

fundamentally altered. Regular Members have advocated strongly for this program and will continue to do so, and we must also concentrate on the roots of family violence, misogyny, colonization, and the residential school experience, as well as economic inequality. Northern youth are intelligent, resourceful, courageous, and resilient. Once again, the committee cannot overstate our collective need to tackle systemic problems such as food security, the housing crisis, low employment, and poverty, not simply symptoms such as poor health or low educational achievement. Poverty cannot be escaped simply through changes in attitude; there must be investment to bring about change, especially for young people who are disproportionately affected. Northern youth and young families do not deserve the burden of making the best of a bad situation. Instead, we must together improve their situation; greater collaboration between departments is required.

Although the mandate did not include implementation of 911 emergency telephone service in the NWT, Members requested funding for it during the review of the 2017-2018 business plans. Members acknowledge the positive response by Cabinet, resulting in \$616,000 for 911 implementation this year and ongoing operational funding. At this point, I would like to turn the report to the Member for Hay River North. Mahsi.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Governance

As noted earlier, the government relies on the Government of Canada for about 70 per cent of its annual revenue. This amounted to \$1.447 billion in 2015-16. The relationship between the GNWT and Canada is vitally important to the growth and prosperity of the NWT. The GNWT's intergovernmental relations office in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is headed by the Premier. This office coordinates the GNWT's participation in a number of federal, provincial, and territorial intergovernmental meetings and forums, such as those of the First Ministers, Canada's Premiers Council of the Federation, the Western Premiers' Conference, Northern Premiers' Forum, and Arctic Council, along with a great number of bilateral meetings with provincial and territorial Premiers. This work is guided by the GNWT's federal engagement strategy.

A number of mandate commitments are rooted in the federal engagement strategy; for example, the commitment to work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal northern residents

deduction and index it to inflation, item 3.5.1, increase investment in Nutrition North, item 3.5.6, and pursue more federal funding for the enhancement of community government infrastructure, item 5.4.4. The full extent of the GNWT's engagement with the federal government would be more evident if progress was better reported publicly, as this work is often done behind the scenes with little engagement of Regular Members.

With respect to the GNWT's relationship with Aboriginal governments in the NWT, the committee is concerned that work is not proceeding quickly enough to conclude a memorandum of understanding with each Aboriginal government that wishes to be a party to one. The committee also questions what real impact these intergovernmental agreements have at the ground level. We encourage Cabinet to seek input from Regular Members and consider ways to report on progress arising from these agreements and incorporate that into its open government initiative. The committee also looks forward to progress arising from the reports of the Ministerial Special Representatives to Premier McLeod and federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett. The committee notes that government negotiators made revised offers to the Northwest Territory Metis Nation on May 24, 2017 and the Akaicho Dene First Nations on May 25, 2017. The committee respects the confidentiality of this process and, if and when the offers are made public, looks forward to assessing if Premier McLeod has met his commitment to "innovative, flexible approaches that will result in fair and equitable agreements" with Aboriginal governments. However, while a working group of Cabinet and Regular Members was established, it has accomplished little. Members' input was not sought prior to the recent offers to Aboriginal governments.

The relationship between Cabinet and standing committees could be improved with greater partnership and emphasis on implementing our goals. For example, the committee is pleased with the recent legislative proposal for an NWT ombudsman, an initiative which Regular Members particularly wanted included in the mandate and which builds on years of work. Finally, the relationship between the GNWT and the municipal and designated-authority communities across the NWT should not be overlooked. The committee echoes the Auditor General of Canada's advice to improve the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' support for communities. The department is also responsible for administering important statutes that impact municipal governance, such as the Civil Emergency Measures Act; the Cities, Towns and Villages Act;

and the Fire Prevention Act. The committee urges attention to the department's legislative agenda to make much-needed improvements to this legislation within the 18th Assembly.

The government is to be congratulated for achieving gender parity in its appointments to boards and agencies and for supporting workshops to help women get into politics. The same cannot be said for the promised communications campaign to increase women's participation in politics. The committee has seen no evidence of progress in this area. Mr. Speaker, I will now turn this over to the Member for Kam Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Conclusion

Considerable progress has been made toward realizing our mandate priorities, but there is much room for improvement. We have set out broad directions for more focused attention. Specific comments and targeted areas for improvement are outlined in appendix A, which for convenience follows the format of our mandate. Performance on the individual items listed below is a detailed accounting of progress on our mandate and the state of our promises to the people. It bears repeating that we are fully accountable for this record as Regular Members and Cabinet. We must deliver on our promises or be accountable for not doing so.

The committee looks forward to our next steps and to updating the mandate to guide our work over the next two years. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North that Committee Report 12-18(2): Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review on the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The report is now received by the Assembly. Let us move into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Masi. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 800-18(2): MARINE POLLUTION

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, earlier, as I said in my Member's statement, waste from municipalities and industrial activities is often discharged into our water system and eventually into the ocean. My question to the Minister is: what is the status of the Northwest Territories Waste Resource Management Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, marine pollution and litter become a significant concern to coastal countries around the world and here in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, we have recently developed a draft waste management discussion paper to facilitate feedback from stakeholders and community and Aboriginal governments on the development of the study. We anticipate that the waste management discussion paper will be ready for review and comment by Members, stakeholders, and community governments in September. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the information. Mr. Speaker, used vehicle parts and automotive fluids as well as many recyclable items get stuck in remote northern communities and landfill sites. What solutions are we exploring to this issue?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, ENR is currently working with its partners at the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs as well as Northwest Territories Association of Communities to support municipal waste management in various capacities. They range from training courses, household hazardous waste collection, and public education material. In addition, the department continues to expand the product stewardship programs that see recyclables removed from the NWT communities for proper disposal. Working with our partners, we are exploring the possibility of establishing a system of coordinated transportation and disposal to help overcome some of the financial, logistical, and technical barriers associated with removing recycled materials and contaminants that are generated from various sectors in the NWT.

Just an example, experience has shown that recycling programs can work successfully in the North as demonstrated by the Beverage Container

program and the Electronic Recycle program. The Beverage Container program, or BCP, for example, has reused or recycled over 289 million beverage containers since 2005. Last year alone, BCP kept nearly 1,600 tonnes of material off the land and out of the landfills including 132 tonnes of plastic.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, what water quality monitoring activities are underway in the Beaufort Delta region?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, as part of the NWT wide-community based Water Quality Monitoring program, ENR works with community partners in Aklavik and Inuvik to monitor water quality near these communities. The CBM program uses different types of water-quality monitoring equipment to collect water quality samples during the ice-free season. These samples are analyzed and address water-related community concerns and questions. Results from the CBM program are available on the Mackenzie DataStream system and have been shared through regional meetings, brochures, and posters.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is: how are we working with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans on environmental management issues surrounding increased shipping, traffic in the Northwest Passage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, shipping and shipping-related activities are administered and regulated under the Canadian Shipping Act and Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act which falls under the purview of Transport Canada. ENR recently participated in Transport Canada's panel discussion as part of their tanker safety expert review process, and we also participated in an Environment and Climate Change Canada science table that was formed to respond to the grounding of the barge in Tuktoyaktuk. Any opportunity we have, Mr. Speaker, to bring it to the attention of our federal counterparts, we use that opportunity. We recognize that, with the increased traffic flowing through the Northwest Passage coming into our neck of the woods, then we need to be updated as to all these. As a matter of fact, we are having a meeting in Whitehorse in a couple of weeks of Ministers of the Environment and we will continue to have those discussions, raising our concerns with Ottawa.

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

QUESTION 801-18(2):
MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY ROADSIDE TURN-OFFS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen in the news and my colleagues and the Cabinet have heard people talk about turn-offs and the shape that they are in, and in my riding people are asking who is responsible for this. I assumed it was ITI or ENR or both of them, but I was not totally sure. Can the Minister responsible for Infrastructure identify who is responsible for what with these road turnoffs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of ITI on these roadside turn-offs. The ones that have washrooms available, the Department of ITI looks after that. As for the garbage disposal at the turn-offs and the cleaning of snow removal and the grading and such, it is the Department of Infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity about three weeks ago to travel from Fort Simpson to Grande Prairie and stopped at the various roadside stops just to stretch our legs as we moved on to Grande Prairie. My concern was that the garbage was spread around the facility. Can the Minister advise the House how much of the area surrounding the turn-off facility is taken care of by the Department of Infrastructure?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The turn-off responsibility would be the Department of Infrastructure for all the garbage there. I will take this opportunity to also talk to the House. It was mentioned to the House when we were in Inuvik for the N.W.T.A. This issue came up. I informed the communities at that point that we have undertaken a harder look at how we maintain these turn-offs in the Northwest Territories. I have instructed ITI to put the turn-offs on a regular basis of cleaning, particularly around the winter season when it is a little more challenging, and have a look at that. With our contractors now in place, the turn-offs that are close to the campgrounds in the Northwest Territories, the contractors will be having a little bit closer look on maintaining them. On a regular basis going forward, the Department of Infrastructure, when we do our highway checks and stuff, they should be maintaining these sites on a regular basis.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. It is great to hear that this is starting to happen. I am happy to see we have got an increase of 2.3 per cent of tourists coming into our territorial parks, and, in my riding, 49.84 per cent have seen an increase at Blackstone. To me, these sites are important. Roadside assistance is important to clean them and that. Is the Minister able to share with us the schedule, or is maintenance just done day-to-day?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I said, in the wintertime, we will have a weekly look at doing these things, especially around the toilets. As far as the garbage goes, that would be on a daily basis. The Blackstone Park that the Member is referring to, there is a contractor in place, and that should be looked after on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I appreciate both departments taking the proactive approach trying to clean up our areas. Is the Minister able to look at the potential of actually having one department, whether it is Infrastructure or ITI, cleaning up these roadside assistance turn-offs so it is not two departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the Department of Infrastructure wants to look after the toilets, so I will have to talk to the Minister. Keeping them separate, it seems to be working, as the washrooms are more of a seasonal thing, even though they have got to be looked after a little better in the wintertime, which we are addressing. The thing with Infrastructure looking after the garbage and such, we have people that go out there daily, doing the highway checks, so we will continue on in that manner and that agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 802-18(2):
PREPARING FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the week, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment provided a Minister's statement entitled Approach to Economic Development. I commend him for that. I appreciated hearing from the Minister in that regard, but I would like to ask a few questions stemming from that Minister's statement. My first

question would be: we have had some positive uptake on the mineral incentive program over the years past, in fact, over-subscribed; I am just wondering now if the Minister can update us if there has been positive uptake and what the reaction has been like so far to the increased funding to the mineral incentive program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to update the House. As many of us know under the MIP, the mineral incentive program, there used to be \$400,000 there available, and, thanks to this House, we have increased that amount to \$1 million. Already this year, we have awarded funding to seven prospectors, seven corporate proposals, for a total of \$991,000 that has already been offered. This program this year received 23 proposals and requested \$2.4 million under the MIP funding support, so the uptake is over 152 per cent of last year's.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for that positive reply. Mr. Speaker, one only has to look to the many weekend farmers at community gardens, the success of the farmers' market and, in fact, how Polar Eggs is rolling in and out of our local grocery stores to recognize the interest in local foods and agriculture. Can the Minister provide a timeline for the completion of the agricultural strategy, and when local growers might have access to tangible supports stemming from the strategy?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As we all know, the Agricultural Strategy that we have tabled in this House is a five-year strategy, and we are into year one of that. There have been a number of initiatives that were identified in that strategy around the growers and implementation of the strategy and the challenges that we have around regulations and stuff to bring this industry up to where it needs to be. In the meantime, I want to remind all Members that local growers already have access to real supports of \$1.2 million that we have that we spend annually to help support the agriculture industry, and, as we move forward, we will look at ways to expand that. They can engage with our regional offices on how to access that money.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. In the Minister's statement that he provided earlier in the week, the Minister mentions the term "increases to catch volumes in the Great Slave Lake fishery since changes in the fisher support program." Can the Minister give us any numbers on those catch volumes and a sense of

what the eventual outlook is for this fishery strategy?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I guess I want to lay a little groundwork how we got here. Three years ago, the formula that was there for fishers for their catch was fairly complex and it involved a number of thresholds and caps that were in place. Through the revitalization strategy, talking to the fishermen on how we are going to move this initiative forward, we changed that to a flat-scale base per-pound production. Total catch in 2014 was 288,000 kilos, and in 2015, following the changes to the support program that we put in place to help the fishermen, we saw the catch increase by 4,225 kilos. Last year, the same changes came into effect, and the record catch now was 520,000 kilos, which is still, historically, probably half of where it used to be. In moving the strategy forward, we hope to increase that significantly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, thank you to the Minister for his update. As the Minister knows, we are starting to have a promising film industry, and, by all accounts, it is thriving, but, as we have heard from those within the industry, there is still a lot of room to grow within this industry, especially as it relates to more along the lines of production and editing. Can the Minister describe what the future of the film rebate program will look like, and will it grow to support these opportunities within the film industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member. This is a very important program for the film industry. It has been successfully used by 10 productions since its inception two years ago, but, as we know, we are reviewing the success of this program and an annual budget going forward. We are in our budget cycle coming up, and we want to find ways hopefully to find money to support this and make this initiative continue to grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 803-18(2):
MOULD REMEDIATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING
UNITS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister responsible

for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Minister that I was pleased to hear yesterday that the Minister will be talking with Canada about the funding disparity between the northern territories. Can the Minister commit to following up with Regular Members on the outcome of our housing meetings with federal Minister Duclos? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once I finish with my meeting with Minister Duclos, I would be happy to share the results of that meeting with the Members through the appropriate committee.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, in terms of prevention, how does the Housing Corporation advise and work with tenants to prevent mould growth, whether that's a communication plan, preventative maintenance, or other strategies?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: We do have mould remediation. Some of the prevention and tactics to deal with it are within our STEP program, our Solutions to Educate People program, which is one of the home ownership programs. The problem is that we realize that we need to expand that training to all public housing residents. We are undertaking a huge training program to better educate people on how to maintain their homes, including mould.

Currently though, online, through the Housing Corporation, you can see preventative tips and remediation for mould online on our website and also within the local housing organization. We do have some information, but as I said we still have some work to do in that area.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, now in terms of remediation, what can Housing Corporation tenants do when they identify mould problems in their units?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The first thing that tenants should do if they identify mould within their units is let the local housing organization know that. The initial thing is to identify whether it's mould or not. Mould has become a pretty scary topic and so people are afraid to even touch it, so things like condensation from windows and stuff which is not at the stage of mould have sometimes been misinterpreted for mould.

The first thing is to let the local housing organization know that you have an issue. We will go in and do a thorough inspection of it. We have specialists within the housing organization that specialize in mould remediation, and we also have contractors within the Northwest Territories who

specialize in mould remediation. We use whatever supports we can to deal with the mould, but the most critical thing for residents to know is let us know if you have an issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister did answer part of my next question, but I'll ask it anyway. Does the Housing Corporation have an overall territory-wide plan for unit remediation specific to mould rather than having this work delegated to an individual? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the last leadership of the Minister, before I took the position of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, it was identified that we needed to be more proactive in our work. That Minister at the time took the initiative to actually start a preventative maintenance care program which goes in annually to look for issues such as mould or other issues that can cause major problems to houses. I will not take credit for it. I will give credit to the appropriate Minister, but it is something that was very proactive, very good, and we will continue to maintain that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 804-18(2):
TERRITORIAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke on the importance of immigration for countless benefits to our society here, in the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask questions to the Minister of ECE's role in supporting our nominee program. I understand there are two new families and businesses and seven new residents in total that have come to the Northwest Territories through this program. Can the Minister explain how the department works to support family reunification through the nominee program? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a great nominee program here in the Northwest Territories. The waiting time is probably one of the best in all of Canada. However, with the family reunification that the Member is speaking

about, that is solely the full responsibility of the federal government's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. They have made some changes. However, the changes that they have made are outside of the NWT, our territorial nominee program, as well as our current agreement with Canada.

However, seeing as that is an important issue and we do want to reunite families together, I will commit to raising this issue and this concern with the federal Minister and/or federal officials to see how we can have that type of program here, in the Northwest Territories, or work to get this reunification of families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I'd like to thank the Minister for that commitment. I didn't even ask for it, but it's very good to see this is being taken seriously. I've been told by some members of our community that they are looking to leave the territory to find a more favourable environment for family unification. Currently, it is a lottery system. I wonder if the Minister has any information on if any of those lotteries were awarded to northern families and if the current process that the federal government operates is benefiting Northerners or if all those lottery visas are going to southern Canada.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Our nominee program here, in the Northwest Territories, has actually been increasing over the years, 25 per cent almost on a yearly basis. We exceeded our nominee program last year, and we are looking to exceed last year's nominee program this upcoming year. We will continue to promote nominee and immigration to the Northwest Territories. As for the lottery program and the way reunification happens through lotteries, I don't have that specific information for any families here, in the Northwest Territories. I will get that information from the department and get it back to the Member.

MR. TESTART: Thank you again to the Minister. It is very concerning when members of the community bring these concerns forward and are talking about leaving the territory. In other provincial jurisdictions that have more robust provincial programs to support nominations, the federal government is taking their cues from that. I think particularly of Quebec, which has a very robust system to attract francophones and anglophones into the province.

Would the Minister commit to starting that work here, in the Northwest Territories, not just a conversation with the federal Minister, which is important, but also put some preliminary work together in a way that we can develop a fast-tracking program for family reunification?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned earlier, under the IRCC, it is a full responsibility of the federal government. I can't make decisions or go and tell federal government what to do in terms of immigration into the Northwest Territories, here. However, I can make a commitment to bring this concern and issue up to the federal officials. Also with the family members that the Member is talking about, I encourage them to come see our department officials and see how we can work out some type of arrangement or something that we can learn a little bit more about their case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly encourage and potentially facilitate those discussions with the Minister's department. We have an immigration framework and action plan that's currently in development as of this year. Kind of what I was getting at with the last one: will the Minister find a place for family reunification in that framework, even if it is just advocacy items that will go to the federal government? Will he make it clear when we develop that strategy that family reunification is on the agenda, even if it is not directly our responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That strategy is right now, I believe, going to committee if not already in committee's hands, but, as I mentioned, this is full responsibility of the federal department, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. I can't tell them what to do. We can advocate for them though, and we can bring these concerns up to our federal counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 805-18(2):
HOUSING ISSUES IN NORTHLANDS TRAILER
PARK

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Earlier today, I thanked the Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for meeting with a couple of constituents who have issues around affordability of housing in Northlands Trailer Park. People on fixed incomes are finding it difficult to pay the local improvement charges and condo fees. Can the Minister briefly describe our current housing programs that may provide some assistance to residents living in Northlands? Merci, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many programs, so it is going to be difficult to make it brief, but I am going to try to speak fast and get through this. First of all, tenants need to know that there is an income threshold, so, if they fall under the income threshold, which is close to \$100,000 depending on how many bedrooms you have, then you would qualify for support.

We also need to ascertain the condition of the home. I do hate to say it, but some of the trailers in Northlands Trailer Park are very, very old. We need to make sure that they are economically viable. Once they do qualify, though, we have a number of supports that can be utilized. We have CARE Major that will provide up to \$100,000, which will provide for roofs and foundations, and we have CARE Minor that will do minor renovations that are needed to the homes, windows, et cetera. We have preventative maintenance that will go in regularly to look at things, once a year. We have a SAFE program that will deal with things that are an emergency. If your oil tank is falling off or your furnace is out, that is an emergency. We have CARE Mobility, which will deal with if you have mobility issues, for anyone with disabilities who needs things put in for accessibility. We do have a number of programs that are available to tenants, to residents, throughout the Northwest Territories, and I would really stress for all people to go on to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation website to get a thorough understanding of the programs we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I am not trying to give the Minister free advertising here, but this is good. I am sure that the website is going to be improved, for the Housing Corporation, as well. I have commended the Minister in my statement today about the good effort on the housing survey, and she has already started to announce some plans for improvement of programs and services. Can she tell me whether any of these new programs and services will be of assistance to residents in Northlands?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, actually, I can. There are a few programs that actually pertain to the residents in Northlands Trailer Park and all residents, too. We will be having the new seniors' Aging in Place repair program that the Members helped advocate to get additional funding in for. We are going to be looking at a new rent supplement program for people who can't afford their current costs. We are going to be looking at a fuel tank replacement plan, which might be pertinent to people in Northlands Trailer Park, because we need to get rid of the old fuel tanks as they are an

environmental concern. We are trying to be proactive in that.

We are also going to be looking at new training programs that will be accessible to all homeowners within the territories, to talk about basic maintenance and care of their homes, just to better educate people. Finally, but not least important, we are looking at more customer service training that we will be providing to all employees of the housing organization, plus the local housing organizations, to just get better service to people and to provide more appropriate one-on-one support.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you again to the Minister. There are obviously widespread issues with affordability of housing in Northlands and across the NWT, especially for those on fixed incomes. In the year 2014, Health and Social Services released a long-term care framework for elders in our communities, and one of the commitments in there was for aging in place "to ensure elders and seniors remain in their homes and home community." How is the Minister of housing working with the health Minister on programs and services to achieve our goal and assist residents in Northlands and across the Northwest Territories?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation acts very closely with the Department of Health and Social Services in regards to aging in place for our seniors and our elders within the territories. Not only do we consult on them with how to support seniors within their own homes, but we are also working closely together in the design of elders' complexes. From a housing standpoint, I realize that elders and seniors need to have socialization to do well. From the Health and Social Services standpoint, they recognize that providing services, onsite talks about accessibility is the best service to seniors. We work together, actually, to provide units that actually can accommodate both the needs of health professionals going in and providing support and the socialization that is needed for seniors to keep them mentally and physical well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President and, once again, thank you to the Minister for that response. Next year, I will be a senior citizen, but let's not get too excited. In the longer term, the federal government seems poised to finally get back into housing. The Minister is going to meet with her federal counterpart next week, and I commend her for taking that action. What can we accomplish with the federal government's support to better address the issue of housing affordability for the residents of Northlands and, indeed, all our

citizens across the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the federal support for housing, there are tons of things that we can accomplish, but I would rather focus on the need, in my opinion, to build further the relationship with the federal government and the new Ministers within that federal government to make them understand the needs of the Northwest Territories. To understand the costs, when you talk about affordability, the costs of a house to be built in the southern province is almost half compared to what it is in Yellowknife. Going into Tuktoyaktuk or higher regions, it is even more unaffordable. I think that the biggest thing that I am going to try to do is to educate the federal Ministers. As to the challenges that we have, not only with cost of living but just accessibility, our lack of transportation modes, we don't have the highways, etc., so really educating the federal government's Minister responsible for Housing as to the challenges that we have is my main goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 806-18(2):

SAHTU HEALTH WORKERS' LOCUM PROGRAM

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the Sahtu locum program for staffing. Can the Minister provide how many members or employees we have in the Sahtu riding, and their occasional schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a fairly specific question. I can't tell you how many individual physicians we bring into the Sahtu on a rotational basis. I can endeavour to provide a sample rotational schedule to the Member, but we endeavour at all times to have at least one locum in the Sahtu to provide services to the residents of that region. In order to have that one locum in there, it is many, many individuals, and I can't provide that number to the Member today. I will have to get that from the department and share it at a later date.

MR. MCNEELY: I will wait for the information to be provided by the Minister. My second question is: does the department provide cross-cultural training to the incoming locum individuals?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, through the Department of Human Resources, there is some cultural competency training, or cultural awareness training, that is provided. We do encourage any practitioner coming into the Northwest Territories to go through that information. However, with some of the locums, many of the locums are coming in for a very short period of time and they are hitting the ground running. I can't guarantee that every individual goes through that training. I would like to say that, ultimately, what we would like to have happen in Sahtu, as we would in all other regions, is permanent physicians who are part of the community, who can be part of a long-term solution. We do struggle in the Sahtu to find a permanent physician who can become part of the community and be more effective over the long term.

MR. MCNEELY: Will the Minister provide that information so we can relay it on to the leaders of the region? Once they know the challenges faced by the department, they will know how to assist and encourage the younger people to seek the appropriate qualifications in order to make medical aid a career of choice. If that information can be provided to me, I will forward that on.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, every time I have an opportunity to meet with leadership - Aboriginal leadership - throughout the Northwest Territories, I talk about the need to work together closely to find ways to train local people for local work, including RNs and physicians. In Sahtu, as an example, I think we've been pretty lucky. There are a number of local people who have become RNs over the years, and there are even a number of individuals - at least one that I'm aware of - that has become a physician. This is a small step.

We need to work together with our leadership to encourage our youth to pursue these very rewarding careers throughout the Northwest Territories. I'll continue to make that commitment to work with my leaders across the Northwest Territories to find ways to encourage our youth. I'm happy to provide them any information they're looking for about career specific information. All that information is public. It's available. I'm happy to share it at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 807-18(2):
FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVEY

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. In my Member's statement today, I noted that the mandate for this Assembly defines family violence as a crisis. Presumably, our efforts to

combat a crisis should be extraordinary and urgent. Does the Minister accept the mandate definition of family violence as a crisis, and does this mean combatting that crisis is among the top priorities of his ministry? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The 18th Assembly, of course, has identified family violence as a priority. We do recognize that this is a very serious issue and in fact, a crisis, in the Northwest Territories. Our department, along with other departments, does treat this issue very seriously.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that response. I'm now going to test what that might mean in dollars and cents. If indeed this is the crisis that we all agree it is, then what information is informing the work of dealing with this crisis? What is the information that the Minister is using to change hearts and minds and combat attitudes which perpetuate family violence?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: We continue to work with Aboriginal governments, community groups, and other partners. We seek advice and direction from them so that we can deal with this very serious issue.

MS. GREEN: That was a less robust answer than I was hoping for. I believe we are agreed that combatting the brutal and unending murder of women is a priority, and redoing the family violence survey would give us the data to ensure our crisis response is an informed and intelligent response. Will the Minister commit to updating the cost of redoing the survey and including this funding in the upcoming business plan for his department?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, we of course wish to use the limited resources at our disposal in the most effective manner possible. I do note that a very similar question was asked of another Minister in March of this year. The answer at that time was that we didn't think that would be the best use of money and that we would rather focus our money and efforts on prevention and healing. I concur with that.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the entire Cabinet is going to Inuvik next week for the energy forum. Is there not any way to make choices, intelligent choices, about where to spend money that supports the residents of the NWT other than going for a little holiday up in Inuvik? Perhaps the Minister needs a more insistent request. What if the Standing Committee on Social Development wrote to you and asked you to -

MR. SPEAKER: Member. What is your line of question?

MS. GREEN: Could the standing committee write to the Minister to ask for a commitment for this funding? Would that make any difference? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, the committee can write to me if they wish. However, I think this matter has been reviewed. Again, it's important that we allocate our resources in the most effective way possible. I'd like to tell the Assembly some of the things the Department of Justice is doing. You heard about the A New Day Program yesterday. Well, we're hoping it will be more successful. Corrections has a new violence prevention program which teaches men in NWT jails to stop using violence. We have the Domestic Violence Treatment Option, DVTO, court options, which is new in the last 10 years. We are doing a lot of things. We are expending a lot of money to deal with this very serious issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 808-18(2): JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN IMPLEMENTATION

MS. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those watching Committee of the Whole yesterday, they would have seen at least three Regular Members pledge their support for Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Education Act. If they're true to their word, then, by the end of the day, junior kindergarten will become the law of the land. This is being offered in most countries in the developed world or they are on the way to offering it. This should be a joyous occasion. We should all be excited.

Meanwhile, I don't think anyone feels good about this decision or the way it was rolled out. The Regular Members have wasted probably hundreds of hours researching this, trying to figure out what was going on because we couldn't get information from the department. For years, this has been a sticking point, and it goes not just to the Regular Members. The education authorities, the DAs, they all feel the same way for the most part. I want to ask the Minister because this has been such a disaster, the way this has rolled out: is the Minister going to ask for anyone's resignation because of this junior kindergarten fiasco? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process with junior kindergarten has been going on for over four years. We have 20 communities that offer great programs. We have seen some really good results and some really good successes in those communities, with an increased development in some of our students that are entering our education system. We have been meeting regularly with DEC's as well as superintendents. I'm not sure if the Member is speaking on behalf of all the education authorities across the Northwest Territories, as he has stated, but we are seeing some really good headway in junior kindergarten as well as our early childhood programming in the Northwest Territories, which is a mandate of this 18th Legislative Assembly. The staff that I work with and the staff that work in the regions and centres do commendable, hard work, and we want to address some of the early childhood concerns through the EDI results that we have been collecting for the last four years. No, we will not be asking for something like that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 22-18(2):
SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES RCMP CLASSIFY AS
UNFOUNDED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice as a follow-up to the return to written questions he presented May 25, 2017. The RCMP reviewed sexual assault complaints to "G" Division for the period 2010-2016 and reduced the rate of unfounded complaints from 30 per cent to 18.7 per cent.

Did this reclassification include a review of evidence in each case file, and:

1. Did the RCMP contact complainants and provide an explanation in the cases deemed unfounded;
2. What is the significance of reporting that 42 per cent of the new unfounded cases originated from third parties;
3. What are the reasons that the remaining 58 per cent of cases were determined to be unfounded; and
4. What was the result of the case review in Yellowknife where the original unfounded rate was 36 per cent?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 389-18(2):
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MANDATE OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - JUNE 2017

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

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 390-18(2):
NWT HEALTH SERVICES PATIENT
EXPERIENCE REPORT 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 391-18(2):
STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION ACT, OCTOBER
2015 TO OCTOBER 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 392-18(2):
NWT ON THE LAND COLLABORATIVE 2017
REPORT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled "The NWT Health and Social Services Patient Experience Report 2016," "Status Report on the Implementation of the Health Information Act, October 2015 to October 2016," and the "NWT On the Land Collaborative 2017 Report." Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 393-18(2):
SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2016 ANNUAL
REPORT - EKATI, DIAVIK, SNAP LAKE AND
GAHCHO KUE

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Socio-Economic Agreements Implementation Report 2016 Annual Report - Ekati, Diavik, Snap Lake and Gahcho Kue." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 394-18(2):
BEAUFORT-DELTA EDUCATION COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT,
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 395-18(2):
COMMISSION SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS,
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 396-18(2):
DETTAH DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS,
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 397-18(2):
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL,
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 398-18(2):
K'ALEMI DENE SCHOOL (NDILO DISTRICT
EDUCATION AUTHORITY) CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 399-18(2):
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
SAHTU DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL,
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 400-18(2):
SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION
COUNCIL ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 401-18(2):
TLICHO COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY
EDUCATION DIVISION ANNUAL FINANCIAL
REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 402-18(2):
YELLOWKNIFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
(YELLOWKNIFE PUBLIC DENOMINATIONAL
DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY) ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 403-18(2):
YELLOWKNIFE DISTRICT NO.1 EDUCATION
AUTHORITY (YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION
DISTRICT NO. 1) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS,
JUNE 30, 2016

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following ten documents entitled "Beaufort-Delta Education Council Consolidated

Annual Financial Report, June 30, 2016," "Commission scolaire francophone Territoires du Nord-Ouest Consolidated Financial Statements, June 30, 2016," "Detah District Education Authority Consolidated Financial Statements, June 30, 2016," "Consolidated Financial Statements of Dehcho Divisional Education Council, June 30, 2016," "K'alemi Dene School (Ndilo District Education Authority) Consolidated Financial Statements, June 30, 2016," "Consolidated Financial Statements of Sahtu Divisional Education Council, June 30, 2016," "South Slave Divisional Education Council Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2016," "Tlicho Community Services Agency Education Division Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2016," Yellowknife Catholic Schools (Yellowknife Public Denominational District Education Authority) Annual Financial Report, June 30, 2016," and "Yellowknife District No.1 Education Authority (Yellowknife Education District No. 1) Financial Statements, June 30, 2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 404-18(2):
2017-18 SCHOOL FUNDING FRAMEWORK
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL,
EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I'd like to table the following document, "2017-2018 School Funding Framework Finance and Administration Manual, Education Authorities dated May 27." Merci, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 405-18(2):
MODERNIZING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN
THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES -
SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Further to the statutory tabling pursuant to Section 266(2) of the Elections and Plebiscites Act of "Modernizing Election Administration in the Northwest Territories - CEO Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Election," I wish to table a document entitled "Modernizing Election Administration in the Northwest Territories - Supplementary Recommendations." 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 Justice.

First Reading of Bills**BILL 28:
INTERPRETATION ACT**

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 28, Interpretation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 28 has had its first reading. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice.

**BILL 29:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT
ACT**

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, that, Bill 29, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 29 has had its first reading. First Reading of Bills. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 77(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Counsel Act, I wish to advise the House that I have a conflict of interest in Bill 30, Health Statutes Law Amendment Act. This bill amends the Public Health Act to clarify that the Commissioner may make regulations respecting cremation and crematoria.

Mr. Speaker, my spouse is a funeral planner and, as such, has a private interest in this bill. I will excuse myself from the Chamber during consideration of this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Member for Yellowknife Centre. Duly noted. Masi. Just for the record, Member for Yellowknife Centre has left the Chamber due to conflict of interest on the next bill, Bill 30. First reading of bills. Member for Frame Lake.

**BILL 30:
HEALTH STATUTES LAW AMENDMENT ACT
(CREMATION SERVICES)**

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act (Cremation Services), be read for the first time. Merci, Monsieur le President.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 30 has had its first reading. Masi. Just for the record, Member for Yellowknife Centre is back in the Chamber. Masi.

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act; Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2; Committee Report 11-18(2), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of Standing Committee Public Engagement and Transparency; Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day Program; Tabled Document 383-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 384-18(2) Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018, with the Member for Hay River North in the Chair.

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

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee would like to consider the following matters. Tabled Document 383-18(2), Supplementary Estimates, (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 384-18(2), Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act; Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. First, a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 383-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks? Minister McLeod.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): One moment. Minister McLeod, Please proceed.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair I am here to present Supplementary Estimates, (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. This document provides for an increase of \$10.6 million to the operations budget.

Major items in these supplementary estimates include:

- \$4.4 million for the New Canada-NWT Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages. These costs are fully offset by revenues from the Government of Canada.
- \$1.4 million for the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery Revitalization initiative.
- \$1.2 million for the runway surface repairs at the Inuvik airport. An offsetting amount was lapsed in 2016-2017.

Also included in these supplementary estimates is funding, totalling \$2.7 million, for the operating costs of the new AT802 Fire Boss aircraft. It is anticipated that these costs will be fully offset, on a one-time basis, with the proceeds from the sale of the CL-215 aircraft and their associated parts. That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I am prepared to respond to the committee's questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do you have witnesses you wish to bring to 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. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will open the floor to any opening

comments, general comments on the operation supplemental estimates. Do we have any general comments from committee? Seeing none, we can move right into it. Committee, please turn to page 4. We will begin with Education, Culture and Employment. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$4,408,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$4,408,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 5, Environment and Natural Resources. Do we have comments on this page? Questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that, in the Minister's opening comments, he indicated here that the net effect on government's operation will be nil with regard to this expenditure, because there is the potential to sell existing water bombers that we have, the CL-215 aircraft. I just wonder if the Minister can expand a little bit on how confident he is in that, and what kind of market there is out there with regard to the other countries or jurisdictions that might be seeking our older model water bombers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are quite confident that the CL-215s will sell. There is already some interest in the aircraft. I think we have had some from South America, from Europe, as well as some in North America. We are quite confident that these will sell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the Minister's reply. Just for clarification, how many of these units do we own that we are intending to sell? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there are four aircraft. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. I see nothing further from Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I will give the Minister an opportunity to make a sales pitch. How soon are these aircraft actually going to be up for sale? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are working with the Department of Infrastructure to put the sale of the planes out to tender, and this is anticipated to be no later than September 2017. The actual timing of the sale will depend on the bids received, and the sale will be finalized by the end of the 2018 fiscal year. If anybody out there is interested in buying four planes, call the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Finance. We have four good planes that we are putting on the market. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is a good sales pitch. I almost want to buy a plane, but if there is some way to move that date up as quickly as possible, because it is getting to be fire season right now. I am sure different jurisdictions are trying to make sure they have everything they need in place, so the quicker we can arrange a tender process, the better, in terms of trying to sell these things while the fire season is still hot. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are going out for an RFP and it may be fire season in our part of the world, but in other parts of the world, their fire seasons will differ than ours. The interest that we have been receiving is from European and South American countries, so we will have an RFP out and, as I said before, if we can get them, we'll have them sold by the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further from Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: No, thank you, and I appreciate the efforts of the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I will call this page. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$2,735,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$2,735,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 6. Industry, Tourism and Investment. Comments or questions for the Minister? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have \$1.4 million that we are going to be putting toward the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery Revitalization initiative. Can the Minister maybe elaborate a little bit about what the obligation of this funding is toward? I understand that there is a federal component to this, so some clarification or elaboration on that would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. The Minister is directing the question to Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding is for part of the overall strategy for revitalizing the Great Slave Lake commercial fishery. There is a variety of aspects to that, including looking at production and processing, and then accessing markets and those sorts of things. It is a project that is expected to have funding partners from both the fishers themselves, as well as the federal government. There was an application made to, I believe, CanNor, and I think that application is still in the process of being processed and finalized, but I think there is a positive indication that that funding will, in fact, eventually be received. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$672,000 for a new Mineral Resources Act sounds like a lot of money. Can the Minister or his staff explain what that is really for? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, of the \$672,000, \$391,000 will be used for export outside and third-party assistance; \$250,000 is earmarked for community engagement and Indigenous consultation; \$31,000 is earmarked for communications costs, advertising, printing, and online websites. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am a little bit curious about this \$250,000 for community engagement and Indigenous consultation. Are resources going to be provided to NGOs or communities to allow them to hire their own expertise or better engage in this process? It sounds like it is going to be a highly technical legalistic process of drafting this new legislation, so if there are any details on what that funding will actually be used for that, you know, whether the Minister has that at his fingertips or would commit to provide it soon? Either way is fine. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, part of the cause would be travel costs and that, but to answer the Member's question, that level of detail we do not have yet, but as soon as the details are ironed out, we will share those with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I would appreciate receiving that level of detail. Whether, you know, ITI has that information now or not, and I understand this is a big piece of work that our government has committed to do on the mandate. We also want to make sure that we get it right and that you know there are opportunities for everyone to participate, including NGOs. More of a comment than anything else. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We will take that as a comment. Anything further? I see nothing further. I will call the section. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$842,000. That is agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$2,252,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Moving on to page 7, Infrastructure. Seeing no comments, I will call this page. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$1,184,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, total department, not previous authorized, \$1,184,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Committee, do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 383-18(2): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. TESTART: Mr. Chair, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 383-18(2): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 383-18(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. Testart. There is concurrence in motion. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. I want to thank the Minister's witnesses, who will be sticking around for the next supplementary estimates. We will now begin considering Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. Does the Minister have any opening remarks? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I do. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. This document provides for an increase of \$128.2 million to the capital budget.

The most significant item is the \$127.7 million for the carryover of expenditures for infrastructure projects that were not able to be completed during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. That concludes my

opening remarks. I am prepared to respond to the committee's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. You may take your seat with your witnesses, and let the record show that Mr. Stewart and Mr. Kalgutkar are still at the witness table with the Minister. I will open the floor to general comments. Any general comments from committee on the infrastructure supplementals? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So the carryover from last year is, if I get this right, \$126 million. How does that compare with previous years and is there any overall explanation there? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will go back to 2014-2015. The carryover was \$60,623,000. It actually went up in 2015-2016 to \$137,521,000 million, and that was a result of a lot of the federal money that we had that added to that. 2016-2017 was \$126 million as the Member mentioned, so the federal money is the one that we have been working with that has brought up our carryovers a bit, but before that the numbers were fairly consistent in around \$60 to \$65 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister. Just so I understand this, the issue is the federal money is not flowing perhaps as smoothly as we would like. Is that a problem of them getting money out the door? Is it a problem of us invoicing? Any sort of overall conclusion there would be helpful to know. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, with such an influx of capital money, a number of things may have contributed to this; the timing of getting the contracts out there, maybe the capacity in some of the areas of the Northwest Territories to get the projects done, and so there are a number of contributing factors to this, in fact that we had fairly significant capital budget as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Mr. O'Reilly. Seeing no further general comments, we can begin consideration of the details. Please turn to page 6. We will begin with Education, Culture and Employment. Comments? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I understand that a Sissons Study did a planning study of JH Sissons School and was completed approximately five years ago, so what is the durability of a planning study? How long is the information good for? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. There was a planning study that was done five years ago. This was to update the study that was done, and my understanding is that there was not really too much that had changed in the initial planning study, but this was more or less just to update the strategy that was already done. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is a lot of money for a simple update. I am wondering if the Minister could allocate \$100,000 of that amount to a family violence survey. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Outside the scope of this document, but I will let the Minister respond.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, Mr. Chair, I will not. We have significant funding that is earmarked towards those particular initiatives, and this is one that the work needed to be done to update the study. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further? Nothing further for Ms. Green. Seeing nothing further, I will call this page. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$261,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. On to page 7, Health and Social Services. Comments or questions? On page 7, Health and Social Services. Seeing none, I will call the page. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$40,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$50,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$90,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Moving on to page 8. Municipal and Community Affairs. Comments or questions? I see none. I will call this page. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$957,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$957,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 9, Legislative Assembly. I see no comments or questions. I will call the page. Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$14,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$14,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 10, Education, Culture and Employment. I will give committee a moment. Any questions? Seeing none, I will begin calling this page. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$3,242,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, labour development and standards, not previously authorized, \$2,634,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$5,876,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 11, Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions from committee? I see no comments or questions. I will call the page. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$31,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$1,179,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I didn't catch you there. I just have a question under forest management under Fort McPherson, Schiltee Lookout Tower Upgrade. From what I understand, the plan was to move the location of where the department was planning to put it. I would just like to verify that, thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the information we have is the contract has been awarded but there was an environmental issue holding up the project. That could be it. I do not know that for sure, but I can find out. It must wait until spring of 2017 to continue the project, which is like right now. But the environmental issue, I will have to find out exactly what that is and let you know, Mr. Blake.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Mr. Blake. I will call the section. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$1,179,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, wildlife, not previously authorized, \$6,286,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, total department, not

previously authorized, \$7,496,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 12, Finance. Comments, questions? I see none. I will call the page. Finance, capital investment expenditures, office of the Comptroller General, not previously authorized, \$810,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Finance, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$810,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 13, Health and Social Services, comments or questions? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under community health programs, if I may question that area, there is a line for sobering centre, Yellowknife, \$100,000. I am just wondering if the Minister can provide details on this project to date? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the project is still pending the identification of the site, and confirmation of sustainability. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you to the Minister for that answer. What is the nature of this investment? I am sorry if I missed that. We are not talking about building a new building, here? Are we making additional space to an existing asset? What are we approving, here? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, my understanding is that we are still trying to identify the site that has a building on it, and the \$100,000 would more or less go for improvements to the site that is identified, once it is identified. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. There is nothing further from Mr. Testart. I see nothing further from committee on this. I will call the page. Health and Social Services, capital

investment expenditures, administrative and support services not previously authorized, \$12,343,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$25,681,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, \$38,024,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 14, Industry, Tourism and Investment. Comments or questions? Just giving committee a moment. Minister.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to point something out. Total department for Health and Social Services, I believe, you called \$30,000,000 and it is actually 38. I just want to make sure we get the correction right for Hansard.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Just give me one moment to confer with the clerks. Thank you, Minister. Just on the off-chance that I did make a mistake.

---Laughter

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will check Hansard tomorrow, but I will call the department again since there is a question. If the committee wouldn't mind turning back to page 13, Health and Social Services. I will call the department again. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$38,024,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you for your vigilance, Minister. I see no comments on ITI. I will call this page. Page 14, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$2,497,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, total department, not

previously authorized, \$2,497,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 15, the Department of Infrastructure, which continues on to page 16. We will consider pages 15 and 16 together. Do you have comments or questions? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 10, we authorized an expenditure of \$111,000 for a solar array at the Western Arctic Research Institute. This page asks us to approve an additional \$200,000 for a photovoltaic system in Inuvik. Could the Minister tell us whether these are complimentary projects or separate projects? What is the status of them? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is they are two separate projects. The second one, the contract is in place and the estimated completion is in June 2017, of which we have another 29 days. I will find out. I know the first one, I believe, was on the Aurora Research Institute. I will find out where the second one is and share that information with the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green, I see nothing further from the screen. I see nothing further from committee. I will call this page. Page 15, Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$58,885,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On page 16, Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, \$1,122,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$60,007,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 17, Department of Justice. Ms. Green, comments on the Department of Justice.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, under community justice and policing, this is a pilot project, as I understand, with funding to expire at the end of this fiscal year. Can the Minister explain why there was a lapse, and does he anticipate a lapse at the end of this fiscal year? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on this particular one, the project was tendered. However, due to an error in a tender document award, a contract was delayed until after April 1, 2017, and we don't anticipate a lapse after this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Ms. Green. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under the corrections line, there is North Slave Correctional Centre security retrofit. Here in Yellowknife, \$55,000. I just would like to confirm if that retrofit is an appropriation allocated to correct the security flaws identified after the escape in the facility. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, it is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, and thank you for that clarification from the Minister. I will move on to asking about the perimeter fence. Again, this seems to be funding that is allocated to address the security concerns that emerged after that escape. Is that correct for this \$414,000 fencing project? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. The Minister has indicated that Mr. Stewart will field this one. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The project is specific to some of the deficiencies that were noted in the critical incident review, so it is the interior fencing and some issues with the roof and some security cameras, and those types of items that are included in this project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is this work expected to be completed within the next fiscal year? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, it is, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. Also, under court services, we have some funding for courthouse cells, secure interview rooms, and a common lobby for a courthouse. I know that our courthouse facility here in Yellowknife is not owned by the government, and has undergone a number of retrofits over the years. Is any more work anticipated past this point of this project, or are we going to continually see large appropriations, as this is around \$795,000 in retrofits? Are we going to continue to pay these kinds of rates for the facility we are currently renting? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this is work that is being done now, and looking into the future, we would have to see a business case or see what we can do, going forward, looking for another courthouse building in Yellowknife, and then that challenge of our fiscal capacity, as well. There is some work that we need to do going forward, because the Member pointed out the fact that we have \$795,000 identified in this particular infrastructure budget for that. There is some work to do, going forward. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I do appreciate the Minister's comments about limited resources. I guess my concerns around this are: I know that a study was done many years ago on a new courthouse facility, but it just seems like this thing keeps eating money, as there are constantly new concerns that seem to be coming forward. It is an office tower that has been modified into a court facility, and the judiciary is intertwined with the Department of Justice, which is not an appropriate separation of power.

There are many concerns here, so I guess my concern is: although I know we have limited fiscal capacity in some areas, there are many capital needs such as schools and hospitals; but if we don't do something about this eventually it is going to continue to demand fiscal resources again and again and again, rather than just creating a purpose-built facility. Is the Minister willing to evaluate it on that merit? Not just the need for a facility, but how much this facility has consumed our fiscal capacity to date, considering we don't actually own the building. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we will evaluate it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Testart. I see nothing further. For Justice, I will call the page. Justice, capital investment expenditures, community justice and policing, not previously authorized, \$204,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Justice, capital investment, corrections, not previously authorized, \$9,389,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Justice, Capital investment expenditures, court services, not previously authorized, \$1,470,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Justice, capital investment expenditures, services to public, not previously authorized, \$140,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Justice, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$11,203,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 18, the Department of Lands. Comments or questions. I see none. I will proceed to call the page. Lands, capital investment expenditures, operations, not previously authorized, \$685,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Lands, capital investment expenditures, operations, not previously authorized, \$685,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Lands, capital investment expenditures, planning and coordination, operations, not previously authorized, \$274,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Lands, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$959,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 384-18(2): Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and your witnesses for appearing for us. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 384-18(2): Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 384-18(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration and formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Committee, we have next agreed to consider Bill 15: An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act. I will turn to the Minister responsible for any opening comments he may have. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, We are here today to review Bill 15: An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

Legislation is required to amend the Tobacco Tax Act to allow changes to the tobacco tax collection system, to establish a tax duty stamp to be placed on tobacco products sold in the NWT, and to eliminate the commission paid to tobacco tax collectors. The establishment of a tobacco tax duty stamp will require that all tobacco products sold in the NWT be marked, stamped, sealed or labeled with a jurisdictional tax stamp. The introduction of a jurisdictional tobacco stamp will mitigate risks related to smuggling.

These changes will also simplify the administration and auditing of the tobacco tax collection process by reducing the number of transactions, streamlining the reporting, removing the need for inventory reconciliations, and ensuring that all

inventories of tobacco products held by wholesalers are tax paid. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, the committee that considered the bill, for any opening comments that he may have. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Government Operations concluded a public hearing on Bill 15: An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act on April 6, 2017. A public clause-by-clause review was held on May 29, 2017. The committee heard from Mr. Roger Walker, owner and general manager of Territorial Tobacco Products, who raised concerns about tobacco tax collection that are outside of the scope of the bill. The committee understands the Department of Finance has taken Mr. Walker's concerns into consideration and has responded accordingly. The committee thanks Mr. Walker for his input. Members may have additional comments or questions as we proceed into consideration of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do. Thank you, 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.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right I have Mr. Jamie Koe, who is our Comptroller General for the Department of Finance, to my left I have Mr. Mike Reddy, who is legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will now open the floor to any general comments on Bill 15. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said earlier, the Standing Committee on Government Operations heard from Mr. Roger Walker as owner and general manager of Territorial Tobacco Products. Mr. Walker presented us with a great many documents and a long history of dealing with taxation of tobacco in the Northwest Territories and his concerns about potential tax slippage. We were also provided with information from the government's own internal audit bureau on this, and at this point the standing committee is content with the response from government, and his concerns fell outside of the scope of the bill, it was felt that there was limited involvement in what we can do,

but certainly the issues he brought to the floor were relevant to our discussions around the purpose of this legislation which is one of which is the creation of a territorial stamp to prevent smuggling.

The other way the act changes is to require the collection of taxes on tobacco products at the time tobacco is acquired by wholesale dealers for the purposes of resale. There are around seven wholesalers that operate in the Northwest Territories. Only one of those is resident to the Northwest Territories which puts Mr. Walker in an uncomfortable position of advocating for an industry of which he is sole member. However, this purchase method does not really have a large impact on the major wholesalers that operate down south. Let us call them corporate wholesalers. But for Mr. Walker's operation it is a much smaller and territorial-based one. So I guess my question for the Minister would be does this move to a purchase method put an additional burden that particularly affects Northerners as northern businesses will be required to purchase upfront just like their southern counterparts? What we heard from Mr. Walker is that could be a cost of \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Was any consideration given to that when contemplating the purchase method or when considering whether northern businesses would have special dispensation to deal with the new regulations? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we believe that if the wholesaler manages their inventory correctly then it should not put them at a disadvantage. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. Thank you for that. In the consultation around this bill, was Territorial Tobacco Products consulted on this and did the business provide comment on the purchase method? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. The Minister has indicated that Mr. Koe will fill this. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Territorial Tobacco Products was consulted at this stage. They did provide a letter of reply to our consultation letter. They did make some comments around the purchase method, but none of the comments were about any capital concerns or any inventory concerns. They were about the overall control of the tobacco products and collecting the proper amount of tax revenues for tobacco products sold in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you for that. I'm content that the government did conduct its consultations appropriately. I just raise this issue because often we aspire to very effective legislation that's based on examples drawn from other jurisdictions and sometimes we can forget that Northerners and northern districts may not be up to the same capacity as southern jurisdictions. I guess I'll just leave it with this. I think we're only affecting a small section of the economy, and if Mr. Walker did not raise those concerns, then I'm content that these concerns have been properly addressed through the legislative process. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Testart. No more comments. I see no further comments or questions. Does committee agree that we proceed to a clause-by-clause review?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We'll defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. Committee, please turn to page 1 of the bill. Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act. I will read out the clause and, if committee agrees, just please respond within an "agreed." Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 15 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Committee, to the bill as a whole. Does committee agree that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Bill 15 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee, we have next agreed to consider Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2. I will turn to the Minister responsible for any opening comments that he may have. I believe that's Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to introduce Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2. This bill would amend the Revolving Funds Act and establish a

new revolving fund for the Marine Transportation Services with an authorized limit of \$35 million. The proposed revolving fund would meet the capital operating and maintenance requirements in providing marine transportation services to the communities on Great Slave Lake, Mackenzie River, and the Arctic Coastal Region. A business model for Marine Transportation Services is currently under development, which will help determine how Marine Transportation Services will be operated in the future.

The summer operations will inform the analysis as to which business model will likely be the most appropriate. We will return with options for the long-term structure of this entity in the fall. In the interim, segregating monies by means of this revolving fund will allow these marine operations to be self-financing. Costs associated with ongoing operations, maintenance, and capital expenditures in this manner will not require the government of Northwest Territories to fund these through appropriations as is required from normal program delivery. It will also prevent financial confusion and ultimately facilitate the transition to a long-term business model once it is decided upon.

Our purchase of the shipyard, terminals, and marine fleet is a strategic investment in transportation infrastructure that provides jobs, helps stimulate our economy, and will maintain the Mackenzie River as a primary route for safely and effectively moving essential goods to our communities. Bill 26 will facilitate a successful sailing season this summer as we consider options for the long-term business model of the Marine Transportation Services. This is a key step that will ensure a seamless transition to critical marine resupply services for NWT residents and businesses now and into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I do.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right, I have Deputy Minister Paul Guy of Infrastructure and on my far right is John Vandenberg, assistant deputy minister of programs and services, and on my left is Vince McCormick, director of corporate services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. As we agreed to send this bill directly to Committee of the Whole, it was not reviewed by a

standing committee, so we have no opening comments to go to but I will open up the floor. General comments and I have a list started. First, Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee of Economic Development and Environment in fact did have the opportunity to interact with the Minister on this bill. We did share with the Minister some items of concern. However, most of those have to do with the future of the marine transportation system. We certainly recognize the need for the amendment to the Revolving Funds Act so that the MTS, if we can call it that now, has the ability to function with the degree of fluidity much like a business and allowing the flexibility that it needs to react quickly, if need be.

We also want to take the opportunity to commend the government for stepping up and acting fast to make this acquisition possible as the Minister alluded to in his comments, the former provider had provided critical services to the territory for a long period of time and knowing that we could have possibly lost this critical service that the reliance on this service to the community was highly important and that the acquisition was necessary. We also want the department to know that the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment wants to work with the department going forward on the future of the evolution of MTS and we will be seeking to engage the public on that front, but in the meantime, we appreciate the department's resources, human and otherwise, are very focused right now on finishing up the transition but more importantly getting ready for the forthcoming sailing season and that's crucial to our communities.

I'm not sure that I have anything more to add at this point. I just want the department to know that by and large, there was no real opposition to the revolving funds amendment itself. Generally, we find ourselves in support. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Next I have Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I sit on the economic development and environment committee, and I do have concerns with the bill. In fact, I most likely will be voting against it. My concerns really revolve around a couple of areas. First off, I do not believe that this is a requirement for Marine Transportation Services to operate; and secondly, I am concerned about the purpose of the revolving fund, and what it covers and what it doesn't cover. Lastly, I also believe that setting this up as a revolving fund will limit the ability of Regular MLAs to have oversight on capital acquisitions of marine transportation systems.

I also want to state clearly for the record that I do support our government operating this in the absence of a private sector operator, and we do want to make sure that our remote communities have access to transportation systems. I certainly support that. My concerns are with setting this up as a revolving fund. I do have some questions for the Minister, and I would like to start with if he could tell us who was consulted in preparing the bill? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Infrastructure consulted internally with the Departments of Finance and Justice regarding the establishment of the revolving fund for the MTS, and we also consulted with Transport Canada, the Department of Lands, and the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to discuss regulatory and safety requirements associated with MTS as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No one outside of government was actually consulted during the preparation of this bill, and no one in Hay River was consulted? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: No, no one else. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is a concern of mine. It is the process as well, then, as to who was consulted in preparation of the bill, and I think it would have been more helpful if there had been opportunities for the public to express some views on this, but I understand the department is in a rush to get this done. Can someone tell me whether this is a requirement for the operation of MTS, or is this just the preferred option for the department? MTS could go off and continue to operate, but this revolving fund is not a requirement for the operations? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The establishment of the revolving fund, in our view, is a transitional step. We were going to return to standing committee in the fall with the proposal for the long-term structure of this entity; and moving forward, that was our whole role and intent as the

Member alluded that he does not think this is a necessary step. We can probably run empty, yes, without doing this, but it would cause a lot of confusion around the finances about how this thing operates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I heard the Minister say, then, that this is not a requirement for MTS to operate. That is what I understand as well, so we are on the same page on that. Can a department not maintain a separate set of accounts internally so that the operation of this could be tracked? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will defer that to Mr. McCormick.

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

MR. MCCORMICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We cannot run segregated separate accounts within the department. We can track it as a project in the system, but this is the only way to segregate it from the consolidated revenue fund. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand it would be possible to track the funds in and out separately, and that is good to know. What sort of oversight will the Regular MLAs have if this continues to operate as a revolving fund? Is it going to be separately reported in the main estimates? Are we only going to see it in the public accounts? What sort of oversight is there for Regular MLAs if this is set up as a revolving fund? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCCORMICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The oversight, primarily, would come through the business planning process where there will be a chance for fulsome discussion about this. The financial statements, of course, will be audited, fully audited, and published, consolidated with the public accounts and published on the Finance web site. We are still in discussions with the Department of Finance about how exactly, and if and what method the capital piece of this would be presented, whether it would be part of the capital mains, or there would be some other reporting process we would follow.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer, and that increases my discomfort level, but I understand that is going to get sorted out eventually. I think there is a real concern about the ability of Regular MLAs to do their job when they do not have oversight, particularly on the capital expenditure side. I want to move forward to the purpose of the revolving fund. It is to meet the capital operating maintenance requirements and providing grain transportation services and movement of cargo. When our government purchased the assets, they obviously purchased, or acquired a bunch of environmental liabilities. The wording of this for the purpose of the revolving fund, would this legally preclude those funds being used for remediation of any of the contaminated sites that are part of the assets that we have acquired? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The revolving fund would not be specifically used to address the environmental liabilities. Those are currently addressed through the GNWT's environmental liability fund, and that is administered and funded by the Department of Finance. We would identify our environmental liabilities like we do on any other government asset and report them to the Department of Finance, and they would be tracked and processed through the environmental liabilities fund. In the event we had excess or surplus revenues that will be returned to the government as a form of general revenues, the government could choose to apply those funds towards environmental liabilities or any other financial need of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I heard that it would preclude the use of the funds directly, and I hate to put our law clerk on the hot seat here, but I guess I would like to get an outside opinion on whether any of the funds in the revolving fund could actually be used for remediation of contaminated sites? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is about a minute left in your time for the law clerk to answer your question, and she will give it her best shot.

MS. MACPHERSON: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. O'Reilly has asked a very interesting question. I am actually not sure. It would depend if the environmental remediation would fall under the

definition of "maintenance requirements." I think, arguably, it certainly would not follow under the definition of a capital purpose. Likely not under the definition of an operating purpose, but possibly under the definition of a maintenance requirement. My short answer, and very much a first instance answer without further reflection, would be that it is possible that it could fall under the definition of maintenance. A lot would depend on the nature of the environmental remediation and what it would entail. Arguably, maintenance of almost any asset could, in some respects, be looked at as environmental remediation. For example, if you are operating a vessel and you are cleaning up something that you have spilled in the course of that operation, arguably, that is maintenance, but it also could fit the very, very broad definition of environmental remediation. A lot would depend on the factual circumstances but, yes, there is an argument to be made to that effect.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Madame Clerk. Mr. O'Reilly, your time has expired. You will have another shot at this when we get to clause 2. Next on my list for general comments, I have Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just getting back to the amendments. First of all, I would like to thank the department. I think, for my region, all four communities in my riding rely on seasonal shipping, so it also reduces the cost of living and the cost of petroleum, as well. I can't speak for others, but I know my colleague from the Sahtu also looks at this as an essential service. In short, I am supporting this. I know taking over a big operation like this is a logistical nightmare, and it can be, and \$35 million is actually a drop in the bucket if something goes wrong with something like this, due to the costs of shipping on the ocean as opposed to shipping on the lakes and the rivers. Those two types of marine shipping vary, and they are quite different, actually. I am just giving my support for this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank my colleague from Nunakput for addressing some of that. I am quite satisfied with the discussions going on earlier, on the Minister's statement earlier in the day here on addressing the liability issue, for one, saying that the environment is taken seriously with respect to the MTS operations, and that a phase 1 environmental site assessment is going to be completed. I haven't been involved in some remedial projects here.

I am quite satisfied and happy to hear that a phase 1 or a level 1 site assessment is going to be done, followed by this program. It will continue over the

next three summers to determine what remediation activities may be required. Given the fact that current operations are being prepared to get on with the sailing season and the issue of liabilities is on the books for discussions later, I am quite satisfied the way operations are going, and the preparatory efforts of the department to carry on. I am in support of the bill, as the previous couple of speakers have mentioned, and I just don't want to miss the boat. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess my concern is: when asked the question are we going into business against a company that is in my riding? In my riding, we have a company that deals in the Sahtu and down the river to the Fort Liard in Nahendeh. Is this company, MTS, going to be in business against the company that is in my riding? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. My reminder might come a little late, but if the committee could focus their comments on the actual revolving fund, which is more of an accounting structure that they were discussing here for MTS, but I will let the Minister respond. Minister.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our intention when bought this was to look after residents of the Northwest Territories. As most people know, and I have said it a number of times, we have no intention of interfering with the barging company out of Fort Simpson. They tend to look after the Norman Wells Esso-type stuff in that region, and we will continue on with the core base of business that the previous owner had done. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I think that alleviates some concerns in my riding about Esso at that point in time. I am good with what was spoken of. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. We have no further general comments. We will move to a clause-by-clause review of the bill. We will defer the bill number and title until after our review of the clauses. Can we please turn to page 1 of the bill. I will call out each clause. If you agree, please respond with "agreed." Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Clause 2. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't want to prolong this any more than I need to, but I want to thank the law clerk for the helpful information about the scope of what the fund could be used for. I haven't really heard a commitment from the department that they are prepared to use any of the funds that might be generated for remediation. You know, the issue here is about a polluter pays principle, and these contaminated sites were created by this operation. If there is an excess generated, I don't understand why that excess couldn't be used to help remediate these sites, rather than spread it back to the taxpayers of the Northwest Territories. This was raised with the Minister in his department beforehand, but they didn't seem to be interested in moving on this. I am not suggesting that the operation be run on a basis to generate a profit, but if there are some profits, why couldn't those be directed to the remediation of the sites? I don't know whether the Minister has any response to that, but I will give him an opportunity within my 10 minutes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know if I am going to be able to convince the Member to vote for this or not, but first of all, I want to say that we are not saying that this couldn't be done; it could be done if we had chosen to. We are doing some low-cost cleanup this year with O and M on a small barrel cleanup that is at the site, but the biggest problem, I think, with trying to remediate the contaminated sites once they are identified going forward, is if we do that within the revolving fund, that is going to be a cost bearing on the communities that use this service.

If we are using that fund to do the remediation, that is not going to allow for other things that would maybe lower the cost of living for residents, and fuel supply to these other communities. The other thing I want to probably mention is, once we go through our environmental assessment, particularly phase 2, GNWT will have an option to approach the Government of Canada and negotiate responsibility remediation of some of these sites, under the terms of the Devolution Agreement. The federal government did run this site for a number of years, and we are hopefully going to be able to access some of these through a consultation with them and the Devolution Agreement, and their responsibility for remediating some of these sites. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything new to add to this debate, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. I would like to conclude, though, if I could. I want to thank

the Minister for trying to convince me, and it was a nice try. I just want to be very clear: I am not opposed to the marine transportation system operating as a GNWT entity, and I support our government doing that, resupplying our remote communities.

If anybody wants to try to say that I am against MTS, that is not the case. To be very clear, I am opposed to this bill for the way that it is being set up internally, the accounting that is going to be done for it. I am also concerned with the process that has been used to develop this bill, that it has not provided for public input. It has been leapfrogged ahead, and I think we have discussed some liability matters here that, perhaps, could have been rectified if this had gone through a proper committee review, as well.

Unfortunately, that is not the case because it is being rushed through. I remain opposed to the limited purpose of this bill. Sorry, of the fund itself. I don't believe it's consistent with the polluter pays principle, and I believe that setting up in this way will also remove some of our abilities as Regular MLAs to have closer oversight on the capital expenses or capital aspects of MTS's operations. For those reasons, I'll be opposing the bill, but I want to thank the Minister and his staff for their responses today and our law clerk for shining a light on this as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Your concerns are duly noted. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Committee, now to the bill as a whole, does committee agree that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2, is now ready for a third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Bill 26 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. I want to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Now, what is the wish of committee? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 383-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 384-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2017-2018; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act; and Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2. I would like to report progress with two motions carried, and that Bills 15 and 16 are ready for third reading; that consideration of Tabled Documents 383-18(2) and 384-18(2) is concluded; and that the House concur on those estimates and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Deh Cho.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 16:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the third time, and, Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member has requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made an effort to improve Bill 16 to benefit both students and teachers by aligning

the mandatory minimum instructional hours with Alberta while reducing the current instructional hours at the high school level by 45 hours. I was unsuccessful in that effort, and I can't support Bill 16 in its current form, so I will be abstaining in this vote. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, 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 Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The results of the motion: 16 in favour; zero opposed; one abstention.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, June 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 14. Tabling of Documents
 15. Notices of Motion
 16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 17. Motions
 - Motion 34-18(2), Extended Adjournment of the House to September 19, 2017
 18. First Reading of Bills
 19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 28, Interpretation Act
 - Bill 29, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017
 - Bill 30, Health Statutes Law Amendment Act (Cremation Services)
 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 11-18(2), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of Standing committee Public Engagement and Transparency
 - Committee Report 12-18(2), Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019
 - Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day program
 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act
 - Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2
 23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:48 p.m.