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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Members Present

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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

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

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 161-18(2): SINGLE WINDOW SERVICE CENTRES - PILOT PROJECT WITH SERVICE CANADA

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the Government of the Northwest Territories has partnered with the Government of Canada to provide more in-person services to the residents of the Northwest Territories, through our single window service centres.

Earlier this year, our two governments launched a 12-month service delivery pilot project in Fort Providence, Fort Liard, and Tuktoyaktuk. Government services officers in these communities are now providing in-person services on behalf of Service Canada, in addition to their current duties for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The government services officers were trained to help residents with applications for six federal programs: Apprenticeship Grants, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Old Age Security and the Wage Earner Protection Program.

Mr. Speaker, our single window service centres have been an important way to make sure the residents of the Northwest Territories' small communities have access to government programs and services in a way that works for them. We are pleased to be partnering with the Government of Canada to formally extend access to Government of Canada programs and services in these three communities.

The single window service centres are an already successful program, and since it was launched in 2010, the program has grown across the Northwest

Territories from eight to 20 centres and has helped residents with over 40,000 requests for services.

In 2014, the Government of the Northwest Territories received a national award from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada for the single window service centres recognizing the model for its innovative management. Connecting residents with the programs and services they need is important and we continue to work and improve upon the services that the government service officers provide.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently working on establishing the twenty-first single window service centre on Hay River Dene Reserve K'atloodeeche First Nation, with an anticipated opening early in April.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is an important way that government is more accessible to residents, and I want to thank Members, community residents, local leadership, as well as community and Government of the Northwest Territories staff for their ongoing support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 162-18(2): ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, in a couple of weeks, the Department of Lands will mark its third anniversary. Tasked with managing and administering 1.15 million square kilometres of land in the Northwest Territories, the department has been working to serve residents in a way that reflects the Northwest Territories' interests and priorities.

Our work takes us across the entire Northwest Territories and our staff works with various partners, governments and landowners to ensure we are managing land and resources in a fair and transparent manner.

Much of the way in which we engage, and a standard this government is working to achieve for land management, is set out in the Land Use and Sustainability Framework.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to create a defined set of collective land use and sustainability objectives. Lands is working with other Government of the Northwest Territories departments on this commitment by looking at how they apply to land management strategies and frameworks. Taken together, this will give us the baseline information to develop an approach to ensure the objectives figure significantly in our decision processes.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has also made a commitment in its mandate to evolve our land and resource management legislative, regulatory, and policy systems. In support of this goal, the Department of Lands is currently working on administrative and technical amendments to the Government of the Northwest Territories' two land acts; notably, the Northwest Territories Lands Act and the Commissioner's Land Act.

With two land administration systems now under one government, this initiative supports consistency in administrative application and enhanced clarity for land users. Engagement and consultation activities will occur at various stages of this initiative. This summer, we will have a discussion paper ready to share with Aboriginal governments and with the general public.

As part of a separate initiative, the Department of Lands has proposed regulatory changes to fee schedules that would affect those accessing services from document preparation and application fees to royalty collection and permit fees for quarrying.

We have also reviewed lease rent minimums with the objective of better aligning the two land administration systems. Updates to these fees have been proposed based on a number of factors, including inflation.

In addition to this work, the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed in its mandate to work to improve the Northwest Territories integrated resource management regime to ensure it reflects the Northwest Territories interests and priorities. The Department of Lands coordinates the Government of the Northwest Territories' input into amendments to the federal Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and regulations, a key feature of the NWT's integrated resource management regime. We have started engaging with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act to reverse amendments that would have resulted in restructuring of the land and water boards in the Mackenzie Valley. In addition, the Department has been actively involved in coordinating the Government of the Northwest

Territories' input in the Expert Panel for the Review of Federal Environmental Assessment Processes. As part of our input, we continue to voice the need for participant funding for environmental assessment processes in the Northwest Territories.

As Minister of Lands I am responsible for nominating members to various boards created under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act concerned with environmental review and land use planning, as well as appointments to the Surface Rights Board. The department established a screening process and related procedures to ensure board vacancies are filled in a timely matter, with the most qualified nominees available for each position.

The department continues to help the government meet a high standard for environmental assessment and improve our integrated resource management system.

Mr. Speaker, we recently collaborated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and MVRMA boards, to host resource co-management workshops in Hay River and Norman Wells. These workshops support the mandate commitment to ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development.

The government's mandate commits it to developing an integrated, comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites. The Department of Lands is supporting this commitment through work the Securities and Project Assessment Division is doing to address how we handle and process securities and assess risk. Consistent with the strategic direction in the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, our Shared Services Informatics Centre is working with the Securities Division to develop enhanced information-management capacity for tracking securities and assisting in evidence-based decision-making.

Further to that, the department is collaborating with ENR and other departments through an interdepartmental working group to build and implement an inventory of securities and tracking systems over the next few months. Mr. Speaker, creating certainty around land use is critical to the environmental and economic future of the Northwest Territories. Regional land use plans are the primary instrument to define where certain activities can and cannot take place in a specific region or area, and land use planning is a collaborative process that requires strong relationships between communities and governments.

To help create greater certainty for all land users, the GNWT has made a commitment, in its mandate, to complete land use plans in all areas, in collaboration with Aboriginal governments. The department's work on meeting this mandate item includes the development of regional land use planning guidelines, to clarify the Government of the Northwest Territories' role in land-use planning.

In addition, the department will host its third annual Land-Use Planning Forum in March 2017. We have invited Aboriginal governments and land-use planning partners to share information and perspectives on how the current and planned approaches, tools, and activities of planning partners can contribute to advancing land-use planning, in areas without completed land-use plans.

We have also initiated work with the Tlicho Government to develop a planning mechanism for public lands within the Wek'eezhii Management Area. Any final land use plan that is developed through the planning mechanism is directly linked to the provisions of the Tlicho Agreement, and those provisions will also make the plan legally binding on all governments.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the department is close to completing work to develop a framework that will articulate the Government of the Northwest Territory's goals and priorities for managing recreational leasing on public lands in the Northwest Territories, another commitment of our mandate.

The department also recognized the need for targeted recreational management planning for the public lands outside and around Yellowknife, Ndilo and Detah. Public engagement sessions and online surveys were held last year, giving residents and stakeholders several opportunities for input into the development of the plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area. The draft plan is expected to be released for public comment this summer. The Government of the Northwest Territories will ensure section 35 consultation responsibilities are met, prior to finalizing the plan.

This work will ensure that Northerners continue to have diverse opportunities to experience and enjoy northern land and waters, in ways that are most meaningful to them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Lands takes its commitments to help this government achieve all of its priorities seriously. We will continue to work toward improving the Northwest Territories' integrated resource management system, while meeting our land use and sustainability objectives, and the aspirations of

Northwest Territories residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 163-18(2):
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINERAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories made a commitment in its mandate to support mineral exploration and the mining sector by implementing the Mineral Development Strategy.

I rise today to update my colleagues on our progress. Mr. Speaker, the Mineral Development Strategy has five pillars: creating a competitive edge; establishing a new regulatory environment; enhancing Aboriginal engagement and capacity; promoting sustainability; and enriching workforce development and public awareness.

In our work to create a competitive edge for mining in the NWT, we have placed incentives and advanced world-class geoscience to improve our jurisdiction's investment attractiveness.

Over three years, we have invested \$1.2 million in our Mining Incentive Program. Our first two years of investment leveraged an additional \$3.36 million in exploration spending by companies and prospectors on their supported projects. In light of this interest, I am pleased with the decision last week to increase the budget for this fund by \$600,000.

We have provided extra work credits through the Exploration Incentive Program, as a stop-gap for companies in uncertain economic times. It is a program that, I am happy to advise Members, will be extended for an additional two years.

We have invested in developing the geoscience research and data that will enable responsible decision-making. Regional maps now detail the geology of the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Inuvialuit, and Deh Cho regions, as well as the Wek'eezhii Resource Management, and Akaitcho areas.

Mr. Speaker, we see our investments in geoscience as part of the broader public good. Not only does the Northwest Territories' Geological Survey generate and collect this information, it makes it available at no charge.

Our mineral industry drill core collection, including the world's largest publicly-available kimberlite collection, will be housed in a geological materials storage facility that we will open this summer. This collection, which will be available for examination year-round, significantly reduces costs for

companies and prospectors looking to evaluate older mineral prospects that may hold promise as new exploration projects.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, under the pillar of creating a competitive edge, we continue to find ways to promote exploration and mineral investment in the NWT. Last year's gala celebrating our 25-year history with the diamond industry is an example of how we are using the Unlocking our Potential brand to advance the profile and recognition of our territory's natural wealth and redouble our efforts to communicate our government's support for mining.

Mr. Speaker, while geological and economic considerations are important factors in determining mineral exploration and investment decisions, so is our region's policy climate. Last week, the Fraser Institute published its 2016 survey on mining and exploration companies worldwide.

It ranked the NWT as the seventh most attractive Canadian jurisdiction for mining. Out of 104 jurisdictions worldwide, the Northwest Territories was ranked 11th for best practices and mineral potential and 21st for investment attractiveness.

As part of establishing a new regulatory environment, we have begun work to create a new leading-edge Mineral Resources Act. This work is also part of our mandate commitment to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management, in accordance with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework. While creating legislation from scratch is a long process, we will draw on the latest science and best practices to create an act that will be key to the future of our largest industry.

Our work to promote the sustainability of our mineral development sector has included permafrost, and surficial geology research in the Slave Geological Province, which will help to ensure that any new developments in this region are undertaken with an eye to minimizing environmental impacts on our land and water.

Mr. Speaker, all of this work serves to raise public awareness for the mining industry, and its importance to our territory. It is a message that we take every opportunity to deliver. Working through its Client Service and Community Relations Unit, the Department of ITI has facilitated workshops with Aboriginal governments to create regional mineral development strategies. We have worked closely with the members of the Intergovernmental Council to promote NWT mining and minerals at events, further advancing the spirit of collaboration upon which our successful, modern mining industry was built.

Meanwhile, through the delivery of the Mining Matters program, we are also engaging students in

the stories of the NWT minerals and promoting career opportunities in mining in a user-friendly way.

As we work to implement the Mineral Development Strategy, we will continue to improve the climate for exploration and investment in our territory. As market and economic conditions change, we will need to focus and adjust the actions and investments in our strategy to meet this intended mark.

I look forward to continuing to shepherd this strategy, and advancing the NWT mining sector that is creating meaningful jobs and opportunities for our people and a stable, competitive future for our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW MINERAL RESOURCES ACT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Mr. Speaker. Following the Minister's statement about mining, our government is committed to the development of a Mineral Resources Act as part of our mandate.

A request for qualifications was issued for a consultant to develop and carry out a public engagement process resulting in a legislative proposal for this work. It closes on March 17th. The objective is the development of a world-class legislative framework for mining that:

- Encourages sufficient mineral exploration and production operations;
- Protects the land, water, and natural resources of the NWT;
- Modernizes the legislative framework and secures the greatest benefit for NWT residents;
- Provides clarity, predictability, and transparency for all stakeholders throughout the regulatory and operational processes;
- Provides employment and economic opportunities for NWT residents;
- Supports Aboriginal governments to build capacity for mining-related activities; and
- Builds consensus for mineral development.

All this sounds rather noble. I would like to suggest several specific issues and solutions.

First is to ensure that mineral exploration and development is fully subject to our integrated environmental management regime, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. There should be no exceptions or exemptions for the mining industry, as is currently the case.

Next, communities should have the ability to prohibit locating mineral claims within municipal boundaries to avoid land-use conflicts and disputes. The NWT Association of Communities has called for such authority, and this would likely require changes to the Surface Rights Board Act. We should also move this board to a co-management approach.

We should modify or end the free entry system to something more like the directed rights disposition system found in our oil and gas regime.

Capture geoscience data and information during exploration to build our knowledge base and avoid repeating environmental disturbance.

Review and adjust royalties from the extractions of public mineral resources. We are now in control and must ensure we retain fair and equitable returns from mineral resources.

I look forward to opportunities to meaningfully shape a new Mineral Resources Act. I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC SERVICE WELLNESS DAYS PROPOSAL

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe this government recognizes the value and importance of the continued health and wellbeing of their employees. However, these past two years have been difficult ones for the public service. Positions are being eliminated as a result of departmental amalgamations, people are being laid off, and unionized employees have been working without a signed contract for almost a year. As a result, our employees are not feeling good about their relationship with their employer. This needs to be fixed.

Mr. Speaker, wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and learning to make healthy choices. When you focus on keeping your mind, body, and soul in good condition, you can become a more efficient and effective person. We can achieve true wellness only when we proactively recognize that we have mental, physical, and social needs to look after.

A wellness program would help increase productivity, boost morale, and reduce stress. Because a lot of government jobs are sedentary, we need to come up with stretching and walking programs that can be implemented throughout the day. This will help stimulate the brain, help employees refocus, and help provide natural energy. As well, government could look at bringing in a relaxation coach or using videos to help employees learn about deep breathing techniques, tips for loosening up, and secrets for maintaining a relaxed state of mind, even when under pressure.

To truly achieve a healthy and sustainable work-life balance for its employees, the government needs to consider the creation of employee wellness days as part of the overall wellness strategy. These paid wellness days would be spread out across the year to allow employees to spend more time with their families, hobbies, or self.

I am proposing that wellness days be scheduled to fall on the Friday of the third week in February and the Fridays before the following statutory holidays: Victoria Day, August Civic Day, Labour Day, and Thanksgiving. This will give GNWT employees extra-long long weekends to recharge their batteries and return to work rested and enthusiastic about the work they do for the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, wellness programs would help employees make smart, and healthy choices that can reduce healthcare costs, increase vitality, and diminish workplace absenteeism. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues. I have shared these ideas with a number of GNWT employees, including the president of the Union of Northern Workers. I have heard positive support for this approach. I hope the government will give some serious consideration to this proposal. Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the Minister of Finance. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR SAHTU POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to visit almost all 25 students in the Sahtu region attending post-secondary or upgrading technical schooling in Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this resource as our next workforce, mentoring and future life skills counselling contributes to the graduation success rate of the youth.

Mr. Speaker, ECE is working in partnership with Aurora College in publication of a renewed labour market development and implementing the first year of the Skills 4 Success.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly continues to advocate for higher youth graduation candidates. Succession planning and counselling is the main tool of focus on collaborative engagement on the principle of job or career readiness. This element of engagement in forecasting opportunities must be developed to share our vision on prosperity to the youth pre-employment entries into the work world. Later, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEH CHO REGION

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, students in Fort Providence of the Introduction to Northern Leadership provided this statement to me to express on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, the tourism industry is a great opportunity for the Northwest Territories. Tourism brought in nearly \$94.1 million between 2010 and 2011. This number increased to \$146 million in the period from 2014 to 2015, which is approximately a 50 per cent increase. Tourism has made a comeback in the NWT and is an important part of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Providence can take advantage of this opportunity by upgrading Telemia to a tourist camp. Telemia is currently used as a cultural camp of the community and is located approximately 10 kilometres from Fort Providence on the Mackenzie River. Converting it to a tourist camp will enable Fort Providence to participate in the tourism boom in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the local people have the opportunity to explore careers in the tourism sector, as the daily operations of the tourist camp will create 40 jobs. Tourists will also have a chance to experience and learn about the rich Dene culture, food, and heritage that we are so proud of. This camp will create an opportunity for local businesses and foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has identified Aboriginal tourism as an important opportunity for the NWT.

We have allocated resources towards the development of regional tourism plans and initiatives. We need tourist attractions beyond Yellowknife and for people driving north.

Mr. Speaker, Telemia is a great example of that kind of opportunity and a way to showcase the culture and traditions of the North in a historically important location.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Industry, Tourism and Investment to offer all its support towards this project. I remain hopeful that this vision can come to fruition. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to report today on efforts to introduce a living wage in Yellowknife. The principle guiding this work is that people who work full time should not be living below the poverty line. Eleven Yellowknife organizations with a total of more than 300 employees have now signed with a pledge to pay their employees the living wage.

First, a little background. In 2015, a northern non-profit commissioned an economist to calculate a living wage for Yellowknife. The calculation was based on a 40-hour work week. It included expenses such as food, shelter, transportation, clothing, childcare, and recreation. It does not include paying debts, saving money, helping other family members financially, or owning a pet, among other things. It really is just the basics. The living wage for Yellowknife was calculated for a family of four with two full-time wage earners and two children, one of those children in day care, one in school, as this is the most common family type. The living wage in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, is \$20.68 an hour for each full-time worker.

The research and calculation of a living wage are important when you consider that, in 2015, there were 1,700 people in Yellowknife making less than \$20 per hour, with most of that group earning less than \$16 per hour. Contrast this to the territorial minimum wage of \$12.50 per hour and you see how far short the legislated wage falls from the wage needed just to get by.

For low-income earners, a living wage can be a permanent solution to poverty. It relieves families of the stress of meeting basic expenses and dealing with financial emergencies. It also allows families to access social and recreational activities that most of us take for granted.

Workers earning a living wage have more money in their pockets to spend locally. They contribute more to the tax base, and that benefits the entire community. Staff retention and workplace productivity is increased, and recruitment and training costs are reduced for employers. Mr. Speaker, a living wage is truly a win-win situation for business and workers and it represents a systemic solution to poverty.

When you are out and about, look for the blue and white living wage supporter decal that living wage employers have posted in their establishments. Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, Outreach is continuing to get more businesses and organizations to take the living wage pledge. I salute Alternatives North for leading this work and all the living wage employers present and future.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STATE OF THE ECONOMY

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was happy to hear the Minister of ITI's statement earlier today. It was definitely some good news. However, Mr. Speaker, an article in the newspaper last week held some news that should trouble us all. Statistics Canada numbers show that, last month, the number of people employed in the NWT was at its lowest rate since 2010. The article indicates that, between last December and January, employment dropped by 700 people across the territory.

I know I'm sounding like a doom-and-gloom broken record, Mr. Speaker, but these discouraging numbers can be attributed to mine closures and corporate offices leaving the North: Imperial Oil planning to leave Norman Wells; Dominion Diamonds and De Beers have relocated to Calgary; layoffs at Diavik. Interestingly the Chamber of Commerce found during its membership drive last month that almost every business that cancelled its membership did so because it was leaving Yellowknife.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the Chamber of Mines announced that mining revenues have fallen in the NWT, and exploration activity continues to be flat.

Companies need to find economical ways to do business, Mr. Speaker. The situation begs for

solutions. Not that we can wave a magic wand to fix these problems, but the government needs to send clear signals that we are addressing the high cost of doing business in the territory. That high cost remains a barrier to the economic investment that we need to bring jobs back.

In our mandate, we made a commitment to lower the cost of living, but, instead, the average Northerner's dollar is shrinking by the week, Mr. Speaker. We have faced six straight years of rising power rates. If approved, an airport user fee will drive up the costs of everything. We're paying more at the pumps and in grocery stores because of Alberta's carbon tax, and we know that we're going to phase in our own carbon tax regime at some point. People work two or even three jobs just to be able to cover the basics, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague from Yellowknife Centre spoke exactly to this challenge earlier with regard to the living wage. The average person's dollar is getting stretched ever tighter, making it harder and harder for families to invest, save, and build upon their future, much less their kids' future. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, over the past weeks we've made good progress on the budget, and I appreciate the hard work of Members on both sides of this Chamber. We can now finally move forward. However, as you have heard me say before, I support being fiscally responsible, but not at the expense of our residents. I will continue to advocate that we focus on reducing the cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL CARBON PRICING SCHEME

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to speak to an issue that my honourable friends have brought up today, which is the cost of living and helping Northerners make ends meet, but also the coming cost pressures and expectations that Northerners have on their government.

We acknowledge that one part of living in the North that is so spectacular is our pristine environment that is unparalleled across the country and in the world. You know, we need to look at ways to promote a healthy environment and also a healthy economy. Across the world, really, carbon pricing has become a mechanism to do exactly that. However, this government continues to drag its feet

on moving forward with a real plan for carbon pricing in the Northwest Territories.

Others have spoken on this comment. Most recently, I have enquired with our Chamber of Commerce, and they have said that they do not have the capacity to reach out and participate in these meaningful consultations, and yet the government will provide, has provided, resources for others to do that. Our business community needs to be consulted in these very important decisions.

In our sister territory, in the Yukon, their Chamber of Commerce has reversed its position and is now in support of a carbon tax. They want to manage it through a third party, Green Energy Trust, and, while I will save that debate for another day, I think that they are proposing solutions, and good ones at that, to start this discussion going.

This government gives \$22 million back in cost-of-living tax credits to Northerners each year, and, with this most recent budget, that number is being enhanced. That is a good thing. Why do we not just make that commitment today to implement a carbon tax and give the money back to Northerners directly as a tax return? That is just one idea.

Lowering the cost of living is completely possible while still adopting a carbon tax. The writing is on the wall, Mr. Speaker. Ottawa is going to do it for us if we do not do it for ourselves. We still do not have anything on the table. We do not even have a list of exceptions that this government wants to ask Ottawa for, so I am afraid that, when the federal budget rolls out in 2018, we will have a carbon tax enforced on us because we have not done the hard work necessary to get some ideas on the table and start that process now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMITMENT TO THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are around 100 people in Hay River and Enterprise who are employed in the manufacturing sector. While Hay River is undoubtedly the heart of manufacturing in the territory, the sector is also growing in Yellowknife and Inuvik. In fact, since the economic crash in 2009, manufacturing has been growing every year and has more than doubled its share of the GDP. It continues to create dozens of new jobs yearly and sometimes monthly.

In the NWT, we manufacture modular homes, modular buildings, windows, doors, cabinetry,

trusses, signs, fiberglass tanks, steel tanks, tank stands, screw jacks, bridges, and pretty much anything that can be welded together. Do you need a custom-designed and fabricated water truck, a picker truck, a winch truck, a plow, deck, vacuum, roll-off, or fuel delivery truck? We do that, too. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on. I'm told that we even manufacture diamonds.

We should all know by now that we cannot continue to be so utterly reliant on the mining industry. The diamond mines have limited lifespans, and projects to replace them are not even on the horizon. While I'm sure such projects are an inevitability, the fact that we are at the edge of an economic precipice is proof that we need to be more proactive and aggressive in our development of other industries.

That's precisely why this Assembly voted unanimously to include in the mandate of this government, the commitment that the 18th Legislative Assembly will lead economic diversification in the NWT by investing in manufacturing and a commitment to develop a northern manufacturing strategy.

This will be no small task, Mr. Speaker. There are numerous barriers to growth that we have to overcome. The North is not like the rest of Canada. Our climate, energy costs, lack of infrastructure, and skills gap will require serious investment from this government and will require multiple departments to get out of their silos and work together.

I will give credit where it is due. Members of this Cabinet have made concerted efforts to advance manufacturing, and those efforts have resulted in dozens and dozens of jobs. Those efforts have also exposed many of the barriers faced by entrepreneurs, many of them bureaucratic. The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that those barriers can be removed. That is one reason why a manufacturing strategy is so important. I look forward to working with the Government in the development of this strategy, to helping put even more people to work.

I will have questions for the Minister of ITI at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statement. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 9-18(2): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2016 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA ON SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES – MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its report on the review of the 2016 report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories, municipal and community affairs, and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations (“the Standing Committee”) is pleased to report on its review of the 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories.

Public Review

The 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 25, 2016. The Standing Committee on Government Operations held its public review of this performance audit report on January 17, 2017.

Members thank Auditor General Mr. Michael Ferguson, Assistant Auditor General Mr. Jerome Berthelette, Principal Mr. Glenn Wheeler, and Lead Auditor Ms. Erin Jellinek for preparing the report and assisting the committee during the public review.

The committee also thanks the Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Eleanor Young, and officials from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) for their appearances before the Committee.

The standing committee received an unsolicited submission on the Auditor General's report from Mr. Bradley W. Enge. The standing committee does not, as a matter of practice, seek submissions from members of the public when it holds a public review on a report by a statutory officer such as the Auditor General. Nonetheless, the committee thanks Mr. Enge for taking time to write to the committee.

The Role of the Auditor General of Canada

The Auditor General of Canada is the Auditor of record for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and reports to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in accordance with Section 41 of the federal Northwest Territories Act.

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) conducts financial and performance audits in all three northern territories. Financial audits tell the Legislative Assembly and the public whether the government is keeping proper records and presenting its financial information fairly and in accordance with public sector accounting standards.

Performance audits, on the other hand, consider whether programs are being run according to the department's own legislation, regulations, directives and policies, and with due regard for economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and environmental impacts. In the last decade, the Auditor General has completed 10 performance audits in the Northwest Territories, including one status report evaluating progress on the recommendations of previous audits, one special audit, and the most recent audit on support to communities to municipal services, which is the subject of this report.

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations is mandated to review the reports of the Auditor General and make recommendations to the Government of the Northwest Territories on the basis of those reports. Members look for efficiencies, best practices, and gaps, with the intent of improving services to residents. The Auditor General's reports play a crucial role in Members' scrutiny of government spending and performance.

Communities in the Northwest Territories

Each of the 33 community governments in the Northwest Territories is responsible for providing a range of programs and services to its residents, including essential services, which are: drinking water; waste management; fire protection; and emergency preparedness. The audit focuses specifically on the provision of these essential services because the failure of a community government to adequately provide these services may result in significant risks to public health and safety.

Of the 33 communities, 24 are established as municipalities under one of four acts that outline the responsibilities of the community government, including the powers and duties of the council and municipal employees, procedural requirements, and the circumstances under which MACA can intervene in community government operations. These acts are: the Cities, Towns and Villages Act;

the Hamlets Act; the Charter Communities Act; and the Tlicho Community Government Act.

The remaining nine communities, referred to as designated authorities, are First Nations communities within the jurisdiction of the federal government's Indian Act and, as such, are not subject to territorial legislation governing municipalities.

The audit notes that on-going as lands, resources and self-government agreements are settled in the Northwest Territories, the legislative basis for the Government of the Northwest Territories, including the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, to be involved with community governments in their delivery of essential services is diminished.

The Role of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

Under the Minister, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is responsible for developing and maintaining community governments that are responsible and responsive to their residents. This includes providing funding to community governments for essential services, helping ensure that they have the necessary governance structures and financial management capabilities to fulfill their responsibilities, and supporting them to provide their residents with the programs and services essential to good community life. The department's mandate includes delivering training through its School of Community Government.

In the 2015-16 fiscal year, the department had 100 employees and a budget of just under \$104 million. The Legislative Assembly allocates funding to MACA that is used by community governments for the programs and services they are responsible to provide under territorial legislation, regulations and policies. The department transfers over 80 percent of its budget annually to community governments through contribution agreements for the provision of essential services. Through contribution agreements, the department also administers federal funding from the Gas Tax Fund and the Building Canada Fund, which is used by community governments to improve public infrastructure.

If a community government is unable to properly administer its operations and services, the department may appoint an administrator to supervise or conduct operations on behalf of the community government. This, however, is not the case for designated authorities. Because these communities are not governed under territorial legislation, MACA can only intervene at the request of the designated authority and under mutually approved conditions.

The audit makes note of the 2007 New Deal for Community Governments, which fundamentally changed the relationship between the department and the community governments it supports. The 'New Deal' moved the department away from a prescriptive role, in which the department essentially dictated what community governments must do, to one in which the department facilitates program delivery by community governments, allowing them the flexibility and autonomy to establish their own priorities.

About the Audit

The Auditor General's performance audit covered the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' activities in the period from April 1, 2013, to June 30, 2016. Work related to the NWT Community Government Accountability Framework covered the period from January 1, 2010, to June 30, 2016.

It may be of interest to note that the work done by the Office of the Auditor General on behalf of the residents of the Northwest Territories is not paid for or reimbursed by the Legislative Assembly or the Government of the Northwest Territories. This gives the Office of the Auditor General the ability to independently select the subject of a performance audit and provide objective assessment and recommendations based on the information that is evaluated during the audit and the findings contained within.

The Office of the Auditor General works closely with the department during the audit process and obtains confirmation from the department's senior management that the findings in the Auditor General's report are factually based. Additionally, it should be noted that the department's formal response to each of the Auditor General's recommendations is included within the report itself.

The audit examined whether the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs adequately supported community governments' delivery of essential services that it funded, namely drinking water, waste management, fire protection, and emergency preparedness. To assess this, the audit examined whether the department monitored the provision of these essential services in order to know if they were being adequately delivered in communities across the Northwest Territories. The audit also examined whether the department assisted communities in delivering essential services, including helping to mitigate risks in those areas where services were inadequate. In addition, the audit examined the department's efforts to build community government capacity through its School of Community Government.

The committee points out that the audit does not compare the work of the department against similar work done in other jurisdictions. Similarly, the audit does not examine whether the budget allocated to the department by the Legislative Assembly is sufficient, nor does it consider whether the legislation, regulations and policies governing the department's work are adequate or appropriate. The audit simply accepts these things as given and looks only at whether or not the department is meeting its obligations that exist under the current legislative and policy framework.

The Office of the Auditor General works with the department to define the scope of the audit. Only those parameters that fall within the scope of the audit are examined. It is important to note that, in this case, the scope of the audit did not include an examination of other key municipal services such as road maintenance, community planning or sport and recreation programming. The community governments themselves, along with other territorial government departments and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, were also excluded from the scope of the audit.

Additionally, the standing committee wishes to point out that an estimated 6,000 hours of work by the Office of the Auditor General went into the audit. This does not include the hours put in by the department in responding to the information needs of the auditors. The committee mentions it here, to provide the audience with a sense of the amount of time and effort involved in conducting a compliance audit.

The standing committee would like to acknowledge the positive comments made by the Office of the Auditor General about the responsiveness of the department during the audit process. The committee is pleased to hear from the Office of the Auditor General that MACA took the audit work seriously and provided the OAG with good cooperation and assistance to complete the work. The committee commends the department for its work in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Hay River North will continue reading from this point on.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Hay River.

MR. SIMPSON:

Key Audit Findings

Overall, the Auditor General found that MACA did not do enough to help community governments improve their delivery of some essential services. The audit found that while MACA had some information on the essential services provided by some community governments, it did not adequately support community governments in

providing key essential services in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements. The Auditor General noted that this lack of support means that communities were put at risk as a result of inadequate essential services.

Additionally, the audit found that MACA did not take adequate action to mitigate risks associated with essential service delivery in designated authority communities. The audit found that MACA's support to community governments was inadequate to help mitigate risks in the key essential service areas of waste management, emergency preparedness planning, and fire protection services. However, its support to communities to help maintain safe drinking water was adequate.

In his report, and in the public review held by the Standing Committee, the Auditor General noted that MACA's role with respect to community governments had fundamentally changed as a result of the 2007 New Deal, but that the department had not fully stepped into its new role of providing support to community governments and, in particular, ensuring that community governments fulfil their statutory and legal requirements.

The Auditor General had positive comments on the value of the NWT Community Government Accountability Framework as a planning tool, noting that it significantly advanced accountability and transparency by requiring annual reports from community governments on essential service delivery. However, the audit also pointed out that the Accountability Framework did not require enough quality information from communities to allow MACA to determine if its support was aligned with community needs and, further, that MACA did not use other available mechanisms to fill the information gap.

Finally, the audit found that the department's School of Community Government offered a range of training to community governments. However, some of the school's courses were neither kept up-to-date nor periodically reviewed to ensure they were meeting the needs of participants.

Audit Recommendations

The report contains 11 recommendations related to support for essential services in communities and two recommendations related to capacity development for community governments. These are summarized below. Please note that the numbers in brackets signify the paragraph number of the recommendation as it is contained in the Auditor General's report.

Under the heading of support for essential services in communities, the Auditor General's report makes the following recommendations:

1. (Paragraph 41) MACA should formally assess information gaps related to water quality testing and work with Health and Social Services to identify and provide communities with support needed to comply with water testing requirements. It should also work with community governments to ensure that all water treatment plant operators get the training needed to become certified.
 2. (Paragraph 53) In consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, MACA should work with community governments to help identify and provide the necessary support and capacity building needed so they can comply with regulatory and other waste management requirements, including compliance with water licence requirements regulating the management of solid waste sites and sewage lagoons, and proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste.
 3. (Paragraph 63) MACA should take immediate action to reassess whether communities with fire departments meet Safety Act requirements and assist those that do not to become compliant. For those without fire departments, MACA should assist in developing strategies for fire safety.
 4. (Paragraph 69) MACA should provide the supports necessary for all communities to have current emergency plans and training to implement these plans.
 5. (Paragraph 80) MACA should regularly review, and modify as required, the wording of the questions in the NWT Community Government Accountability Framework (the "Accountability Framework") to ensure community governments can correctly answer them.
 6. (Paragraph 81) MACA should develop clear guidelines for community government officials to complete, and department officials to assess, performance indicator checklists in the Accountability Framework, including the criteria for each question and how to respond properly.
 7. (Paragraph 86) MACA should develop a strategy to develop the accuracy of information provided by community governments under the Accountability Framework to support meaningful engagement with community governments on required supports and foster accurate departmental decision-making.
 8. (Paragraph 95) MACA should identify standard performance information for essential services that could be required under contribution agreements. It should also develop a risk-based approach to identifying those higher-risk communities for which more frequent information should be provided.
 9. (Paragraph 99) MACA should review its contribution agreements and the Accountability Framework with a view to using them more thoroughly to facilitate ongoing engagement with community governments to achieve the timely support needed for essential services. MACA should also continue to develop tools for identifying and collecting information critical to community government support.
 10. (Paragraph 109) MACA's contribution agreements with designated authorities should include provisions related to the provision of essential services funded by MACA, which would allow the department to collect required performance information and take corrective action where these essential services are at risk.
 11. (Paragraph 112) MACA should consult with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to determine how the two organizations could work more effectively together to strengthen community governance by designated authorities.
- Under the heading of capacity development for community governments, the Auditor General's report makes the following recommendations:
12. (Paragraph 128) MACA should formally assess how it identifies training needs, and the suite of courses offered, to ensure it is helping community governments develop the capacity required to deliver essential services.
 13. (Paragraph 129) MACA should explore the use of distance education and partnership opportunities with other organizations to maximize program delivery.
- The standing committee endorses all of the recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General and recommends that the department ensure they are implemented in a timely manner.
- Further detailed observations and recommendations made by the Standing Committee are provided below in the context of the standing committee's analysis of the department's response to the Auditor General's report.
- Recommendation 1**
- The Standing Committee on Government Operations endorses the 13 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General in its report and recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs take the steps

necessary to ensure that all recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

Audit Conclusion

The Office of the Auditor General concluded:

...that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs did not adequately support community governments' delivery of the essential services it funded. Although the department monitored community governments' provision of some essential services to residents, it did not adequately assist community governments to help ensure essential services were provided in accordance with requirements. [The Audit] found that risks remained in delivering these services and that the Department's actions to mitigate these risks in many cases were not sufficient.

The Auditor General went on to note that while community governments are responsible for the delivery of essential services to their residents, MACA must adequately monitor and support them and assist them to manage the risks associated with inadequate service delivery.

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' Action Plan for Improving Support to Community Governments in the Northwest Territories

The standing committee is pleased to see that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs accepted all of the recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General. The department prepared an Action Plan for Improving Support to Community Governments in the Northwest Territories (Action Plan) in which it identifies the actions it proposes to implement the Auditor General's recommendations. The standing committee has considered the contents of this document and offers the following assessment and recommendations, based on the content of the action plan and the Auditor General's observations and advice to the standing committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to hand the reading of this report off to the honourable Member for Sahtu.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Timely Receipt of Materials

The standing committee received the Minister's letter transmitting the action plan at the close of business on Friday, January 13, 2016. The committee's in camera preparation for the public

review began on the afternoon of the following business day. This effectively left the standing committee with a half-day to prepare for consideration of the 36-page action plan. This is unacceptable.

The committee considers that it is a contravention of section 10 of the Process Convention on Communications between Cabinet Ministers, Standing Committees and Regular MLAs to provide such materials any later than three business days prior to the meeting at which the materials should be provided. The deputy minister offered the explanation that this delay was due to the department's desire to consult with its partner agencies on the action plan.

The committee appreciates the well-intended apology offered by the deputy minister, but it is of the view that the late provision of important materials to the standing committee evidences lack of understanding and/or lack of respect on the part of the department for the standing committee's oversight role in the process. Ultimately, the onus rests with Minister to ensure the timely transmittal of materials.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that, in future, any GNWT department being audited provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with a copy of its action or implementation plan at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than three business days prior to the public review on the Auditor General's report, consistent with the Process Convention on Communications between Cabinet Ministers, Standing Committees, and Regular Members.

Receipt of the Action Plan in Draft Format

The standing committee has an excellent working relationship with Office of the Auditor General and, as a matter of course, has in-depth discussions both in camera and in public with the Auditor General and his staff. This gives the committee insight into the findings and recommendations made in the audit and, as importantly, into the purpose of the Auditor General's recommendations and the outcome that his office hopes the audit will achieve. This dialogue informs the production of this report and the committee's recommendations, which may be of some benefit to the audited department in refining its approach to addressing the concerns the Auditor General raises.

The standing committee takes notes of and commends MACA for the department's willingness, as expressed in the opening presentation by the deputy minister and in the action plan itself, to

make changes and adjustments to the action plan based on the Standing Committee's feedback and that from other stakeholders.

The following recommendation is forward-looking and made with respect to future departments selected for audit by the OAG:

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that any GNWT department, selected in future for an audit, provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with a copy of its action or implementation plan in draft format and, further, that the document not be finalized until the Department has had an opportunity to consider the recommendations made as a result of the Standing Committee's review.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Deh Cho will continue from here.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Observations and Recommendations on the Action Plan

MACA's Approach to Development of the Plan

In outlining its approach to developing the action plan, the department noted that "...all MACA staff were provided an opportunity to offer grassroots solutions and approaches to address the issues the OAG has identified," and that this approach "...underlines the importance of engaging staff who are going to be directly responsible for the implementation of the action plan."

While the Standing Committee agrees with the importance of engaging with staff to identify innovative solutions, Members believe that it is equally important to engage stakeholders outside the department in this discussion, particularly the communities to which the department provides support.

This, in fact, was a theme that permeated the committee's overall discussion with the Office of the Auditor General on the audit. In tracing the changing role of the department as a result of the 2007 New Deal, the OAG noted that MACA's role in providing support to communities has evolved into one that requires the department to develop expertise in relationship building. In fact, during the public review, the Auditor General expressed the view that relationship-building should be MACA's core competency. The committee encourages the department to carefully consider this advice.

The committee was pleased to hear from the deputy minister that input on the action plan was sought from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. At the same time, it is concerned that the department did not move beyond discussion amongst its own officials to involve community governments, through their representative organizations, in the identification of potential solutions. The committee notes the department's intention to involve these organizations in achieving the identified actions, but wishes to emphasize that this is not the same as providing an opportunity for meaningful discussion with community representatives regarding whether the identified actions are the right ones.

Recognition by the department of the need to do this kind of ground-floor consultation would, in the view of the committee, demonstrate that the department is strengthening its competency in the area of relationship-building. The fact that it appears not to have been done suggests to the committee that the OAG's observation is correct that the department still has much work to do to build relationships with its partner organizations.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that Department consult with Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities on the proposed actions contained in the Action Plan before finalizing it.

MACA's Assessment of the Audit's Findings

The committee notes MACA's observation "that many of the recommendations describe a lack of defined process and challenges the department faces with data collection." While this may appear to be the case at first glance, the committee cautions the department reducing the Auditor General's concerns to a "documentation problem."

The committee is of the understanding that it is not uncommon for audited departments to characterize the findings of the audit as identifying problems related to data collection and management. Some committee members saw an example of this at a recent public briefing on Child and Family Services compliance audits provided by the Department of Health and Social Services, at which the findings of the Auditor General's 2014 report were described as failing to make the distinction between "work done" and "work documented." Similarly, in the report on the Auditor General's 2015 report on corrections in the Northwest Territories, the Standing Committee in the 17th Assembly expressed concern with "the apparent efforts of the Minister and department to minimize the

significance of the Auditor General's findings." The committee suggests that this inclination to conclude that an audit's findings are about information and data management loses sight of the bigger picture, which connects information and data management as a means to the end of providing quality programs and services. The committee encourages the department to take heed the Auditor General's caution that to fully address the issues raised by the audit, the department must:

- a) Take a more proactive role with communities;
- b) Fulfil its duty to ensure the proper delivery of essential services by communities in accordance with legislation, regulations and policy; and
- c) Develop expert skills in relationship-building as a core competency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to hand this off to the honourable Member for Nunakput. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Implementation

During the public review, the Auditor General stated that he wants the audits done by his office to have real and meaningful outcomes for citizens. He made the pointed observation that, for this to happen, it is important for the Department to stay focused not only on the actions it is implementing in response to the audit, but on whether those actions are achieving the desired outcome of having real, meaningful impacts on community residents. He further observed that doing so aligns with the department's vision of "responsible, responsive governments," and its client-centred focus.

The Auditor General also was of the view that, in order to achieve this goal, the department should include indicators in its action plan as a way of measuring how the actions it is taking are resulting in positive changes at the community level. The Committee concurs with the Auditor General's assessment and, accordingly, makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the department include indicators in its action plan which measure progress in implementing identified actions as a means of achieving improvements in essential service delivery at the community level.

Drinking Water (paragraph 41)

The committee acknowledges the Auditor General's finding that department's support to communities was acceptable with regard to drinking water. The committee commends the department for this achievement, but questions whether success in this area was achieved at the cost of poorer progress in the other three key essential services.

The committee views the department's success in this area as proof that it has the potential to improve results in support for the other three essential services addressed in the audit. The committee reiterates the Auditor General's observation in the public review that the department needs to take a comprehensive approach to the support it provides to communities. By better marshalling its resources, the department can strike the balance needed to ensure all essential services receive adequate and appropriate attention.

Contribution Agreements with Designated Authorities (paragraph 109)

Contribution agreements are, in essence, a contract between MACA and the designated authorities for the provision of essential services. The proper execution of contribution agreements, recommended by the Auditor General, will ensure that expectations are clearly set out and the circumstances identified under which the department may intervene in a Designated Authority's activities.

MACA should be diligent about ensuring that provisions contained in contribution agreements are being enforced.

The committee urges MACA to make a distinction between the proper execution of contribution agreements and the larger issue of relationship building with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, which involves addressing the currently existing legislative gap which leaves the department without the authority to unilaterally intervene in a Designated Authority's business.

The committee acknowledges the explanation provided by the deputy minister at the Public Review that the department considered the responses to the recommendations at paragraph 109 and 112 together, which explains the similarity in the responses. The deputy went on to suggest that the Action Plan might better reflect the department's intentions if the responses were identical and repeated in both.

The committee strongly discourages this approach; the recommendations are distinct from one another and were designed that way by the Auditor General for a reason. The committee challenges the department to craft an approach that is responsive to the intent of each recommendation. The

committee suggests that one way to achieve this would be to move Priority Action items 109.3 through 109.5 to the response to recommendation 112, as they are specific to that recommendation.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations strongly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs simplify its approach in responding to the Auditor General's recommendations at paragraphs 109 and 112, such that the proposed actions are responsive to the purpose and intent of each recommendation;

Further, that the department subsequently adjust its 2019-20 target date, identified under proposed Priority Action 109.6 to allow for a more timely response.

Mr. Speaker, the Chair of Standing Committee on Government Operations, the honourable Member for Kam Lake will conclude the presentation of this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONCLUSION

According to the Auditor General, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs did not do enough to help community governments improve their delivery of some essential services and did not take adequate action to mitigate risks specific to the delivery of essential services, particularly in designated authority communities. Adequate support and community engagement are key to helping ensure that community governments have the capacity they need to provide residents with quality essential services critical to their health and safety.

The committee is encouraged that the Minister accepted the Auditor General's recommendations and that the department has developed an action plan to implement them.

The standing committee will be monitoring the department's progress and looks forward to receiving substantive progress reports.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government provide a response to this report within 120 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 9-18(2) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Committee Report 9-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report: Review of the 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories, Municipal and Community Affairs be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Committee Report 9-18(2) is now referred to Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Masi. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Returns to Oral Questions

**RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 547-18(2):
STUDENT INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS IN
SCHOOLS**

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Ms. Green on February 8, 2017, regarding student instructional hours in schools. Ms. Green asked what discussions have been held with Alberta Education about delivering the Alberta curriculum in fewer hours than prescribed for the high school level.

Mr. Speaker, staff from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment are in regular contact with staff from Alberta Education and have considered the potential impact of changes in instructional hours on course curriculum and student outcomes.

Students in the Northwest Territories will continue to receive grade 12 diplomas at the standard set by Alberta. In achieving a diploma, NWT students will continue to meet the same curriculum requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7,

acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 702-18(2):

PUBLIC SERVICE WELLNESS DAYS PROPOSAL

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I spoke about wellness programs and potential wellness days, so I have questions for the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister provide an updated status on the negotiation with the Union of Northern Workers? I know he's made a commitment to meet committee to provide something, but can he give us a general synopsis of this update, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, last week at the request of the Member for Frame Lake we did commit to providing a status update to the Priorities and Planning Committee. Today I can confirm that the employees and the Union of Northern Workers are sitting back down at the bargaining tomorrow to continue negotiation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. Can the Minister tell us: what does the Government of the Northwest Territories do to help the employees' wellness in the workplace?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories, we value the contribution that our employees bring to the Government of the Northwest Territories. As such, we have a number of programs to help with employee wellness. The Employee and Family Assistance Program, for example, is one that is available to all employees, and free of charge. In 2016-17, our Learning and Development Calendar offered 24 webinars on a variety of wellness topics, and there are plenty of opportunities that were included in that. I could provide some of the training opportunities to the Members. It is a fairly lengthy list to be reading out, so I will provide that.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I am happy to hear that we are doing some good stuff for our employees. In my Member's statement, I talked about the potential for providing five wellness days for Government of the Northwest Territories employees. Has the Government of the Northwest Territories looked to this idea, and will they bring it to the UNW?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories, we presently provide very generous vacation, sick, and special leave

provisions to our employees. At the present, we are not looking to expend our leave provisions; however, in this round of negotiations, my understanding is that there was a proposed memorandum of understanding that both the employer and the union would work together, to review and recommend ways to improve mental health in the workplace.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I totally agree that this government has some really good packages, but we are talking about employees' wellness, and to do that, we are looking at the hours of work. We heard the teachers work 52 hours a week doing their job, but also, I notice that regular workers have 37.5 to 40 hours a week, but they put more hours in. They put more hours into this, so with the cuts and eliminations to positions, and the potential for no raises resulting in the collective bargaining, it is important to show employees that they are valued. Can the Minister commit to looking at this idea in greater detail, and advise this House of the outcome of this work? Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad we got the 52 hours cleared up. I have five teachers in our family, so I know first-hand the amounts of hours that they put in, and for the most part, it is more than 52 hours a week. To the Member's question, we have wellness specialists research the topic of wellness days, and I think that the Member asked if I would provide some detail to the committee, or the House, on the outcome of that work. Once we have that work done, Mr. Speaker, I will have a conversation with the committee.

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

QUESTION 703-18(2):

FORT PROVIDENCE TOURIST CAMP PROJECT

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment. Before I go there, I just wanted to acknowledge this statement that I read today. It was developed by a student of the Introduction to Northern Leadership program in Fort Providence, as part of the Commit to Learning Centre's extension of their World College program. This statement was regarding the Telemia camp, which I think most MLAs had an opportunity to visit last summer. The students are seeking the wisdom and guidance of the Minister, so the first question is to the Minister: is the Minister aware of Fort Providence's interest to develop Telemia to be a tourist camp? Mahsi.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister, I am not well aware that they have an application in to develop that tourism camp. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: The second question was if, perhaps, the Minister could try and imagine what it is that the community is desiring in terms of trying to tap into the tourism opportunities. What steps would he envision in terms of requiring to upgrade the Telemia camp, to make it a tourism attraction, in terms of, perhaps, the perspective from the Department of ITI?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We are always looking at ways of investing in the regions to promote tourism. I can sit down with the Member and have a conversation with him on what the community envisions in moving that forward, and seeing what program that we have within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment will help fit the bill, to help them realize their dream of tourism there.

MR. NADLI: I appreciate the Minister's extension in terms of meeting, and having a discussion, in terms of, perhaps, this opportunity. Before we meet, maybe the Minister can inform this side of the House, in terms of whether there is any Aboriginal tourism funding available, to help get the Telemia camp up and running?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I have announced earlier in the House, during this session, all the tourism programs that we have. We have the regional development workshops that we have had in different regions. We just recently had one in the Deh Cho, which pulled a bunch of stakeholders together from the Members' riding. It was well attended by all Aboriginal governments and groups from the region. We do have an economic development person in every region, to help facilitate tourism. We can sit down and have a look at how we are going to do that. There are a number of different opportunities, different pots of money from the Community Tourism Coordinator program, to the Youth Mentorship one, to the regional tourism advisors that we have in all the regions. There are a number of opportunities that we can use to look at those opportunities.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think part of the challenge is to try, from a regional perspective, to maybe funnel those efforts into a community-type delivery, so that communities could, at least, realize some of the benefits that tourism could bring to at

least some communities that really need the employment opportunities. My last question is: how can local people in our province explore tourism career opportunities and get further training? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, we have a number of new initiatives, along with the old ones, to help promote tourism in the Northwest Territories. If the Member would like, I can have the regional superintendent for ITI to go in there and have a discussion with the community on how they can leverage some of these dollars and programs, to reach the potential that they desire.

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

QUESTION 704-18(2):
COMMITMENT TO THE MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about manufacturing in the Northwest Territories. I mentioned that there were barriers to growth that needed to be addressed. They were too numerous to mention in detail in my Member's statement, and too numerous to mention now. They include things outside the government's control, but there are also bureaucratic issues that the government has the power to address. That is one reason that this manufacturing strategy is so important, and I have learned that when the government announces the development of a strategy, there is no point in asking for changes before that, because nothing changes until that strategy. With the exception of Aurora College, and I do support that foundational review, as an aside. My question is for the Minister of ITI: what is the timeline for beginning the development of the manufacturing strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all Members know, we are mandated in the 18th Legislative Assembly to do this. We spoke about this in the House before. This is something that is very important to me, as I came from the manufacturing sector. The department is doing a bunch of preliminary work on how we are going to bring this strategy forward, and when the time comes, I will inform the House when the strategy will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: It almost leads into my second question. I asked when it was going to begin being developed, and he said he would bring it forward when it is being implemented. It is a good lead-in to my second question: will the Minister commit to

working with the Standing Committee on Economic Development, in addition to the Manufacturers' Association, in the development of the draft strategy, in a way that allows for meaningful input from the committee, as opposed to the current method of engagement, which only allows the committee to suggest tweaks to what is virtually a finished product by the time we see it?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: ITI will gladly follow the prescribed process of GNWT to develop legislations and strategies moving forward and prior to its public release. I don't have a problem having a sit down with committee and getting their input and review the document before it's released.

MR. SIMPSON: We have to follow traditional set-in-stone government policy. I thought this was a changed government. Mr. Speaker, I can help with this strategy. I have ideas. I know the issues. I wish the Minister would just work with us. You know, take some pressure off his department. I'm sure they have a lot to do. That's something I'll follow up on. Another big issue has been these giant projects, you know, hundreds of millions of dollars, P3 projects where a company from the South would get it and the money just flows out of the territory. I'd like to ask will the Minister commit to working with Finance with the goal of using the P3 projects to better develop northern manufacturing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The P3 concept is probably a little more challenging one. I commit to the Member that we could sit down with Finance and figure out a way moving forward, but as all Members know in this House, with federal treasury money, there's a different set of rules on procurement around that and we're going to have to probably sit down not with just myself and the Finance Minister but with the federal government if there's a way forward to implement this into a possibility with P3 projects.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still shaken from that first answer and the second answer. How about this? Will the Minister commit to being an agent of change and working with committee the way I suggested in my second question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always willing to have input from anyone in the Northwest Territories, including Members from the other side or my colleagues along this side of the table. It's just going to take all of us to make a better territory for everybody, especially around manufacturing.

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

QUESTION 705-18(2):
PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES ON HIGHWAY
NO.3

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a few questions of the Minister of Transportation. It's regarding, again, safety on our highways, and in particular the stretch between Yellowknife and Behchoko on Highway 3. This stretch has been raised with constituents of mine on a number of occasions now about the conditions of this highway. They've shared with me some complaints about potholes, washboard, a lot of ups and downs, dips and dews, bumps, and visibility issues, Mr. Speaker. Now at this time of the year, with a lot of trucks travelling up and down that highway, it has become even more of a concern. I'd like to ask the Minister: what exactly is the problem with this particular stretch of highway as it relates to an engineering aspect? Why is it this particular stretch that is so severely damaged? I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As anyone who knows anyone who has driven this stretch of highway in the last few years know, it's a very challenging section of highway in the Northwest Territories; probably one of the most challenging. Due to the permafrost degradation and stuff that's happening out there and the melting and disturbances that are happening on that section of highway, the department had to reach out to the federal government a number of years ago to get some research dollars to have a look at this and develop a program and have test sections on this highway. I think we have four sections, if I remember correctly, on Highway 3 to determine the most effective option to look at how we can assess the ground conditions and how we can move forward with repairs.

With that said, we've actually spent \$18 million on this road in the last four years. As I said many times in this House, I can probably take all the infrastructure money in the Northwest Territories and put it into highways and it would never fix or infrastructure deficit just in the highway system in the Northwest Territories due to the challenges that we have based around climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. I appreciate that the Government of the Northwest Territories is working with other orders of government to release or some form of funding to help invest in this concern; but that's also troubling to know that over the last four years we've put \$18

million into the stretch of highway that still proves to be a safety issue and continues to be a challenge.

I'd like to ask the Minister: what is the ultimate answer for fixing this stretch of highway? How are we going to stop going from putting band aids on it to making and finding a permanent, safe solution for this stretch of highway?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I've said, we've worked with Transport Canada to leverage the dollars to monitor and assess the performance of this road with the conditions that we're presently under. Like I said, with climate change, it makes it very difficult to keep up with the maintenance of it, especially with the lack of capital dollars that we have available to us to do this; but we will continue to do our research and monitoring this road and try to come up with new rehabilitative techniques on how we're going to address this problem moving forward. I can keep Members informed on some of those test results from research moving forward.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Again, I'm going to appreciate the commitment here that the Minister is making with regard to the road and improving the road itself. Let's skip over for a moment and talk about public safety.

What can the Minister share with us in terms of how we're going to in the meantime make sure that folks that are travelling up and down this road; a number of them in fact for the first time tourists coming to the North? What are we going to be doing to make sure that their safety is protected in the meantime? By that, I mean will we have improved signage? Will we have maybe potentially reduced speed limits, something of that nature? Can the Minister please explain to us how are we protecting people who use the highway?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department regularly evaluates the condition of the. We have our maintenance crews that travel up and down the highway daily to gather information daily. They give us feedback on that. We have, as I said, our test sections that are out there, but to get out for safety is the number one priority of the transportation system in the Northwest Territories. We use a number of initiatives to reach out to people in the Northwest Territories and people visiting NWT, as I think and believe the Member talked yesterday in the House about how we're going to get our message out there, be it Twitter, radio advertising, Facebook, but also on the commercial side of stuff. We have a great working relationship with the transportation companies. I think when something arises, be it around forest fires or those sorts of things, we have direct e-mail with a number of the commercial people as well as being from Hay River, at opportune times when safety is a major concern, we've used the electronic sign system on

the south lake to warn people of the condition of the road coming north.

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

QUESTION 706-18(2):
CAREER READINESS TRAINING FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Members' statement here addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. When students are away from their home and not well connected, to hear some of the many opportunities or the developments of potential opportunities, is there information or career readiness sessions that are in-house in the Fort Smith residential unit where they reside in or at the school itself? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I just want to commend the Member from Sahtu, the honourable Member from Sahtu, for actually making that trip to Fort Smith and to the Thebacha campus to check on his constituents who are seeking post-secondary education. In all of our campuses across the NWT, we do have counsellors who are able to help students should they be going through some difficult times or having challenges going to post-secondary education. We also have focused on life skills. This is the first time that some of the students might be away from home and in a different community. We do have counsellors as well as the staff provide supports to these students as they are seeking post-secondary education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: I'm glad to hear that there are supports there. My next question, Mr. Speaker, is: can the Minister provide me with minutes of the sessions if they are in fact going on, we may have some contributing dialogue or input to what we think that the students might want to hear from opportunities back home?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We don't have some of the statistics that the Member is looking for. We can work with the Aurora College senior management and look at what some of the concerns are that might be coming from our students, as well as maybe some statistics on counselling sessions, sessions that are providing opportunities for life skills training for our students. We can reach out to Aurora College to see if those stats are available and share them with the Member.

MR. MCNEELY: I welcome the information coming from the Minister's office here. At the time of

receiving the material, I will get back to the Minister of further questions. In preparation to do so, is the Minister willing to put together a package of information so I can also share that with the leadership of the region I represent?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we can work with the Aurora College partners, ask them for what kind of orientation packages that they give to students for support that they need through post-secondary education. We will look at all three campuses to see what they provide and provide it to the Member should his constituents either want to go to Aurora College in Inuvik, Thebacha in Fort Smith, or the Yellowknife campus here in Yellowknife.

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

QUESTION 707-18(2):
NEW MINERAL RESOURCES ACT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Can the Minister highlight what he and his department seek to achieve through a Mineral Resources Act? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is looking at a number of things under the Mineral Resource Act moving forward: acquiring mineral rights, ministry and royalties, those sorts of things. We have no intention of regulating mining activities under the proposed MRA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister. I will help him out with what the MVRMA is all about. In my statement, I highlighted several issues that I think should be considered during the drafting of a Mineral Resources Act. I would like to know whether the Minister and his department intend to seek specific exemptions or exceptions for mining activities now regulated under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act? Are we going to loosen up or weaken our environmental regime to allow mining to go ahead?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department is actually conducting research right now on how we are going to move forward. I don't think anything is locked down because we are going to have to go through consultation, public engagement. We are going to have to go in front of standing committee. There are a number of things that we are going to have to do that are going to guide this document as we move forward. We are welcome to any suggestions.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister. I think the first time he responded he said that there wasn't going to be any specific exceptions. The next time he is a little bit vaguer. There have been several cases of conflicting land uses in the NWT and elsewhere that highlight the problem with the free entry system. Recently, the BC Mines Minister had the ground under his home staked. There have been problems with staking of claims covering the Inuvik gravel supply and so on. The NWT Association of Communities has called for local governments to have the authority to prohibit mineral staking within their boundaries. Is the Minister prepared to work with the NWTAC and communities to give this authority to our local governments?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I said, this is early days on this. We are going to draft some stuff and have a look at other jurisdictions, how things are conducted around minerals in other jurisdictions in Canada. We will be seeking input, as I have said, from a number of people and stakeholders in the Northwest Territories, and we are open to any suggestions and stuff as we move forward.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, again to the Minister for repeating the openness of the process that we are about to embark on, but I am looking for some direction. What is this government actually going to do? I am not hearing it. I will keep pushing because I have some ideas. Like the honourable Member from Hay River North, I have some ideas I would like to share, and I want to see the Minister respond to these sorts of ideas.

With the devolution, our government now has the authority over royalties paid by mining companies. I am sure the Minister, along with his Cabinet colleagues, wants to make sure that we retain as many benefits as possible from mining, including royalties. Earlier in the House, I noted that we collect three times as much money from taxes on tobacco and liquor as we get to keep in resource revenues under devolution. What is the Minister going to do to ensure there is a fair and comprehensive review of mining royalties and taxation? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department hasn't taken a determination on this point yet. We are looking out for ideas and stuff. We are currently looking at other jurisdictions, as I have said, across Canada before we roll this out. We will probably be conducting a review and undertaking an analysis on a royalty regime across Canada.

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

QUESTION 708-18(2):
PERIMETER FENCE AT NORTH SLAVE
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Committee of the Whole, when we were reviewing the Department of Justice's budget, I asked questions about a fence surrounding the North Slave Correctional Centre. At the time, the Minister of Justice, and I will quote from Hansard, said, "It is turning out this is a more complex and expensive matter than we had anticipated." On further questioning, Mr. Martin Goldney, the deputy minister of the Department of Justice, provided a few more details, noting that specialized and specific engineering studies were completed and that they anticipate things happening as soon as the summer. I would like to just get the Minister, again, on the record to let me know if this work is moving ahead and we can expect to see something moving forward in the summer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to advise that work is proceeding ahead. There was, of course, an escape from the facility last summer. A consultant was hired to provide the department with a cost estimate. Pending funding approvals, work may begin this summer. I want to assure the public, however, that until the recommended work has been completed, activities and access to the affected area is fully restricted, so there is no danger of another incident of the type that took place last August. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: I am sure my constituents and I are comforted to hear that a similar escape can't happen, but I think these improvements really need to happen. I am just wondering when we will see funding asked from the Minister's department, so we can get this work under way. I didn't see any in the supplementary appropriations. Are we going to see a funding ask any time soon?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I would expect that a funding request would be forthcoming in the summer. I can advise, however, that there have been other improvements that will be proceeding. There were two capital projects approved in the 2017-18 capital estimates for the complex, which included a security infrastructure renewal: electronic capacity to a CCTV camera on current fencing; and an improvement of the perimeter fence along the west property line to the main Kam Lake driveway entrance. It is expected that tendered documents on those two projects are currently being prepared for a spring tender and summer construction. Improvements to the facility are

already being made dealing specifically with the issue of the escape that took place last August. We will be seeking funding likely in the next few months, in the summer likely.

MR. TESTART: That is a lot clearer, and I appreciate the Minister providing that information. My honourable friend the Member from Yellowknife raised communication issues around public safety concerns related to another department. I am wondering what protocols the department has in place for escapes such as the one that is required by these infrastructure improvements? Is there a protocol in place to let the residents who live next to the facility know as soon as something happens?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I want to make it clear that the department is opposed to escapes. If, of course, one does take place, as took place last summer, the public will be advised.

MR. SPEAKER: It's good to know that the department is opposed to it. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 709-18(2):
YELLOWKNIFE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. One of our colleagues is fond of saying that the best form of income assistance is a job, but there are a substantial number of people, 1,700 people in Yellowknife who are working full-time but not earning enough to get themselves out of poverty. My question to the Minister is whether he is aware of the living wage movement and whether it is something he supports? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of the living wage movement. We were part of the oversight committee in the last government, when the report was brought forth to this House that resulted in looking at the minimum wage throughout the Northwest Territories. I am very glad to say that, in June of 2015, we increased the minimum wage from \$10 to \$12.50, and we also made a commitment that we will review that minimum wage every two years. So, Mr. Speaker, I understand where the Member is coming from. We do have the second-highest minimum wage in the country, only aside to Nunavut, but I do understand where the Member is going with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that. I just want to be clear that I am not talking about the minimum wage. I am talking about a different wage

altogether. It's called a living wage, and it is calculated on a community-by-community basis according to the expenses that a family would have in that community, the level of taxation, the kinds of benefits and so on and so forth. So it's different in every place. It's not a minimum wage.

There are several ways that the government could support the living wage, such as providing funds to calculate the living wage in communities outside of Yellowknife. What is the living wage in Colville Lake? It would very interesting to know. Their food costs are much higher, but their accommodation costs are lower, so it would be useful to have some funds to calculate the living wage in communities outside of Yellowknife and also to promote paying the living wage among employers because, after all, this is a systemic fix to poverty. Can the Minister commit to this action?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I understand that the group that brought forward the reports and the study that was done in 2015 did receive funding from the Anti-Poverty Fund to conduct that research. It is up to the employers, though, if they want to put forth paying their employees on a living wage or the minimum wage. Some of the employers that do decide to pay a living wage do it for many reasons. One of them is possibly to keep employees for long periods of time rather than spending more money on training and recruitment, so it is up to the employers on what they want to do. They do have to pay a minimum wage, which is \$12.50, which we are currently going through a review.

Any families, whether they are families or individuals, that feel that they are not making enough money to meet their requirements for a living wage, we do also have a lot of programs within Housing, within Health and Social Services, within my department, the ECE, to help offset some of the costs.

MS. GREEN: The Minister is right. The initial amount of money to get this project going did come from the Anti-Poverty Fund. I want to stress again that this is a systemic solution to poverty that is fronted by businesses, not by government. Of course, government provides a lot of supports to people in poverty, but, if businesses could be persuaded of the benefits of paying a living wage, then people wouldn't need those social supports that are provided by the Minister's department. I am wondering if the Minister can see the relevance of investing in the living wage in order to help people get out of poverty for good?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We do understand that the high costs of living here in the Northwest Territories is very problematic, especially in some of our rural and remote communities. We did do a

review of the minimum wage. I understand that the Member is referring to a report that talks about the living wage that was done in 2015. We are committed to reviewing the minimum wage. We also made an investment during this budget to work with industry and businesses to help work on our small community employment support program to help create jobs as well as to help subsidize wages for some of our residents that are looking for work. We are committed to looking at the minimum wage again. As I mentioned, we do have a lot of good social programs here within government to help offset some of those costs that the Member is referring to.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am drowning in the rising tide of the minimum wage, so let me finally ask the Minister: when will the minimum wage be reviewed again? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a Minimum Wage Committee. I believe they met towards the end of 2016. They have met twice already in 2017. They have a couple of more meetings coming up. They are going to be looking at the data and the impact of what we did, increasing that minimum wage in June of 2015, and doing a review. Then they will be bringing recommendations to me, as Minister, and we will look at those recommendations. We will share it with committee and move on from there. So, right now, it's being conducted.

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

QUESTION 710-18(2):

YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT TERMINAL HOURS OF OPERATION

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation this time. In the January 9th issue of the Hay River Hub, there was a story about Hay River resident Wayne Bennett. He and his wife, Lenie, landed in the Yellowknife airport in the early morning hours on December 28th. They had planned to stay at the airport for the four hours until their flight left for Hay River. However, apparently the airport closes after the last flight of the night and re-opens two hours before the first flight departs. Mr. Bennett called around, but there were no hotel rooms available, which can happen in Yellowknife if there is a conference or an event. So my first question to the Minister is: what hours is Yellowknife Airport open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, the Yellowknife terminal is actually closed for 90 minutes each night, approximately from 2:00 to 3:30 a.m. in the morning, if there are no scheduled flights arriving late or anything departing too early. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: The story continues. A stranger who was on the same flight as the Bennetts overheard Mr. Bennett's conversation with his wife, and, out of the blue, he said, "We have an extra bedroom at home. You can come spend the night with us, no problem. You won't be left alone." That helpful stranger was Yellowknife City Councillor Adrian Bell. My second question to the Minister is: what happens with people who want to stay at the airport overnight when it's closed and Councillor Bell isn't around?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I believe it is very rare. It's unfortunate this incident happened, in this particular case, but I think it's very rare that there are people around the airport that late at night. Typically, I believe the department would probably be telling people if it was closing down, and then they would be making arrangements to get to a hotel or make other arrangements. It's an inopportune situation, but at present the airport is closed between 2:00 and 3:30 in the morning.

MR. SIMPSON: That is not the only person who I have heard has run into this problem. If you are looking at the middle of December, I mean, what do you do? It's freezing outside; for 90 minutes, that will kill you. So I just want to ask the Minister: 90 minutes is not a long time. There is probably security; there is probably somebody at the airport. I'd like to ask the Minister: can he commit to keeping the airport open for that extra 90 minutes so it's open 24 hours a day to avoid these kind of problems in the future?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I thank the Member for this question because as the proposed Revolving Fund moving forward this would allow us the opportunity under that to have this type of decision come forward and have the airport open 24 hours.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I know when there's something on the table; like I said earlier, the government doesn't make a decision until that thing happens. So I'll rephrase the question: will the Minister commit to keeping the airport open 24 hours a day if Bill 7 passes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, moving forward we are going to have an advisory board who would be advising us, along with other stakeholders, and this information will be coming forward and this is something that we can look at doing around that after Bill 7 is approved.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 9, written questions. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6 on Orders of the Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item number 6 on orders of the day.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Range Lake

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize women in the House from Native Women's Annual General Meeting. These women are role models within their communities and they're here representing Indigenous women of the Northwest Territories. We have Liza Pieper, the president, she's from Detah/Yellowknife area; Annie Goose from Ulukhaktok is the vice-president; Mabel Brown from Inuvik is the Mackenzie Regional Director; Shirley Kisoun the Mackenzie delegate from Inuvik; Jane Weyallon from Behchoko is the Tlicho Regional Director; Jaylene Delorme is the territorial youth representative from Hay River; Natalie Makletzoff is the Native Women's Association training centre instructor from Yellowknife; Marie Speakman is the Native Women's victim service worker; Michele Lavoie is the Native Women's ASETS worker. I don't see Emma Amundson. Oh, she is here. Dehcho regional director from Fort Simpson, and Angela McKay from Fort Resolution, she is also here and she is the South Slave regional director. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome all the representatives from the Native Women's Association here today, particularly Ms. Shirley Kisoun as well as Ms. Mabel Brown, and a former resident of Inuvik as well, Michele Lavoie. Thank you and welcome and I'm glad you can enjoy the proceedings. Mahsi cho.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also recognize Emma Amundson from Fort Simpson and welcome her. There's not too many times you get to have family in here; I'd like to welcome Shirley Kisoun here as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome Jaylene Delorme back to the Assembly; she was here a couple of weeks ago with Daughters of the Vote, so it's always good to have people from Hay River active in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Marie Speakman, a constituent of Yellowknife South. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also too would like to welcome all the women from the Native Women's Association, in particular Ms. Annie Goose from Ulukhaktok, who is a constituent, and also Shirley Kisoun from Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Shirley Kisoun, a good friend of the family. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I, too, would like to welcome you to the Assembly. It's always nice to have an audience as part of the proceedings. Masi.

Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 20-18(2): FUNDING FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question 20-18(2) asked by the Member for Yellowknife Centre to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on February 14, 2017, regarding

funding for junior kindergarten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Under the Education Act, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is obligated to fund inclusive schooling at 15 per cent of the overall contributions provided to education authorities. Based on projected enrolments, including new junior kindergarten students, and accounting for planned contributions and additional funding for junior kindergarten, we are currently funding inclusive schooling at 17.1 per cent. This amounts to \$3.8 million beyond the current funding requirement for the 2017-2018 school year.

Children entering junior kindergarten will have access to existing supports and resources within the school. The specific needs of junior kindergarten students will be met through the school-based support teams already in place. Junior kindergarten students are also funded at a student/teacher ratio of 12:1, taking into account the increased supports that this student population may need.

In order to accommodate concerns associated with inclusive schooling, the department has put on hold the full implementation of the Inclusive Schooling Directive, delaying the hiring of the team of specialists. What this means for education authorities is that the \$1.15 million originally planned to be used for this team will remain within the school system and will be allocated to funding for learning support assistants.

School transportation is part of the current school funding formula and is calculated based on the number of students, average school size, a community distance factor, and the living cost differential. The current formula for student transportation is as follows:

Community enrolment x Northern Cost Index x Weighting Average School Enrolments x \$62 x Community Distance Factor

Based on information received from the Yellowknife Bussing Company, it is expected that, because younger students will likely mean more expensive support, contract costs will increase. Students that are from communities such as Detah, Behchoko, Enterprise, and Hay River Reserve are also likely to incur a greater additional cost due to the distance of their commute. As a result, the department is working with the education authorities to ascertain the incremental costs of providing transportation for junior kindergarten students and will be undertaking a review of the bussing component of the School Funding Formula.

The department recognizes the importance of investing in quality early childhood programming

and currently provides an Early Childhood Program, or ECP, operating subsidy for all licensed early childhood programs.

Effective October 1, 2016, the department introduced a revised ECP funding model that includes increases to the daily subsidy rates. We have also been working with childcare providers to help them adapt to the territory-wide implementation of junior kindergarten.

Recent changes to the ECP funding model include:

- Revised ECP operating subsidy model with increased rates;
- Consolidation of licensing and funding applications into a single application form and the possibility of multi-year funding agreements; and
- Increased funding for operators in government buildings.

The department will also allow education authorities to decide whether they will offer half- or full-day programs so as to not interfere with existing early childhood programs that may exist.

The current JK-12 education system provides a wide range of supports that extend well beyond the classroom teacher. For example, capital investments, inclusive schooling resources, Aboriginal language specialists, education assistants and program support teachers are all important features of the education system that are funded and administered in different ways. Furthermore, all of these supports are shared between students and classrooms. For these reasons, it is not possible to create a subsidy program that would provide the full scope of JK-12 support on a per child basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, petitions. Member for Yellowknife North.

Petitions

PETITION 6-18(2):
ELIMINATION OF TIME CHANGE IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of eliminating bi-annual time changes. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 533 electronic signatures of Northwest Territories residents and, Mr. Speaker, the petition requests that Daylight Savings Time be adopted on a

permanent basis to eliminate the need to turn clocks back in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 327-18(2):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 328-18(2):
CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE: STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR THE NWT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
SYSTEM 2017 TO 2020

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Caring for Our People: Strategic Plan for the NWT Health and Social Services System 2017 to 2020." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 329-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
627-18(2): TALTSON RIVER DAM

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 627-18(2): Taltson River Dam." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Kam Lake.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 32-18(2):
REFERRAL OF PETITION 6-18(2): ELIMINATION
OF TIME CHANGE IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 9, 2017, I will move the following motion: I move,

seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that this Assembly refer Petition 6-18(2): Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development for a comprehensive review and that the standing committee report back to the Assembly at their earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills

BILL 20:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2016-2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 20 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 21:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2016-
2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 22:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) NO. 1,
2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2017-2018, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 22 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 20:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2016-2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the principle of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 20 has had its second reading. Second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 21:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2016-
2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motions in order. Motions on the floor. To the principle of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion carried.

---Carried

Bill 21 has had its second reading. Second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 22:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) NO. 1,
2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion carried.

---Carried

Bill 22 has had its second reading. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Bill 7, Committee Report 6-18 (2), Committee Report 7-18 (2), Committee Report 8-18-(2), with Member Hay River North in the Chair.

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

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, committee would like to consider Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018 and Committee Report 8-18(2), Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, in that order. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will consider the documents after a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 327-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018. Does the Finance Minister have any opening remarks? Minister McLeod.

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

I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018. This document provides for an increase of \$23.2 million to the operations budget.

These Supplementary Estimates include funding for the following items that will be fully offset by revenues in 2017-2018:

- \$14.1 million for planning, implementation and operations of NWT marine operations;
- \$2.4 million for reconstruction of an airfield ramp at the Yellowknife airport for use by the Department of National Defence; and
- \$1 million for the Slave Province Geophysical, Surficial Materials, and Permafrost Study.

These supplementary estimates also include an additional \$4.8 million in funding for priorities identified through the deliberation of the main estimates of 2017-2018 as follows:

- \$2.5 million for homecare;

- \$500,000 for Youth in Crisis;
- \$500,000 for the anti-poverty initiative;
- \$225,000 towards freight costs associated with the fishing industry;
- \$600,000 for the Mineral Incentive Program;
- \$500,000 for the Community Access Road Program; and
- These supplementary estimates also include \$669,000 to reinstate reductions to the teacher education and social work programs at Aurora College.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to our guests. I will now open the floor to general comments. Do we have any general comments from committee? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering: our supplementary reserve for operations, what does that stand at now, and how will this bill affect that reserve? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, supplementary reserve after sup. 1 would be \$29,196,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. That is okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I see nothing further. We will proceed to the detail in the document. It begins on page 4 with Education, Culture and Employment. Comments or

questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, labour development and standards, not previously authorized, \$669,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$669,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 5. Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, wildlife, not previously authorized, \$310,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Next page, page 6. Health and Social Services. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$2,500,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community social programs, not previously authorized, \$1 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$3,500,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 7. Industry, Tourism and Investment. Comments or questions. Seeing none, I will call the page. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, economic

diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$225,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$1,600,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MS. GREEN: Sorry. I have a question on the next page, page 8.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. I will put you on the list for page 8. Starting over from minerals, petroleum and resources. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$1,600,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$1,825,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Infrastructure. Comments or questions? Page 8. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like some clarity around the costs associated with the marine operations for this calendar year. Is this an item that is brand new to the budget in this year? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, this is brand new to the budget. This is for the operation maintenance of the NTCL fleet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell us what portion of this expenditure will be offset by revenues? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, all of it will be offset by revenue. Early understand on the upcoming sailing season is that we may even exceed the \$14 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So what I understand, then, is this is like a grubstake; it's an advance on the work with the money expected to come in by the end of the season. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing from Ms. Green. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this page. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$16,431,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$500,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$16,931,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 327-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 80-18(2):
 CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 327-
 18(2): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2017-
 2018,
 CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 327-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018 be now concluded and that Tabled Document 327-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018 be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee, we have next agreed to consider Committee Report 8-18 (2): Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. I will go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for any opening comments. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On Thursday, March 2, 2017, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its report on the review of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports. The report, which includes eight recommendations, was read into the record by the chair of the committee, and a motion was passed that moved the report into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chair, the standing committee's recommendations largely centre around two key pieces of legislation and the government's work related to them. They are the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, otherwise known as the ATIPP Act, and the Health Information Act.

With respect to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the committee notes that the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Justice is currently in the process of reviewing the act. The committee observes that, over the course of many years, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has made a number of recommendations for improvement to the ATIPP Act, and, in its report, the committee recommends

the department compile a list of these recommendations for the purpose of ensuring that they are considered during the review process.

The committee further recommends that the department identify, in the legislative proposal, how the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendations are being addressed.

Finally, the committee urges the department to take the steps necessary to ensure that a revised ATIPP Act is brought into force during the life of this Assembly.

With respect to the Health Information Act, the standing committee is concerned by the IPC's perception that health authorities have not done enough to bring themselves into compliance with the Health Information Act, and that the Government of the Northwest Territories, to ensure that all residents are aware of their rights under the act, has also been less than adequate. The committee has made a number of recommendations designed to address this concern.

The committee again thanks Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts, the Information Privacy Commissioner, for her reports and her appearance before the committee on October 20, 2016. Committee looks forward to discussing its reports. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will open the floor to general comments on the report 8-18(2). Any general comments? Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 81-18(2):
 COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
 AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
 MODERNIZATION AND UPDATE OF ACCESS TO
 INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
 ACT,
 CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories advise the House of specific target dates for the completion of a legislative proposal and the introduction of a bill to modernize and update the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 82-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING
RECOMMENDATIONS OF CURRENT AND
PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEES,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories identify all recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner by this and previous standing committees for improvement to the Access to Information and Protection of Protection of Privacy Act;

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories identify, in the legislative proposal to amend the act, how these recommendations are being addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 83-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
BRINGING INTO FORCE OF A MODERNIZED
ATIPP ACT,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories take the necessary steps to ensure that a modernized Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is brought into force before the end of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 84-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH
INFORMATION ACT,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories prepare and table a report on the status of the work it has completed to implement the Health Information Act, including the implementation of a public information campaign and training for health sector employees. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor and in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 85-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
TABLING OF HEALTH INFORMATION ACT
GUIDE AND TELEVISED PUBLIC MEETING,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Minister of Health and Social Services table the Health Information Act Guide in the Legislative Assembly and provide a televised public briefing to the committee on the Health Information Act and its impacts on the rights of those who access healthcare in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor and in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 86-18(2):
 COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
 AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
 COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 8 OF THE
 HEALTH INFORMATION ACT,
 CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure that health authorities undertake the steps necessary to establish or adopt standards, policies, and procedures in compliance with Section 8 of the Health Information Act;

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories keep the committee advised of progress on this work with a view to having the appropriate written procedures in place within six months from the date of this report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor and in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 87-18(2):
 COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
 AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER -
 LEGAL OPINION ON INFORMATION SYSTEM
 REFERENCED IN SECTION 89 OF THE HEALTH
 INFORMATION ACT,
 CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories obtain a legal opinion on whether "information system" as referenced in Section 89 of the Health Information Act is limited to electronic health systems when the act is considered as a whole;

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories share that legal opinion with the standing committee, in confidence, once it is completed;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories conduct a privacy impact assessment on the health system transformation initiative, should the legal opinion find that "information system" as referenced in Section 89 of the Health Information Act is not limited to

electronic health systems when the act is considered as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 88-18(2):
 COMMITTEE REPORT 8-18(2), STANDING
 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
 AND 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
 – RESPONSE TO REPORT WITHIN 120 DAYS,
 CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Committee, do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 8-18(2): Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We have concluded consideration of the report. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Chair rises and reports progress.

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

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of the Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 327-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018, and Committee Report 8-18(2), Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. I would like to report progress with nine motions being adopted, that Committee Report 8-18(2) is concluded, and that consideration of the Tabled Document 327-18(2) is concluded, and that the House is concurring those estimates, and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Kam Lake.

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 13: MARRIAGE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 13, Marriage Act, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. The vote came down to 16 in favour, zero against, zero abstained.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 20: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2016-2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

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

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those abstaining, please stand. Masi. The results of the vote: 15 in favour, one opposed, zero abstained.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 21: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2016- 2017

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017, be read for the

third time. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. Masi. The results of the vote: 16 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstained.

---Carried

Bill 21 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 22: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 22: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, again, I request a recorded vote. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member requested a recorded vote. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for

Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South.

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

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstained, please stand. The results of the vote 15 in favour, one opposed, zero abstention.

---Carried

Bill 22 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
- Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
- Committee Report 7-18(2), Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills.

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:31 p.m.