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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Members Present

Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, 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 1:29 p.m.

Prayer

ELDER SARAH CLEARY: [English translation not provided.]

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. R.J. Simpson): Thank you to Elder Sarah Cleary for offering today's prayer.

Colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you all back to the Chamber to resume the third session of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

I would like to begin by recognizing the Pages this session, who will come from Fort Smith, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife. Welcome and thank you to the Pages. It is our privilege to share this Chamber with these young people and our future leaders. Please join me in thanking them and welcoming them to the Assembly.

Our Assembly was recently home to another group of future leaders, the participants in the annual Youth Parliament. Thank you to all the youth who participated and to all those who worked hard behind the scenes to make this event a success.

Colleagues, I wish to highlight the participation of young women in Youth Parliament. As an Assembly, we have set a goal of increasing the representation of women in the Legislative Assembly. In our Youth Parliament, more than 80 percent of the Members were women, and all Members of Cabinet were women. I hope this is a sign that our call for more women to sit in the Assembly has been heard and that, one day, these young women will return to this Chamber as Members.

I would like to advise Members of this House and the public that, throughout this sitting, we will be providing interpretation in the following languages:

- Tlicho;
- Chipewyan;
- French; and
- North Slavey.

I want to thank our interpreters for their work in making our proceedings available in our official languages. Mahsi.

For Members who wish to listen in English, please remember to leave your dials on channel two.

Finally, colleagues, I would like to welcome to the floor of the House Mr. Glen Rutland. Mr. Rutland is no stranger to this Assembly. He has spent many hours in this Chamber as a law clerk, but today is his first day on the floor in his new role, Deputy Clerk, Procedure and Committees. Welcome, Mr. Rutland.

Mahsi, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 177-18(3):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I have two Minister's statements, one short and one longer.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be absent from the House today to attend the Seniors' FPT meetings in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 178-18(3):
SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all Members back to the continuation of the third session of the 18th Legislative Assembly. As we near the end of our term, our government continues to focus on advancing the priorities of the Assembly and fulfilling remaining mandate items. These are intended to help create a better future for all residents of the Northwest Territories, including the advancement of outstanding claims and self-government negotiations.

For almost four years, Mr. Speaker, our government has put a great deal of effort into raising the profile of the Northwest Territories at the national level. Our territory does not exist in isolation, and the choices and decisions of other

governments in neighbouring provinces and territories, and at the federal level, can have a significant impact on what happens here at home.

Last week I was in Ottawa with Tlicho Grand Chief George Mackenzie to appear before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs in support of Bill C-88. This bill seeks to advance numerous amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. These were first passed as part of the federal legislation that established devolution and include the continuation of regional land and water boards as established in the land claims.

Passage of this bill will help ensure our residents have the tools and legislative authority needed to effectively make decisions about responsible resource development and increase certainty. Coming together to speak up on behalf of the Northwest Territories when important decisions like this are pending is one way we are having a real impact on national affairs.

We have been successful at putting the Northwest Territories on the national agenda and leveraging that attention for investments in territorial priorities throughout the term of this Assembly. Most recently, that has included commitments in the last federal budget to invest \$18 million over three years in the Taltson Hydro Expansion project and \$5.1 million for planning and surveys to support the development of the Slave Geological Province Corridor.

Effective cooperation and partnerships with our provincial and territorial counterparts has been another important part of how we have placed, and kept, the North on the national agenda. My colleagues on the Council of Federation were particularly effective, for instance, in helping secure special recognition for the unique challenges that the three northern territories face as part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

While we have achieved a lot, we cannot take our achievements for granted. Recent months have seen significant turnover among Premiers across the country, and we are all aware that there is a federal election this fall.

In this climate of change, it will be more important than ever to educate and engage governments at all levels so we can ensure the North continues to be a priority on the national agenda.

Our efforts should not end there. We also need to start thinking globally, not just nationally.

The Arctic has always been an important symbol for Canada, a geographic statement of our place and status in the world as a northern power.

Unfortunately, Canada's interest in and attention to the Arctic has often been symbolic at best. Generations of southern Canadians and their governments have grown used to thinking of the North as a vast and inaccessible place valued most for its emptiness. This, however, is not a view of the Arctic shared by other nations.

In recent years, I have spent a great deal of time making connections with other leaders and promoting the Northwest Territories. I can tell you from the conversations that I have been having that interest in the North, in the Arctic, is immense.

Canada is alone when it comes to inaction in the Arctic. China and Russia, for instance, see enormous opportunity in the Arctic. They are moving fast to ramp up their presence and level of activity within their borders and across the circumpolar world. This is an effort to both secure opportunities for themselves and to influence the international rules and policies that will set the terms for what happens in the Arctic.

Russia sees the Northern Sea Route as an essential maritime opening for its country. Russia has a fleet of 20 icebreakers capable of traversing the Northern Sea Route; more than a dozen ports, including two deep water ports in their Arctic; and have committed to increasing investments to attract more shipping traffic through the Northern Sea Route.

China released a whitepaper on its Arctic strategy last year, is investing heavily in infrastructure around the world, and certainly has its eye on Arctic shipping and research. They were recently in discussions with Greenland about investing in three airport projects and have their own nuclear icebreaker under construction. They have one polar research vessel in service and a second one expected to enter service this year.

Despite the 1998 agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Arctic Cooperation, the United States has started to renew assertions that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway, rather than internal Canadian waters. New legislation proposed by Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Arctic Policy Act and the Shipping and Environmental Leadership Act, may be seen as a renewed will in the United States to set the terms for the Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of this international activity, I think it only makes sense to ask: where is Canada? Does Canada want to remain a leader in the Arctic? What is Canada's vision for the Arctic? What is Canada prepared to do to make sure it has a real say in setting the terms of engagement for all nations?

I also think it makes sense that residents of Canada's three northern territories have a leading say in determining Canada's plan for the Arctic. We are the ones who live here. We are the ones who are repeatedly affected when decisions are made for us, rather than with us. We are an obvious partner for Canada when they begin to discuss what should happen next.

As international interest and activity in the Arctic accelerates, it is important that Canada is not left behind. There are some clear areas where Canada can concentrate its focus and attention. Positioning Canada's northern territories as a hub for trade and transportation is one of these.

The circumpolar route can cut as much as 20 days off the time it takes to reach Asia from Europe via ship. Other countries know this, and they have already been making moves to secure control over these routes, both through their active use and by advancing claims over their status as national or international channels.

Canada's North is closer to key markets in all the major global trading blocs, including Europe, Asia, and Russia, than most other regions of North America. It would be a shorter trip from Yellowknife to Moscow than it would be from Toronto. We are also closer to European centres like Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, and Helsinki.

Heading east, a 10,000-kilometer-plus trip from Toronto to Tokyo or Beijing would be less than 8,000 kilometers from Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, Canada should be leveraging this comparative proximity to these international markets and investing significantly in transportation infrastructure in all three northern territories. Growing and expanding territorial airports can make them a major trans-shipment point for goods moving between Asia, North America, and Europe, especially if there is supporting investment in connecting infrastructure like roads and railways linking us to southern Canada.

Similarly, investments in deepwater ports and marine facilities along Canada's Arctic coast can help to capture trade already travelling the polar route, which is sure to increase in coming years, as well as tourist and scientific traffic that is also sure to grow.

Another area Canada will need to look at as it considers what it wants to achieve in the Arctic in coming years is its physical presence. Simply put, Canada needs to be in the Arctic if it wants to have a say in what happens in the Arctic.

Economies are driven and sustained by people, and Canada is very much lagging in this regard. It is hard to achieve the economies of scale that can

truly drive growth and prosperity when our population is a sliver of the population in the rest of the circumpolar world.

Our small population also limits our ability to effectively monitor activity in the Arctic. How effectively can Canada monitor the Arctic coastline and shipping passages with only a single Coast Guard station in Iqaluit, and search and rescue resources located at southern military bases?

How long will it take Canada to even learn of a maritime or environmental incident, and then effectively respond to and manage it? What effect would such a delay have on the Arctic, its people, and its environment?

Finally, Canada needs to know the Arctic, Mr. Speaker, not just know about it, if it wants to have a meaningful say in decisions about the Arctic in coming decades.

As a northern nation, Canada should make it a priority to ensure that more of its citizens have an opportunity to experience the Arctic and learn what it really means to be "northern." Policy and decision makers need to have experience in and understand the territories, where they can gain the direct, first-hand knowledge and experience to make good evidence-based decisions.

Knowing the Arctic also means significantly ramping up Canada's scientific research capacity and Arctic academic infrastructure. If Canada wants to understand how climate change affects the North and how to adapt to it, we need significant investment in scientific research programs and facilities to support that. If we want thriving territorial economies, it also makes sense to educate the next generation of business and civic leaders here, including professionals like doctors and lawyers who will support communities.

Mr. Speaker, we must lead the conversation to determine what Canada wants for the Arctic. We must also lead the conversations about establishing and implementing Canada's Arctic priorities. As the world's attention continues to shift towards the actions and politics of the circumpolar north, Canada's need for a meaningful Arctic plan is only going to become more important. With the Arctic figuring ever more prominently in the plans of other global powers, we need to know that Canada has a plan. Territorial residents will need to be confident that their priorities are found in this plan and that it will benefit them.

Northerners setting the terms for the North has been a significant priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories for years. Devolution was all about Northerners being able to make their own decisions about how the land, environment, and

resources of the Northwest Territories are managed.

Mr. Speaker, our government continues to pursue this priority in the 18th Legislative Assembly, with a number of proposed bills that improve on the legislative authorities for managing land and resources that were transferred from Canada at the time of devolution. These include the Mineral Resources Act, Environmental Rights Act, Protected Areas Act, Public Lands Act, Petroleum Resources Act, Oil and Gas Operations Act, and Environmental Rights Act.

Defining the future of the Arctic and Canada's three northern territories will require a bold vision and an ambitious plan. Mr. Speaker, Northerners need to have a role in shaping that plan. The upcoming federal and territorial elections provide us with an opportunity to continue a broad conversation about the long-term future of the North. This work to advocate for the people of the territory will build on what we have achieved during the life of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing that advocacy and to working with all Members in our remaining months here to help make the North a priority for Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY AND THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the statement from the Premier. Mine is very similar.

Mr. Speaker, Europeans started looking at the Northwest Passage in the 19th century. Explorers and their governments thought it would be a shorter route for ports of trade in Asia. No thought was given to the Indigenous people who had been living on the Arctic coast long before time was recorded.

This state of mind still exists today. At the Arctic Council ministerial meeting in Finland earlier this month, American Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave a speech where he said that the United States has a longstanding feud with Canada over our illegitimate sovereign claims to the Northwest Passage. This statement may have opened up the Arctic more so than ever before for activity that we are not prepared for environmentally, socially, or infrastructure-wise. More vessels and cruise ships are travelling through the passage in the summer

months, and this is increasing, making this a major issue for many reasons.

The Polar Code came into force in 2017, which is mandatory for all ships operating in the Arctic, with the intent to protect the unique environment and ecosystems of the Arctic.

The development of marine passageways, trade, and other activity will have a major impact on the Inuit way of life. Climate change is already having a drastic effect on the Arctic environment, including the Inuvialuit and the wildlife. If the Northwest Passage is made in international waters, there are no controls over who may traverse this sensitive ecological area. The damage to the environment that sustains us will be certain and immediate. There is much, much risk to the lands, waters, and animals that are central to our way of life. Unregulated marine traffic through the passage will irrevocably change both environment and Inuit who rely upon it.

Other countries are rapidly expanding their expense in the Arctic. Russia is building more than 15 deepwater ports along their Arctic coast and icebreakers to navigate their waterways. China refers to itself as a near-Arctic country and, a few months ago, announced that it would be building a nuclear-powered icebreaker that is bigger than Russia's largest icebreaker.

Mr. Speaker, our infrastructure is eroding almost as fast as we build it. Canadian ships can't make it through the heavy sea ice. Our sovereignty is being ignored, which will have profound implications for Inuit and all Canadians in the years to come. We must encourage our Indigenous, our territorial, and our national governments to work together, especially where our priorities align. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF ICE CONDITIONS IN MACKENZIE DELTA COMMUNITIES

MR. BLAKE: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone back to the Assembly for our spring session.

Mr. Speaker, one of the communities in my riding of the Mackenzie Delta, Fort McPherson, is situated right along the Peel River. The Peel River ice reports state that the ice first started moving on Monday of last week and was clear last Thursday. The ice conditions in Tsiigehtchic reports say that the Red River is clear, the Mackenzie ice is thinning, and the water levels are quite low.

At the end of April, both ice crossings on the Peel and Mackenzie Rivers closed for the season. I have been on record stating that the extreme cost of food, gas, heating, and fuel increases with isolation.

Mr. Speaker, our people suffer with the high cost of food. Hunters who want to gather ducks and geese have to burden the high cost of gasoline. Although the warm weather is upon us, there are days when we still need to adjust our furnace thermostats to keep our homes heated. Also, one of our businesses in Fort McPherson is out of gasoline due to the ice conditions this spring.

Mr. Speaker, with the Peel River clear of ice and debris, community members are excited that the Abraham Francis ferry will be launched in the Peel sooner than later.

The Mackenzie River also connects to the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, and it is important to note that, last summer, we had record numbers of tourists to the region. The faster we get both ferries operational, food prices will decrease and tourists will take advantage of the early season and come north.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions later today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You spoke eloquently about youth in your opening comments. The question is: what should we be doing for northern youth so that they are supported in ways that allow them to flourish? A recent Conference Board of Canada report identified youth as one of the three key areas of northern policy.

As a society that will depend on our youth in the future, we need to help and support our young people. We know that they face disproportionate challenges growing up, educational and cultural, economic and social, but we also know that our youth are strong, intelligent, capable, and resilient. Support for young people will help them, their families, and Northern society overall.

Mr. Speaker, we must lead the way with public policy initiatives that will create positive outcomes for young people.

A strong sense of cultural identity and belonging builds strength and independence amongst young people as they navigate a changing world. Land-based cultural programs in all grades, like the one founded at Deh Gah School in Fort Providence,

lead to young adults who are better adjusted to confront life's challenges.

Community-based healing is consistent with the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A whole-community approach to wellness will build resilience and nurture youth. Traditional healing practices and healthy coping mechanisms encourage and support resilience, leadership, and personal achievement.

We must encourage youth participation in public dialogue and decision-making. Civic engagement in youth leadership at all levels will support youth to become role models for their younger peers and help build community relationships, positivity, and trust.

Mr. Speaker, our youth will come through, if provided the chance, but it is on us to create the framework where that can happen. For them to succeed, we need a growing economy that provides opportunity. We need affordable housing and reasonable costs of living. We need educational opportunities that encourage them to be doctors, electricians, or traditional harvesters, as they choose; and, of course, they need a clean and protected environment that enables them to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, saying "the youth are our future" is true, but it isn't enough. We owe our young people concrete action that will make their world a place of opportunity. Let's support our youth in every way possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DIVESTITURE OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In 1974, the NWT Housing Corporation was formed, and one of the principles in forming the Housing Corporation was to develop markets in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, CMHC, funded the capital construction costs of new public housing, either 90 percent or 75 percent, depending on the section under which the units were built. In addition, CMHC paid for 75 or 50 percent of the operating costs and the mortgage costs, until the CMHC mortgage of 25 to 35 years was paid off. At that time, the NWT Housing Corporation would make the houses available for home ownership. The houses would be priced based on what the market could bear in each community.

An example would be that, if the NWT Housing Corporation divested a house in a strong market like Yellowknife, the house could be sold at the

appraised market value. However, in communities where no market or very little market exists, the house could be discounted to what the market could bear. In communities where no market exists, the house could be transferred to the new homeowner for a nominal amount, even one dollar. When the units are transferred to home ownership, the operational and maintenance costs of those units would no longer be the responsibility of the taxpayers or the government.

Mr. Speaker, the current system allows the NWT Housing Corporation to retaken all of its public housing units and continue to keep public housing tenants within the GNWT social net. However, if the NWT Housing Corporation was to divest themselves of the houses, the cost of our entire social housing system would be reduced substantially, and markets would be developed in other communities. People who own their own homes are more apt to maintain their properties, which would benefit all residents of their community.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation must move on this initiative as quickly as possible. If we keep doing the same thing over and over, there will be no community housing development and the cost to the GNWT will continue to grow. The core need will also continue to increase across the entire NWT. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, this past April 10, 2019, the Sahtu Secretariat incorporated and the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure signed a milestone MoU in Norman Wells to engage collaboratively for the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment, a commemorative day for the quest to an all-weather road connection.

This partnership presents yet another unique opportunity, an opportunity for the Tulita youth community to appoint a representative to actively witness and experience the NWT regulatory system on a megaproject such as the application to connect Fort Wrigley to Norman Wells, a corridor of 330 kilometres.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often an opportunity of this experience presents itself on public engagement process to experience the early stages of superior

projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the public involvement.

Should our government support this initiative, engagement sessions in the impacted right-of-way communities during the process would certainly allow our public to better understand the true meaning of engagement supported by this government by the attendance of the youth representative.

The experiences captured by the youth during this process would be outstanding. Imagine carrying on the Mackenzie Valley Highway from the initial days of John Diefenbaker in today's regulatory and land-claim systems.

Mr. Speaker, later, I will have questions to the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WHOLESALE LIQUOR PRICING

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several weeks ago, I was informed by members of the public that alcohol prices for bars and restaurants had significantly increased. The changes the government made has caused a nearly 20 percent increase in the cost of some products to our hospitality sector in a single day. This increase in costs would have made it nearly impossible for our hospitality sector to survive without passing along increased price to consumers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a discount program has been authorized, and the cost to northern businesses has been reduced somewhat, but this did not occur until the public and Regular Members created substantial pushback. I, like many members of the public, are extremely disappointed with what has happened, and I have asked for the Minister to review the price formula to ensure that fair market principles apply to our liquor wholesaling system.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. This issue is not about cheap alcohol. It's about mitigating toxic pricing for our hospitality industry, protecting jobs and northern businesses. I do not believe that these price increases were brought on wholly by the federal excise tax and transportation costs, as has been claimed. These were factors, certainly, but, if that were true, the prices would have increased equally in all parts of the country, and that has not happened. The price structure that currently exists in the Northwest Territories needs to be rebalanced to ensure fair market access. This should have been done ahead of any changes, to avoid the exact situation licensees found themselves in on April 1st.

The most concerning part about this whole debacle is that there was very little communication from the liquor commission to licence holders. I would wonder how, moving forward, we might avoid another confusing and stumbling roll-out of program changes.

In a time where Alberta and British Columbia have also loosened central control over retail liquor sales, Ontario, the largest government-owned liquor system in Canada, is well on its way to hand off its system to the private sector. I believe now is the time for the GNWT to re-evaluate its role and its hold on alcohol sales. The Minister has committed to a pricing review, but we must now take this opportunity to go beyond and make positive changes to our antiquated liquor-control system while empowering Northerners to make healthy choices and embrace our inherent personal freedom to consume alcohol safely and responsibly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON THE NORTHERN HOUSING SUMMIT

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my reflections on the housing summit hosted by the NWT Housing Corporation in Inuvik last month. I appreciate the invitation to attend.

The summit confirmed several key points, most of which were long known.

First, there is a shortage of social housing in most communities. The waiting lists are long, especially for single people, and they may spend years waiting for a place to live. The Housing Corporation is unable to keep up with the demand.

Second, there are some significant barriers to attracting tenants to home ownership. Most tenants have lower-than-average income that does not stretch far enough for high power and fuel prices and exorbitant insurance costs in small communities.

Third, housing is often designed, situated, and regulated without input from community members.

Mr. Speaker, there is a ray of hope, and that is the Community Housing Support Initiative. This program helps communities help themselves by funding projects that are jointly developed by local governments and the Housing Corporation. The program is flexible enough that the local government can combine it with other GNWT programs to pay the cost of labour, for example.

This program has the potential to deliver benefits to more communities, but it needs increased investment by the Housing Corporation to make it more widely available. Trickle in three or four new houses a year is obviously just not enough. It will never catch up.

While there was some agreement on issues, there is still some uncertainty about solutions. The Housing Corporation continues to promote home ownership despite pushback on costs. Historically, few people have taken up this opportunity. People who get into social housing tend to stay there as renters. There is very little movement because people fear that, if they move, they will lose their housing and start over with the waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, housing is the basis of social health. Without adequate housing, all other efforts at improving social conditions are hampered. In the mandate for this Assembly, we agreed to increase the availability of safe, affordable housing. Given what we heard in Inuvik, we are not there yet. We are not even close. The Housing Corporation committed to developing a plan to go with the new federal housing strategy dollars that will lead the way, and I look forward to seeing it. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT BOARDING DELAYS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On May 1st, CBC ran a story about how renovations to the main baggage screening area at the Yellowknife airport would cause delays in passenger boarding. The Department of Infrastructure was quoted as saying passengers needed to arrive at check-in 90 minutes before flight time instead of the usual 60. There was no GNWT media release, and no other media outlets carried the story that day.

Two days later, in the May 3rd Yellowknifer, there was a two-inch story, and the Yellowknife Airport Authority ran an ad telling people to arrive at the airport 30 minutes earlier to avoid missing flights. That is a good start to alert newspaper readers, but that ad only appeared once.

On May 9th, the Infrastructure Minister's office put out an email to all MLAs confirming the baggage area work had begun on May 1st and the need to arrive 90 minutes before flight time.

Finally, on May 10th, 10 days after the 90-minute check-in warning went into effect, the infrastructure department issued a news release confirming the additional time needed to get on flights with

checked baggage. Even though today, if you go on the Yellowknife airport website, there is no notice of a 90-minute early arrival requirement, in attempting a scan of commercial airline departure information sites I can find no notice of a 90-minute warning. There is no mention of this on the Yellowknife Airport Facebook page, either. What is going on?

The Yellowknife airport is the primary transportation portal for all personal, business, tourism, and other travellers to and from Yellowknife, so this is pretty important news: get there 30 minutes early, or you could miss your flight. When you have a change in conditions of a core transportation system, a change that could lead to paying passengers missing their flights, you probably want to make sure that the news gets out early, widely, and repeatedly. Later today, I will ask the Minister to explain what went wrong and how we can do better in the future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BOATING SAFETY

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Yes, there are lots of things happening within this area. A lot of things like ships and that are happening. Maybe sometimes we think we've got to look at this thing. [Translation ends]

Boating season is upon us on the lakes and rivers of the NWT, and practising safety is critical. Earlier this month, there was a boating accident in K'aagee Tu/Kakisa Lake. Thanks to the quick actions taken by Chris Chicot, Melaine Simba, and Ryan Moore, and the Fort Providence RCMP detachment, there were no fatalities and the three boaters were rescued after clinging to their overturned boat for three hours.

Chief Lloyd Chicot of the K'aagee Tu First Nation says that boating accidents happen too often around his community. The public needs to practise safety and awareness of the environment and pay attention to weather conditions. Local residents can be employed as guides, if at all possible, as the lake bed can be shallow in places and choppy water is not uncommon.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up on the river and my earliest memory is travelling with my parents in a canvas boat. Paying the water with tobacco was a common practice to pay homage to the laws of nature. In addition to respecting our land and water, remember to practise safety and on-the-land smarts: always wear a life jacket; inform relatives or friends of your travel plans; equip yourself with an emergency communication device, such as a SPOT, or as simple as a whistle; keep an eye out

for weather conditions; and above all, respect the land.

This government offers small vessel training, and I encourage residents to take it when it is offered. According to recent statistics, fewer people are drowning in the NWT than 10 years ago. We must keep this trend going down. Teach water safety to children, so they know how to play safely in and near lakes and rivers. Enrol them in swimming lessons if they are offered in your community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to personally thank Chris Chicot, Melaine Simba, Ryan Moore, and the Fort Providence RCMP detachment for their quick response. Good job and mahsi cho.

Mr. Speaker, we had a close call this month, but, thankfully, it ended up with everyone safe. Let's make sure everyone stays safe on the water this summer. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR PERCY HARDISTY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Percy Samuel Hardisty left behind an incredible legacy of family, humour, love, and friendship.

Percy Hardisty was born in Wrigley, NWT on July 9, 1951, to Arthur and Christine Hardisty. He was the youngest of three boys, and a big brother to his younger sister. He is survived by his sister Doreen and his brother Charlie.

Percy attended school in Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. Upon completing school, Percy served in the Canadian Armed Forces for five years of admirable service. After serving our country, he went on to work in the oil industry in Alberta. In 1977, Percy returned to Fort Simpson and Wrigley.

Percy fondly speaks about moving back to Fort Simpson. First, he was saved by the Lord around that time, attending a gospel tent meeting in the Thomas Simpson schoolyard. He remained deeply religious for the remainder of his life. Second was meeting the love of his life, Elizabeth Menicoche. On February 16, 1985, they were married and raised three wonderful daughters.

During his life, he held a number of jobs working with Parks Canada, the recreation centre, the Fort Providence Residential School Society, and served on the executive committee of the Dehcho First Nation. As well, he owned his own businesses, doing seismic slashing and security services. He was always busy.

Percy worked hard to serve his people in the Dehcho in many different capacities. He served two terms as Chief of Wrigley, first in 1985 and 2000. He was one of the founding directors of the Dehcho Friendship Centre in Fort Simpson, and served 12 years as the chairperson. He was awarded for all his hard work with the Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for outstanding and exemplary contributions to their communities or to Canada as a whole.

Percy Hardisty served on the Mackenzie Valley Environment Review Board from November 2003 until August 2004, where he took a leave of absence to serve as a joint review panel member for the Mackenzie Gas Project for seven years. After the project completed, he returned to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Board on December 2009. He concluded his service to the board in March 2014.

Mr. Speaker, as Percy was nearing the end of his journey, lying on his bed, his pain and discomfort disappearing all at once, he stopped breathing. Embraced by his family and friends by his bedside, softly and silently, he left them as he went to meet the Lord on April 17th.

The Hardisty family would like to thank everybody for their loving support and prayers during their time of sorrow. As well, they would like to thank Kevin Menicoche for doing the eulogy.

Mr. Speaker, Percy Samuel Hardisty will be sadly missed and never forgotten.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our condolences go out to the family. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm very pleased to recognize my wife Judy in the gallery. Her presence always brightens up the Chamber.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Thebacha.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my wife Anne who is in the gallery with family friend Jim Umpherson.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sun is shining very brightly today, and I would like to recognize one of my constituents, Judy McLeod. It's always a pleasure to see you here at

the Legislative Assembly supporting our Deputy Premier. I also would like to take the opportunity recognize Jimmy Kalinek, who has been a very strong supporter of cultural and traditional programs in Inuvik, but also has started up a very strong tourism operation with the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway opening up. Welcome, Judy. Welcome, Jimmy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I want to welcome everyone who joined us today. It's always great to see people participating, or at least observing our democracy in action, and I want to welcome everyone who is watching online, on satellite in the Northwest Territories and around the world. Item 6, acknowledgments. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput

Oral Questions

QUESTION 703-18(3):
ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a statement about sovereignty in the Arctic, and the Premier's sessional statement reflected a lot of what we're trying to focus on, especially in our Arctic region, where there is a lack of infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on any discussions he's had with the federal government on Arctic sovereignty? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member has raised and I spoke to in my statement, Canada needs to take action in the Arctic, and our governments and people lead this dialogue. The best way for Canada to show its commitment to its Arctic is through significant investment in its people, economies, science, and infrastructure. I have been clear to the federal government about the need for this investment. I have been clear that northern voices need to be heard. I have also specifically spoken to the need for investment in support of the safety and security of our borders and people.

I am pleased to say that we've had some positive signals from Canada in this area, in particular related to investments and infrastructure and cleaner and more affordable energy for the territory, and in the development and moving forward with Bill C-88 and negotiations related to the offshore.

There's also been the creation of an Arctic region for the Coast Guard. However, as I made clear in my statement today, there is need to do much more.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: It's good to hear that from the Premier, and that the Government of the Northwest Territories is working with the federal counterparts. We talk about climate change a lot, and I know I have during this Assembly in the last three-and-a-half years, but one of the things is infrastructure and action by our federal counterparts. My second question is: has the government of the Northwest Territories partnered with any of our Indigenous governments on efforts to promote sovereignty in the Arctic regions?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As the Member noted in his statement, the Arctic has been home to Indigenous people long before it was ever traversed by European explorers. The people of the Canadian Arctic are Canada's Arctic sovereignty. Therefore, the work of Indigenous governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories is supporting sovereignty on a daily basis. By working to keep the Indigenous cultures and languages of the territory vibrant, we are demonstrating sovereignty. We also demonstrate sovereignty by work to strengthen communities, build wellness, and create opportunities for prosperity. As the climatic and geopolitical realities in the Arctic continue to shift, it is the federal government that now must step up to the plate and work with the people of the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have much more. I appreciate the response from the Premier. I am afraid. Earlier in my Member's statement, with the announcement of countries like the United States calling on China and Russia, it opens up the doors as the start of a race, so that is one of the things that concerns me, and I think it needs for us to work together. So, Mr. Speaker, my final question is: would the Premier be willing to tour my riding with representatives possibly from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation as well as with the MP of the Northwest Territories?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, we are committed to holding Cabinet open houses in each riding, and we will work with the Member to ensure these take place before the end of the 18th Assembly. I would be pleased to have all three levels of government present in his riding if the Member for Nunakput would like to invite the Member of Parliament and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation into his riding at the same time as the Cabinet open house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. I would like to ask the Minister: have all the inspections been done on both ferries to ensure they can be launched as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The staff are out there working and doing their due diligence. I would have to get back to the Member on the exact timing that Transport Canada will be in there to do their stuff, but, from my indication, what I have gotten from the department so far is that we are on schedule to have both the Louis Cardinal and Abraham Francis ferries in the water and operational by next week.

MR. BLAKE: These inspections have never been an issue in the past. Is it because of increased changes to the inspections, or what is causing the delays of those inspections?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I am not aware of there being any delays on this. We historically had these ferries in by June 2nd, so I believe we are on schedule. As I said, I can check into the Transport Canada inspection issue and see if there is an issue and relay that to the Member.

MR. BLAKE: Will the ferries be in operation earlier this year compared to previous years?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have said, historically, these have on average been in place by June 2nd, so, if we have them in by next week, we could be in as early as four or five days earlier than average.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Final question. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the Peel River is clear. There is no debris in the rivers, on the river. Will the Minister and the department put the Abraham Francis in first, before the Louis Cardinal? As I say, the community is almost out of gasoline. We only have one supplier left in the community, and people want to restock their supplies, as well.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As this whole House knows, the travelling public and safety is number one for us. I will have to confirm with our staff where we are at on both of those ferries and get back to the Member. However, as we've updated this House in previous years, going forward the general public and Members of this Assembly need to be well aware that the river conditions can change drastically. We have had low water already this year, but, due to spring melt coming out of the

mountains, things can change. Last year, that caused problems, particularly in Fort McPherson because of all of the debris that was coming down and washing out the approaches. This is something that we will continue to monitor and to relay to the general public, and I will keep the House informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 705-18(3):
FORT SIMPSON FERRY SERVICE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few years, I have spoken to the Minister of Infrastructure with concerns about our ferry service. In the past, we have seen lower water levels, which have caused disruption to the services. I have reached out to the Minister of Infrastructure numerous times to talk about different options, such as moving the ferry line and looking at various options across the river and potential bridge options. I realize some of these options are not feasible at this time. However, this year, we are seeing low water levels already, a very different break-up, and we could be seeing ourselves in deeper troubles this year. Therefore, I would like to revisit this issue with the Minister of Infrastructure. Will the Minister be willing to approach the Canadian Coast Guard to come to Fort Simpson and survey the area around the Fort Simpson landing and alternate routes there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will contact the responsible authority to accurately survey the river. We can do that around the ferry landings and the possible alternative routes. As I said in my previous comments here with the Fort McPherson ferry, low water is going to be an issue. We know that already because of the way things are looking. The one thing about the Fort Simpson ferry and that crossing, there is so much silt and gravel in that thing that the conditions can change on a regular basis and in a very short period of time, and there is also the gravel bar issue that is in the middle of the river there. That is part of our navigational issues usually in the fall time, and that could be something that we may experience earlier in this year.

MR. THOMPSON: I agree with the Minister. First of all, I have to thank the department and the staff for doing a great job, for getting the ferry on the 15 average. The 15-year average was the day we actually got in there, even with all of these difficulties, so I thank him. Realizing the problems about the silt and gravel, has the Minister looked at

the feasibility of dredging the area causing these problems for the ferry?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: With respect to dredging and waterworks, they are extremely difficult to get approvals for. We know that. The current amount of debris and silt, as I said, that are in the river carries, I have been advised that any dredging operation would be of minimal value. I think I have mentioned that in this House before. For those of you who have been on the Liard River Ferry in the summer time, it is a very dirty river, and dredging might be of very minimal value, doing that. We do know that the low water in the channel that we used last fall, as I have said, with that gravel bar presents a problem. Dredging may be an option, and we will continue to look at what our options are going to be going forward this year.

MR. THOMPSON: Listening to the Minister, he has talked about and I think the department is looking at the challenges we are facing, so I thank them for that. Has the department looked at this situation to come up with various options, and can he talk about some of them here today?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As the Member knows, he has asked me this question before in the House, and, with climate change in effect, we are monitoring these things very closely. We are looking at all options, up- and downstream, particularly at Fort Simpson right now. Being in the fiscal situation we are in, if I had the required funding, we could probably pursue some of these things, but I think we are going to have to continue to monitor the situation and look at all options going forward.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final oral question. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize we are in financial difficulties, and we are seeing some of the challenges. Will the Minister commit to having his staff reach out to the leadership and actually have a public meeting to discuss some of these options and hear the concerns from the residents so we can move forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Our regional staff in the area are always prepared to meet with the leadership and the community. If that is the desire of the community, they can certainly have the Member send me a request for that, and we can have our regional staff sit down and discuss options and hear their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 706-18(3):
FUNDING FOR HOUSING PROJECT

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Let's start with the plan for spending the new National Housing Strategy money. When will that plan be available to the public? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As committee is well aware, we have had discussions in committee on where we are with this funding. We are developing a three-year action plan, and we did say and committed that we would share that action plan with the committee. We can work on providing where we are with that action plan and the partnerships that we have with CMHC. As committee is aware, we did have some committee members come to Inuvik for the Housing Summit, and we did also hear other innovative ideas and other ways that we can address the housing issue in the Northwest Territories.

We will look at working with committee and give an update once this three-year action plan has been approved by the federal government, and we will share the final action plan with committee. I think that it is something that is going to be very important, transitioning into the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I didn't hear any timing around that, but I heard some process responses. As we come to the end of this Assembly, my question for the Minister is whether any of the public housing waiting lists are shorter now than they were three years ago and whether, over these last four years, there has been any increase in the uptake in home ownership?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As the Member knows, and we did have a chat a little bit earlier, there has been an increase in terms of public housing. It could be due to the economy; we don't know. I know that people who go into market rental units do have to get on the waiting list for housing. We can get that information and share it with the Member, share it with committee, so that we can look at how we can address the issues.

One positive thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we are doing these community housing plans and that should look at the priorities for each community across the Northwest Territories. As the Member noted in her statement, she did also talk about the Community Housing Support initiative, the flexibility that we have around that program, and I do

encourage all leadership, all groups who want to work on addressing housing issues in their community, to reach out to us at the NWT Housing Corporation and come up with a plan.

MS. GREEN: A previous plan called Toward Level Ground set targets for the Housing Corporation to assist people with housing issues. The goal was to help 1,077 households and spend \$67 million. This plan is now in year three of three. Can the Minister tell us whether this plan is going to meet those goals?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The action plan in the document Toward Level Ground lists a number of housing programs and initiatives that I have brought up and that previous Housing Ministers have brought up during the life of this government to address the housing issues. We continue to work on that. We want to create partnerships with other leadership across the territories and our stakeholders and NGOs, and the GNWT has made a commitment to assist 250 core need households every year during this period. We have been meeting those targets, and we have been giving that information to committee. We will continue to do that work, and we will continue to keep committee and Members of this government apprised of how we are addressing the housing issues across the Northwest Territories.

I will repeat it again, Mr. Speaker: those community housing plans, and putting some of the onus and the accountability on our leadership and our community members to address that and work together, is something that we can look forward to, and obviously, the funding that we have been able to get from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his response. I look forward to some more detailed information about how the targets set in the Toward Level Ground report or plan have been met, because the Minister's math and the numbers set out in the plan don't match. I am hoping that, now that this program is in year three of three, he will be able to do some detailed reporting on the first two years. When can we expect that report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I know that we have been making some good changes within the NWT Housing Corporation. We will get that data for the Member, and we will actually share it with standing committee. I think it is something that we need to share right across the board. The Housing Summit that we just held in late April is something that was also brought up, and we really need to share and

develop partnerships with our leadership in the communities and see how we can address the issues. We will get that information, that data, and share it with all Members and leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 707-18(3):
DIVESTMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HOUSING CORPORATION INVENTORY

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement, I spoke about divestment of public housing by the NWT Housing Corporation. Along that line, I have questions for the Minister of Housing. For planning purposes, will the Minister get the NWT Housing Corporation to look at all of the public housing tenants to see how many of them are paying rent in the two top bands that are provided to authorities for rent amounts? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From data that we have compiled since January, there are approximately 270 households making a significant amount of money, about \$5,000 a month. Our local housing organizations are working with some of these owners, the ones that are in higher incomes, to explore home ownership and support options with our department to see how we can address those.

On the other note, we do have a unit disposal plan, where we have sold about 20 units in 2018-2019. We have also demolished 20 units across the territory where we can build new units, whether it is public housing that needs to be addressed. We are on a plan, and we are continuing to work diligently on addressing the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Will the Minister agree to share that plan with us, the plan where it looks like the Minister is looking at divesting public housing, which I think is the right direction to go? I would like to ask the Minister if he is prepared to share that plan with us, indicating how many units that the Housing Corporation could probably divest itself of.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Since April 1, 2016, we have been working on trying to make a commitment to dispose of 150 units. Currently, to date, we have disposed of 183 surplus units through a combination of sales, getting people into homeownership or lease-to-own, and also through demolition. That is something that we are going to continue to work on with feedback from communities and working with

standing committee. We will continue to do that work.

As I mentioned, the community housing plans are something that is unique, and I think, when we work with leadership and communities, that they can tell us what their priorities in terms of housing are, and we will address that community disposal unit.

MR. BEAULIEU: I first spoke of community housing development plans -- I add one word in there that is slightly different from what the government is doing, "development" -- in this House about 10 years ago. Can the Minister advise how many of these plans, whether they are called community housing plans or community development housing plans, exist today across the territory?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In the last session that we had, we had a similar question, and I did mention that we had six communities that we were looking forward to developing community housing plans across the Northwest Territories. We set that as the goal for our first year.

Since we have had the Housing Summit and since we have been reaching out to leaders across the territory, we have about 10 community housing plans in place, and we will continue to work with our leadership and our community NGOs. I will continue to encourage our leadership across the NWT, whether it is NGOs or whether it is mayors and chiefs, to reach out to the NWT Housing Corporation and work on setting up a community housing plan so that we know how to invest the dollars. Rather than us telling them what they need, they tell us, and we will invest the funding that we have received from the federal government and the work that we have been doing there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise whether he can incorporate a divestment plan, community by community, in these community development plans? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We did make a commitment that we would look at trying to demolish and sell units, about 50 a year, and we are reaching and going over those targets. As we develop these community plans with leadership and people in the community, that is something that we are going to have to address. We don't want to be the ones who tell communities what they need and what they want. It has to be a responsibility between leadership from the communities and us, working together, as I mentioned, to address the housing priorities; and yes, we will be making that a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 708-18(3):
LIQUOR PRICING

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, as of April 1st, the prices of beer for licensees in the City of Yellowknife increased dramatically: for draft brewers, around 10 to 18 percent; bottled beer, 20 percent; and wine, 6 percent. These are significant costs to their businesses and their ability to maintain a viable business without passing on too many costs to the consumer. These are far ahead of what was advertised by the NWT Liquor Commission, who said the prices would be modest. Can the Minister responsible for the Commission respond to what caused these price increases, clearly, on the public record? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see the Member advocating for, even though he said he is not, lower prices for alcohol in the Northwest Territories, knowing the effect that alcohol has on the people of the Northwest Territories. Terminating the contract with the liquor warehouse did result in lower costs to consumer at the liquor stores and, as an unintended consequence of levelling the cost structure for liquor stores and licensees, there was a significant increase to licensees in Yellowknife. We missed that, and as Minister, I take responsibility for that.

It has been addressed. The Member is well aware of how it has been addressed, because we communicated that to him, through a discount program, and that discount program is throughout the Northwest Territories, not just Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I am a bit confused. The Minister mentioned that the goal here is not to lower the price of alcohol, and yet it seems like that is what was achieved, while the price, as an unintended consequence, went up. Can the Minister clarify: what was the price decrease for consumers as a result of this change?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Well, there was a price decrease to consumers because, through the discount program, the licensees were actually paying a lesser price than they were able to then pass along those savings to the consumers. I have the numbers here. I could look at possibly putting these on the website so that they know exactly what the prices went down to. It is right in my briefing book. The licence holders paid 8.3 percent

less for spirits, 6.1 percent less for wine, and then they did pay a bit more for canned and bottled beer, because I think it is costed on a volume basis.

We have taken steps to ensure that the licensees didn't feel the brunt of it as much as they may have, which was unintended, but through this particular initiative, in not renewing the contract, I believe that we reduced about \$1.2 million in inventory that was held at the warehouse.

MR. TESTART: I think that this information is important for the public to know. It has yet to be fully explained. Can the Minister commit to publicizing the full extent of this information, the total pricing traces, the total price decreases after the subsidy program, and how the subsidy program is going to work to benefit the hospitality industry in Yellowknife and throughout the Northwest Territories?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I will look at possibly doing this, if I am able, to make that public to the 1 percent who are quite interested in it. The other 99 percent are wondering why we are lowering the price, knowing the effect that it is having on people in the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister has made this choice when his personal feelings are quite different, but our hospitality industry is not about liquor. It's about jobs. It's about business opportunities in the capital and throughout the Northwest Territories. If we are going to support tourism and other opportunities, we need to support it, as well.

There have been calls to reform Canada's antiquated liquor systems. Ontario is moving towards a major reform of policy. There seems to be interest on the ground from, at least, my constituents and the people I have spoken to. Will the Minister, in undertaking the price evaluation, look to consulting with folks on how we can modernize our liquor system and make sure that it is fair, competitive, and offers consumers more choice? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Personal feelings aside, I think that the department has done a good job in trying to mitigate the impact that it was going to have on licensees. I think that we have done that. I have asked the department to do a whole briefing policy review, and there are a number of other things that we may need to do.

I fully understand and I fully respect the impact that it might have on business in the Northwest Territories. I am not blind to that fact. We try to do what we can to have a balance here between the

needs of business and the Northwest Territories, and I think we have addressed that. If I am able to, I will make some of the information that we have provided along public so that people will know that we have taken steps to ensure that the licensees are protected in this, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 709-18(3):
COMMUNICATION OF YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT
BOARDING DELAYS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My statement earlier today outlined the sequence of providing airline passengers with crucial information regarding flight check-in times at the Yellowknife Airport. I have given the Minister advance warning of questions today, so I wonder if he could first tell me: how far in advance did the Yellowknife managers know about the renovations in the baggage area, and how long were they told the renovations would take to complete? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the notes here. Thank you to the Member for giving us the heads-up on this. I am going to take the opportunity to actually let the public know what we are actually doing out there. These renovations are part of a larger project. The whole baggage-screening recapitalization, which is funded by CATSA, which is the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, the funding was approved in December of 2018. The contract for the building modifications included the renovations to the oversized screening area, to level 2 and level 3 screening areas. For those of you who do not know, that is located behind the check-in counters. Currently, the contractor is working to complete the first phase. This required temporary shutdown of baggage-handling systems to check baggage for flights. The public communication about the impact to the travelling public began prior to the project starting, and it was communicated that the public should arrive 90 minutes in advance for a few weeks until the end of May. We have been working closely with the contractor to have this first phase finished as soon as possible, and we are on target to have it completed by the end of May.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that. The funding came through in December, and the news release from the department went out on May the 10th, 10 days after the work was already started. I think the Minister would agree that it's a pretty big deal missing your flight because you arrived too

late at the airport, and I understand the Minister has some personal experience with this, so I hope that we would all agree that a comprehensive multimedia awareness campaign alerting the public to these facts is very important to convey to air travellers in Yellowknife. Can the Minister explain why there was no comprehensive communications campaign about the need to come to the airport at least 30 minutes in advance of the 60-minute check-in time?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I think the House will be very surprised with what we have done here. There were several communications tactics used to notify the public in advance, and I will be very specific: radio ads ran from April 24th to May 10th, that is radio ads; there were two newspaper ads, April 24th and May 3rd; posters were distributed to local businesses within the community, alerting the travelling public about the situation; several tweets were issued in the days leading up to the start of construction; and a public announcement was issued later to confirm the status and estimated completion dates.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that detailed information. I guess I missed the ad on April 24th, but the news release from the department, not everybody tweets, not everybody has access to the Internet. The news release only went out on May 10th, 10 days after the work was already started. Can the Minister tell us when this work is going to be completed at the airport and how many people have missed their flights as a result of this work?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I said, currently, phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by end of May. That is phase 1, and we will be notifying the public when we are doing the other stuff. Neither the Yellowknife airport nor the Department of Infrastructure has received any complaints on this matter. We are not aware of any flights being delayed or any passengers who have missed their flights. Travellers have cooperated and have been arriving early to avoid congestion. We have been monitoring the passenger flow, and the interim system has been functioning well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Final oral question. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that information. I mentioned that there is no notice of the extra time for check-in on the Yellowknife Airport Authority website, and there does not seem to be much collaboration with airline partners as there is no information that I can find on their websites about the need for an early check-in. Can the Minister tell us how the department would improve its communications next time around regarding

planned construction delays at the Yellowknife airport?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have said, this is only the first stage of a larger CATSA project. We can take some lessons learned from this. Even the email that I sent out to all Members stating what was going on there, we will make sure that that gets out there before we start these things. I have to double check, though, for the Member, but I think, when you actually book your ticket, they actually notify you, the airlines notify you what's going on at the airport. I will have to check into that, but I have been informed, I think, that is the possibility of what's going on when you book your ticket.

You know, communications has always been an issue in this Legislative Assembly, and we have continued to strive to make things better. We realize not everybody is on Twitter or on Facebook or reads the newspaper, which makes things difficult, but we will try to do our best to communicate well in advance of what we can do coming up with the next CATSA projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 710-18(3):
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKING
GROUP

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my questions here, this is directed to the Minister of Infrastructure. As mentioned in my statement, the Department of Infrastructure and the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated achieved a signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to undertake jointly the environmental assessment and, in the process, the establishment of a working group. My first question to the Minister: would the Minister support a youth appointment to the working group? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The MoU that was signed between SSI and ourselves, the Sahtu Secretariat, was intended to formalize the working relationship between parties on the advancement of the Mackenzie Valley Highway through the environmental and regulatory reviews. The MoU provides for the creation of a working group with members of working group to be appointed by the SSI and the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure. Each party to the MoU is responsible for selecting its own members to the working group. SSI is responsible for

appointing its own members to the working group, which could include a youth member if they wish, but, in addition, under the MoU, the SSI may also designate other Sahtu organizations to work with Infrastructure to complete the required work on specific topics such as socio-economic studies. The SSI could consider youth issues and youth involvement in selecting these designated organizations and members.

MR. MCNEELY: I am glad for that reply. It seems to be going in the direction of transferring knowledge through experience, and it would be just, I would say, a huge experience if a youth could actually participate with feet on the ground here with the working group to engage community sessions during the environmental assessment. My next question, then, Mr. Speaker: would the Minister undertake working costs options with the Minister responsible for Youth for this position?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As the Minister responsible, I would be working with all of my Cabinet colleagues to strive to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment, but, as part of that, the Government of the Northwest Territories' internal efforts to organize itself and move this project forward, the GNWT working groups will be created and led by Infrastructure to address specific issues. These working groups will consist of our government staff from various departments, of course, and agencies, and it is expected that youth issues will be addressed by the appropriate working groups.

MR. MCNEELY: Would the Minister send me an email of the options that are available in both of my previous questions?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Certainly, I can follow up with that. I would like to add one more comment, I guess. It's up to the SSI if they want to have youth involvement. Myself, I can reach out to the SSI leadership and have these discussions on possibilities of having youth involvement in this, and I would encourage the Member and all Members to encourage the SSI leadership maybe to include future leadership people or youth people who want to be involved in this thing going forward.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final oral question, Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is really not a question, but a note for the Minister to collaborate in future actions. I think it would be very promising on behalf of this government, as the proponent and the applicant to that section of infrastructure down the corridor, to actually send the message to the communities on engagement that we do have a youth at the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Comment from the Member. Let's try to keep question period to questions. Next, I have the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 711-18(3):
DIVESTITURE OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few more questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I was interested to hear him tell my colleague, Mr. Beaulieu, that the Housing Corporation had divested of 183 units in the last three years. Could the Minister tell us, even in general terms, how many of those units were sold to homeowners and how many of them were demolished? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get back to the Member on the detail. I did mention that, since April 1, 2016, there have been 183 units that we have demolished or sold. The detail that I can give the Member at this moment is that, during 2018-2019, we did sell 20 units and we demolished 20 more.

We are still continuing to work with communities and working with our residents in terms of findings ways that we can get them into a home ownership program or a lease-to-own program. I can get that detail from the Housing Corporation, and I will share it with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the detail that the Minister was able to provide. I think that he would agree with the statement that, with a waiting list of over 900 households, bringing more 20 more units into circulation, while is some progress, is clearly not enough progress.

Consistently, there has been a low uptake on housing for several reasons. A new one that I learned about at the Housing Summit is the high cost of insurance. Apparently, insurance companies are reluctant to insure homes in communities without fire departments and/or hydrants. My question for the Minister, then: is there anything that the Housing Corporation can do to help potential homeowners with the cost of insurance?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, I was really appreciative that standing committee was able to attend the Housing Summit in Inuvik and listen to some of the concerns that were brought up, whether it was by industry, whether it was by leadership, or whether it was by non-government organizations. We do know that accessing home insurance can be challenging and very costly in

some of our communities. However, I would just like Members, residents, and our groups to know that insurance costs are established by insurance providers, and we do not have the ability to adjust those rates, Mr. Speaker.

However, as noted in Inuvik, we will do some thorough research and look at the options that might be available to us and the resulting financial costs moving forward.

MS. GREEN: I recognize that insurance rates are set by the insurance industry, but one possibility that I would like to bring to the Minister's attention is a self-insurance scheme, where the insurance is provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the homeowners so that it is more affordable to them and it meets the goal of moving people who can afford to get out of public housing out of public housing.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned in the last answer, we are going to look at and do some research on the options that would be available. Once we look at those options and do the research, we would share it with standing committee, and we would share it with Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I hope that the research will include a self-insurance option. Could the Minister tell us when we could see the results of this research? When does he plan to have that completed? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: At this time, I don't have a timeline. Coming out of the Housing Summit, we are developing a report that we are going to share with our leadership, that we are going to share with our stakeholders, and that we are going to work with people who came to the Housing Summit. That is a priority, everything that came out of the Housing Summit, where we had leaders from 24 of our communities across the Northwest Territories. We want to make sure that we know what the next steps are. At this moment, we don't have a timeline, but we will look into that research. That is something that we are committed to, but our staff also needs to work on developing the programs and promote the programs.

As I mentioned, we had six community housing plans as a goal, and now we have 10 communities that we are working with. After the summit, I am sure that we are going to be expecting more communities come and reach out to the Housing Corporation to do more work. Once we get that information, we will share it with standing committee and Members, but right now, I don't have a timeline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 15-18(3): GNWT PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSOCIATION FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ROUNDUP, JANUARY 2019

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 15-18(3), asked by the Member for Frame Lake on February 5, 2019, to the honourable Premier, related to the Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup, in January 2019.

I would like to advise you that six Ministers and 30 staff, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), traveled to Vancouver to attend the Roundup on January 28-31, 2019. Additionally, the GNWT supported the participation of 15 individual representatives from Indigenous governments to attend the Roundup, which reflects the GNWT's continued effort to ensure that Indigenous governments are positioned to effectively participate in all stages of mineral development, including facilitating relationship building between Indigenous governments and mining industry players.

The GNWT participated in various mining and exploration events and engaged with stakeholders regarding the government's commitment to responsible mineral development within the Northwest Territories (NWT), and promoting our leading approach to Indigenous partnership and reconciliation. In addition, the Social-Economic Agreement between the GNWT and Fortune Minerals was signed. This formal agreement marks an important milestone for the NICO mine project, which will provide local employment and contribute to increased economic activity in the NWT.

The total cost of air travel for the 36 GNWT participants was \$41,823. All travel was economy class, except for six one-way business class flights where prices were lower than available economy seats.

Participants' accommodations costs varied by lengths of stay, but have been calculated at a total of \$37,270. Other expenses for the 36 GNWT participants, such as meals, incidentals, and transportation, totalled \$25,411. No allowances were paid.

The GNWT paid \$2,363 in Roundup registration fees, and exhibition costs charged to the GNWT totalled \$54,031. No consultant fees were paid.

In addition, the GNWT paid \$2,097 for registration costs for professional development courses offered as a component of the conference. Northwest Territories Geological Survey geologists are both research scientists and members of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, the latter being required by NWT legislation. For both of these roles, ongoing professional development is a requirement.

The GNWT supported the participation of 15 individuals representing NWT Indigenous governments at this year's Roundup. The associated costs for the participation of these individuals totalled \$65,000.

The hospitality events hosted by the GNWT were a Premier's Indigenous Partners Luncheon attended by 72 people, an NWT Open House attended by 320 people, an Indigenous Development Corporation Panel Session attended by 70 people, and a meeting with the Governments of Yukon and British Columbia. The cost associated with hosting these three events was a total of \$53,294.

Each of these events provided NWT Cabinet members, members of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, and Indigenous leaders with opportunities to address and network with industry representatives and those interested in the mineral exploration industry.

Other costs related to the GNWT's participation in the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup included the hiring of a videographer and photographer for the event, which totalled \$5,100.

The GNWT's direct costs and contributions associated with the participation at the Roundup in 2016 totalled approximately \$137,000, approximately \$196,359 in 2017, approximately \$277,530 in 2018, and \$286,389 in 2019. The approximate \$8,000 increase in annual costs from prior years to attend Roundups can mainly be attributed to the NTGS professional development costs, as well as the additional cost of hiring a videographer and photographer for the event.

The total costs included provide detail related to Roundup 2019 calculated as of March 26, 2019. Should any additional costs be identified, I expect they will be minor.

The investment in GNWT participation at Roundup is more critical that it has ever been. At a time when commodity markets are showing strong signs of recovery and the level of interest in the NWT mining sector potential is notably growing, it is paramount that the NWT profile and presence at such resource conferences not only remain high, but expands. Globally, encouraging signs and forecasts point to

an upward trend in exploration activity and investment.

The NWT competes in this global environment and must be present and increasingly active at such important resource conferences as Roundup in order to take advantage of a positive outlook for the mining sector and attract more investment to NWT projects. The territory's existing mines are moving towards or have passed maturity, so strong action must be taken to find and develop new mineral deposits and advance those projects already established.

Roundup was an opportunity for Indigenous delegates to learn more about the opportunities within the mining sector, how the mining sector operates, promote the resource and business partnership potential of their respective regions and, most importantly, establish relationships and connections that may lead to future development opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 16-18(3):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION RATES

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 16-18(3) asked by the Member for Kam Lake on February 26, 2019, to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, regarding the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1. The classes and subclasses of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission rates which could be applied to the Government of the Northwest Territories, based on the type of work performed by the Government of the Northwest Territories departments similar to that performed by private industry;

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission presently classifies employers into 17 different subclasses.

- Subclass 10 / Renewable Resources and Outdoor Recreation
- Subclass 22 / Mining Operation
- Subclass 27 / Mining Services
- Subclass 37 / Oil & Gas Servicing, Development, Refining and Pipeline Operations
- Subclass 41 / General Construction
- Subclass 43 / Mobile Equipment Operations, Logging and Marine

Construction

- Subclass 46 / Mechanical Installation & Servicing
- Subclass 51 / Air Transportation
- Subclass 53 / Ground Transportation
- Subclass 54 / Trucking, General and Long Distance and Water Transportation
- Subclass 62 / Retail, Wholesale and Light Manufacturing
- Subclass 66 / Automotive Sales and Services and Metal Fabrication
- Subclass 71 / Business, Communication and Amusement Services
- Subclass 74 / Health, Welfare and Emergency Services
- Subclass 76 / Accommodation, Catering, Food & Beverage Services
- Subclass 81 / Government of the NWT and Nunavut & Public Utilities
- Subclass 82 / Authorities and D.E.W. Line

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission does not have the required information to ascertain into which of the existing subclasses employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories may best align. Such an exercise would have to be undertaken in consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories as the existing employer of record.

2. The total amount of fees in dollar amount paid to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission by the Government of the Northwest Territories in fiscal year 2017-18;

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission fiscal year is the calendar year. For 2018 the Government of the Northwest Territories paid \$4,565,629 in total assessment fees.

3. The four-year average of fees in dollar amount paid to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission by the Government of the Northwest Territories;

The four-year average of assessment fees paid to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission by the Government of the Northwest Territories for the period 2015-2018 is \$4,393,537.

4. The dollar amount of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission compensation paid out to the Government of the Northwest Territories employees in fiscal year 2017-2018; and

Costs associated with workplace injuries include the following:

- Direct costs for compensation and pension payments;
- Costs for medical treatment and ongoing care;
- Costs for vocational rehabilitation;
- Travel associated with provision of care and rehabilitation; and
- The administrative costs of case management.

The above costs can and are paid out over the lifetime of a claim, which can vary in length from very short-term to decades. Actuarial estimates are used with models consistently updated to best capture the costs for an individual calendar year. Those costs are captured and reflected on the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's financial statements. The liability associated with all claims as at the end of 2017 was \$362 million.

Specific to the Government of the Northwest Territories amounts paid out for all claims years to the Government of the Northwest Territories employees totalled \$4,768,567.

5. The four year average in dollar amount of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission compensation paid out to the Government of the Northwest Territories employees?

The four year average of amounts paid for all claim years to the Government of the Northwest Territories employees for the period 2015-2018 is \$3,735,777. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee

on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and that Bill 29 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Infrastructure.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 400-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 502-18(3): AVALON NECHALACHO RARE EARTH ELEMENTS PROJECT

TABLED DOCUMENT 401-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 567-18(3): ICE BRIDGES AND ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 402-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 650-18(3): SACHS HARBOUR POWER GENERATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 403-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 670-18(3): SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY LICENCES

TABLED DOCUMENT 404-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 574-18(3): MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WAIT TIMES

TABLED DOCUMENT 405-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 588-18(3): DENTAL SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 406-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 600-18(3): REGIONAL WELLNESS COUNCILS

TABLED DOCUMENT 407-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 612-18(3): YELLOWKNIFE ADULT DAY PROGRAMMING

TABLED DOCUMENT 408-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 628-18(3): STANTON HOSPITAL TRANSITION

TABLED DOCUMENT 409-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 636-18(3): MEASLES VACCINE

TABLED DOCUMENT 410-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
661-18(3): CARING FOR ELDERLY IN
COMMUNITIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 411-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
681-18(3): MEDICAL TRAVEL BOARDING HOME
CONCERNS

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents entitled "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 502-18(3), Avalon Nechalacho Rare Earth Elements Project"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 567-18(3), Ice Bridges and Roadside Assistance"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 650-18(3), Sachs Harbour Power Generation"; and "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 670-18(3), Significant Discovery Licences."

On behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services, I wish to table the following eight documents entitled "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 574-18(3): Mental Health Services Wait Times"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 588-18(3): Dental Services in Small Communities"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 600-18(3): Regional Wellness Councils"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 612-18(3): Yellowknife Adult Day Programming"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 628-18(3): Stanton Hospital Transition"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 636-18(3): Measles Vaccine"; "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 661-18(3): Caring for Elders in Communities"; and "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 681-18(3): Medical Travel Boarding Home Concerns." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister of Lands.

TABLED DOCUMENT 412-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
570-18(3): SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
REDWATER DECISION

TABLED DOCUMENT 413-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
651-18(3): EQUITY LEASES

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 570-18(3): Supreme Court of Canada Redwater Decision" and "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 651-18(3): Equity Leases." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 414-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
511-18(3): CONSULTATIONS ON THE
BATHURST CARIBOU HERD

TABLED DOCUMENT 415-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
520-18(3): CONSULTATION ON SUGAR-
SWEETENED DRINKS TAX

TABLED DOCUMENT 416-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
524-18(3): INDIGENOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS

TABLED DOCUMENT 417-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
625-18(3): TLICHO ALL-SEASON ROAD COSTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 418-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
647-18(3): DEVELOPING A KNOWLEDGE
ECONOMY

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following five documents entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 511-18(3): Consultations on the Bathurst Caribou Herd"; "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 520-18(3): Consultation on Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Tax"; "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 524-18(3): Indigenous Training Programs"; "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 625-18(3) Tlicho All Season Road Costs"; and, "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 647-18(3): Developing a Knowledge Economy." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

TABLED DOCUMENT 419-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
547-18(3): SEXUAL ABUSE IN AMATEUR SPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 420-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
629-18(3): HEATING ISSUES AT JOE
GREENLAND CENTRE

TABLED DOCUMENT 421-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
686-18(3): NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CONSUMER RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

TABLED DOCUMENT 422-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
697-18(3): NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND
NUNAVUT WORKERS' SAFETY AND
COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following four documents entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 547-18(3): Sexual Abuse in Amateur Sport"; "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 629-18(3): Heating Issues at Joe Greenland Centre"; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 686-18(3): Northwest Territories Consumer Rights and Protections"; and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 697-18(3): Northwest Territories and Nunavut Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

TABLED DOCUMENT 423-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
562-18(3): RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR
ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER OF
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION RENEWAL

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 562-18(3): Recruitment Process for Associate Deputy Minister of Postsecondary Education Renewal." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 424-18(3):
LETTER DATED APRIL 25, 2019 FROM GIANT
MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD REGARDING
OBSERVATIONS ON MEASURE 6: EVALUATION
OF LONG-TERM FUNDING OPTIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I wish to table the following document. It's a letter dated April 25, 2019, from the Giant Mine Oversight Board to Crown Indigenous Relations, Northern Affairs Canada, regarding Observations on Measure 6: Evaluation of Long-Term Funding Options. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with the Member for Mackenzie Delta in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. I will now call Committee of the Whole

to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to consider Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Committee, we have agreed to consider Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement. I will now open the floor to comments on Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement.

Seeing no comments, does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. We have concluded consideration of Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement. Mr. Beaulieu.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Any abstentions? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 131-18(3): Sessional Statement, and would like to report that Minister's Statement 131-18(3) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. There's a motion on the floor. All those in favour? All those opposed? Can I get a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, May 24, 2019, 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 the Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 26, Statistics Act
 - Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act
 - Committee Report 15-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 30: An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act
 - Minister's Statement 151-18(3), New Federal Infrastructure Agreement
 - Minister's Statement 158-18(3), Developments in Early Childhood Programs and Services
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

