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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Tel: (867) 767-9010 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, June 6, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

Ministers' Statements

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 37-18(2):
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In February 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that certain provisions in the Criminal Code related to physician-assisted dying were unconstitutional. June 6th is the day the Supreme Court's ruling actually takes effect across this country. Medical assisted dying is an option for eligible Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT is ready to ensure residents can access this option if they request it. The Department of Health and Social Services has developed interim guidelines that set the rules for how medical assistance in dying will be requested and provided in the Northwest Territories. Our priority is to protect both patients and the healthcare providers involved in the medical assistance in dying. The interim guidelines establish eligibility criteria that patients must meet in order to access the services so that vulnerable people are protected. Patients must be 18 years of age, must be capable of making decisions with respect to their health, and must have a terminal medical condition. Safeguards have also been established to ensure this service is provided in a safe, fair, and caring manner. Safeguards require that patients are assessed by two independent practitioners and that a mandatory reflection period passes before medical assistance in dying is provided. The patient will have explicit opportunities to withdraw their request throughout the process. The interim guidelines also require that patients are informed of all alternatives to medical assistance in dying, such as palliative care, and that they expressly consent to this service before it is provided. The department has worked closely with

the steering committee, which includes representatives from front-line healthcare provider associations, including the NWT Medical Association, Registered Nurses Association of the NWT and Nunavut, and the NWT Pharmacists Association. We have also worked closely with the Department of Justice in the development of our interim guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, this can be a challenging issue for many of our residents. Medical assistance in dying is a deeply personal subject for many people. I want to reassure our residents that the interim guidelines do not compel health care providers to provide, or assist in the provision of, medical assistance in dying. Health care providers and patients have the right not to participate. The department has set up a central coordinating service that will facilitate a patient's access to willing practitioners so that health care providers have the freedom to respect their conscience and religious or cultural beliefs. Information on medical assistance in dying can be provided, but under no circumstances can this service be encouraged or recommended. If a request for medical assistance in dying is made, it must be made voluntarily. Mr. Speaker, the guidelines are only an interim measure. The department expects to propose a medical assistance in dying legislative framework for the NWT before the end of this fiscal year. The federal government's future amendments to the Criminal Code will greatly influence our legislative framework and our final guidelines. The department will also continue to work with the steering committee as we develop the proposed legislation. We expect the legislative framework will further address concerns raised by the public and allow us to further ensure values and culture are respected, alongside with the right of patients to seek medical assistance in dying if they choose to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 38-18(2):
FUNDING CHANGES FOR LICENSED DAYCARE
CENTRES AND FAMILY DAY HOMES

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories understands the importance of early childhood development and has been focused on developing and implementing programs and services for families with young children for the past few years. Healthy development during the first few years of life is crucial for lifelong success. I would like to share today some of the positive funding changes we are making in early childhood development. In 2014-2015, as a commitment of the Right from the Start Action Plan, the department of Education, Culture and Employment conducted a review of the Early Childhood Program. This included engagements with various groups in the early childhood sector to assess what was working and what needed improvement in our approach to supporting licensed daycares and day homes. The changes to early childhood program funding announced in the recent budget will focus on three areas: the operating subsidies, the Early Childhood Intervention Program, and supporting new early childhood licensed operators. Under operating subsidies, we are revising the operating subsidy model to licensed daycare and day home operators to replicate increasing costs to operate these facilities and to ensure the sustainability of the programs. Licensed family day homes and daycare centre facilities will both receive an increase in their operating subsidies. The increase will be dependent on which community they operate in. As an example, the daily subsidy rate for a daycare in Fort McPherson will see a subsidy increase of 145 per cent for infant spaces and 46 per cent for pre-school spaces. The larger increase in the subsidy for infant spaces reflects the need for increased staff for infants and acknowledges this is an area of demand. We are also changing our approach to operators in government-owned buildings who will now receive 75 per cent of the daily rate, which is an increase from 50 per cent of the daily rate that was previously provided. We are significantly cutting the red tape and streamlining the application process for early childhood subsidies. Now one application form and contribution agreement will replace three previous contribution agreements, and an approach to multi-year agreements is being developed.

Mr. Speaker, the Early Childhood Intervention Program will be refocused on children with identified special needs. One of the items we heard consistently during the review was that the previous program which was to provide additional support to children with special needs was often used to offset general operating expenses. The new approach will include steps to ensure this funding is used to

support children with special needs that attend early childhood programs. Finally, we are changing our approach to supporting new daycare operators where a start-up subsidy to offset mortgage or rent costs can be obtained for a fixed period of time, or it can be provided as a forgivable loan. There will also be enhanced support for equipment for new operators. These changes represent numerous meetings, discussions, and feedback from stakeholders across the North. They are necessary to ensure our licensed operators can focus on the needs of children under their care across the territory. With this government's focus on supporting quality early childhood development, we believe this brings us one step closer to making good choices right from the start for northern families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING CONSULTATIONS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address how the government is applying our important central principle of transparency and public engagement to an issue that is concerning to many residents of the territory. That is hydraulic fracturing. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has committed to transparency in public engagement and, to that end, we are also committed to make sure that residents have a voice in assessing the risks and benefits of resource development including hydraulic fracturing. Fracking is a tough call. We know that my colleague from the Sahtu, among others, cares about the potential jobs and economic growth that development might create in his region and possibly using fracking. We know that diversifying and growing the economy is not a quick process. It is important to hang on to economies that work. We know that opportunities for growth and job creation are hard to come by especially in the smaller communities.

On the other hand, we know that my colleague from Frame Lake, among others, feels that the environmental risks of fracking are very serious and so should we even take the chance? We know that fracking is linked to increased seismic activity but we don't know how much. We know there can be impacts on water quality, but we don't know how much. We know that starting this month, the provincial regulator in BC is stepping up its monitoring of seismic activity because of small earthquakes caused by fracturing. We also know that there is no current industry interest in oil and

gas exploration in the NWT, but that is not a reason to drop the fracking subject. We should have the discussion now, while we are not under industry and public pressure to do so. The opposing views about fracking and other resource development are precisely the reason that an open and transparent public debate is important and the slowdown in oil and gas makes now the time to do it, Mr. Speaker. Residents of the Northwest Territories need to know that the government wants to hear their views. They need to trust there will be an open and constructive public discussion on this issue and they need to be reassured that this government's commitment to openness and transparency will be upheld. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANDATE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about change. As I was doing this statement, I went to the Webster's Dictionary to find the simplest definition of change: "to become different; to make someone or something different; to become something else." Last October, the country of Canada wanted change and so did the people of the NWT. Change did happen. People in the Northwest Territories elected 11 new Members and eight returning Members to the Legislative Assembly in hopes that change will occur for the betterment of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, two candidates running for the Premier position spoke about change and working together. The two quotes that resonated with me were, "he or she has a critical role in ensuring the collaboration and productive working relationship between Cabinet, Regular Members, stakeholders, and the public." The second quote is, "I welcome commitment and look forward to working with every one of you to give the people of Northwest Territories the kind of government they want and deserve." We need more cooperation and new mechanisms to enable greater input from Regular Members.

Mr. Speaker, I was excited and I was hoping that I was going to be part of the change revolution for the betterment of the residents of the Northwest Territories after listening to these two candidates. Unfortunately, I have not seen much change to date. I am disappointed to say the least. It seems that, once election to Cabinet and Premiers was done, things stayed the same. It has been interesting to see how things have evolved in the past six months. The government stressed we are in a difficult time: excluded members had their

wages frozen, rumours about staffing cuts and programs reductions circulated but at the same time the government was advertising for new hires. This is very confusing for our public service, residents, and NWT, and thus the Ordinary MLAs. Mr. Speaker, I do have to give credit to the Premier. We saw some new deputy ministers come in the system and I thank him for that. As well, we saw some re-alignment of portfolios, but some portfolios stayed the same with the deputy ministers. I guess if you look back at the simple definition of change, change happened. However, it is not what we thought it would be when we came here six months ago. Mr. Speaker, I will have some questions for the Premier to help clear up some confusion over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CELEBRATING RAMADAN 2016

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, Ramadan begins this week. Many Muslims in the North and around the world will begin a month-long spiritual journey of fasting, prayer, and reflection to honour the revealing of the holy Koran to Prophet Mohammed. During this hallowed month, members of Islam fast during daylight hours to increase their patience, closeness to God, and generosity towards those less fortunate. This is a time when our vibrant Muslim community here in the North invites their neighbours and friends to share their evening meal Iftar, recite passages from the Koran together, emboldening each other to be at their most charitable. There are many things everyday Northerners can appreciate about Ramadan, and I encourage all peoples in our great territory to learn more about it from their friends and neighbours in Islam. We can appreciate a universal reminder to show gratefulness for the numerous blessings we enjoy.

Let us take this time, Mr. Speaker, this week and throughout the month to recognize and show appreciation for the most important contributions of the northern Muslim community to our social fabric. I stand in constant awe knowing that all Northerners welcome the continuing diversity of our people, that we not only acknowledge our cultural mosaic as one of our great strengths, but as a key aspect to the future of the Northwest Territories. I advise you, Mr. Speaker and all Members of this House, and wish all those observing this holy month a blessed and peaceful Ramadan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The past six months have brought international and federal/provincial/territorial developments in the fight against climate change. After almost a decade of inaction, our federal government is finally taking its first steps on climate change. In our federation, participation and cooperation of provinces and territories is also required. At the December COP, climate change conference in Paris, our federal government made ambitious commitments for renewed action on climate change. GNWT representatives at COP21 met with the Nunavut and Yukon delegations to discuss a pan-territorial position on climate change. In March, Ottawa further reinforced its COP21 commitments in a U.S.-Canada joint statement on climate, energy, and Arctic leadership. The Prime Minister met with provincial and territorial leaders including our Premier Bob McLeod in Vancouver in March of this year. The meeting recognized that a price on carbon is an essential tool in the fight against climate change and that carbon pricing will be "adapted to each province's specific circumstances and in particular the reality of Canada's Indigenous peoples in Arctic and subarctic regions." The meeting also resulted in an agreement to set up working groups to study four main areas of climate change: clean technology, innovation and jobs, carbon pricing, and mitigation. The working groups will report back in October and the findings of those reports will be used to create a Canadian framework for clean growth and climate change. Our northern territorial Premier still appears to oppose carbon pricing, asserting that its impacts on northern costs of living are unacceptable, even though the federal government has promised \$2.9 billion over five years to help Canada meet its international climate change obligations. I am hoping the work resulting from Vancouver will sway northern leaders to reconsider carbon pricing. Eighty per cent of Canadians now live under some sort of carbon pricing. Carbon pricing can be made to be revenue neutral and sensitive to the needs of rural and remote communities. As one of the jurisdictions in Canada most affected by the negative consequences of climate change, we can't sit on the sidelines and wait. The federal government has been clear on the possibility that if an agreement is not reached on carbon pricing a national program can be imposed. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker and thanks to my colleagues. Advocacy for the adoption of a made in the Northwest Territories carbon tax has been underway for some years. I will be urging this

government to look again at a carbon price as an indispensable and inevitable tool for decreasing emissions. I will have questions for the Premier as the primary Minister responsible for energy and climate change later today. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I will have some questions for the Minister responsible for Human Resources with respect to summer students. Summer students are our next generation. They face many challenges. Endless hours of homework, daily living costs, those are just a few to mention. At the very least, what our government should be doing is meeting them halfway to ensure we are behind them 110 per cent during their summer endeavours to seek income, so they can fly back to their respective apartments and school designation to continue their curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF ALL-SEASON
ROAD TO WHATI

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now have the economic evaluation of the all-weather road to Whati. I would like to share the findings of this report completed by Nichols Applied Management of Edmonton in March 2015. To begin with, the request for construction of this road came from Fortune Minerals, a company whose stock trades for pennies a share. The company is making the road a condition of developing its gold, cobalt, bismuth, and copper project 50 kilometres north of Whati. The road would connect Highway No. 3 to Whati. Estimated costs: \$152 million. The road is a gamble, Mr. Speaker. If the 60-kilometre road is built and the mine isn't, the economic costs outweigh benefits by as much as \$135 million. The combined net benefit of the road to both the communities and Fortune Minerals, in that case, is just \$12 million. The road without a mine is not much of a prize in strictly economic terms. If the mine is built, the net benefit for the NWT goes up to \$141 million using the base case price for commodities.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this road will have benefits for the people of Whati. Approximately 96 per cent of the \$152 million construction cost will be spent in the Tlicho region where residents will be employed in construction

and road maintenance. Construction jobs are the real prize, generating \$25 million of labour income. But maintenance of the all-weather road will produce less employment income than maintenance of the current winter road, so the benefits are short and sharp over the two-year construction period. Other road benefits are more difficult to monetize. Whati residents will be able to travel year round to shop, seek medical attention, and visit family and friends. They will spend more on gas, but less on air travel. The cost of living in Whati will probably go down. While some residents see opportunities, others are concerned about an influx of outsiders, a disruption of their traditional way of life, and ready access to drugs and alcohol. Mr. Speaker, I am puzzled why the government is entertaining the idea of building a road to Whati. The cost-benefit analysis concludes that the direct stimulative nature of the Tlicho road investment is larger than that of the Nico construction project itself. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, please.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thanks, colleagues. The direct stimulative nature of the Tlicho road investment is larger than that of the Nico construction project itself. That is because this contrasts with the Nico project, whose economic impact is most felt outside the NWT because the majority of its mining and milling equipment and all of its smelter and refinery capital expenditure will also occur outside of the NWT, specifically in Saskatchewan. I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CULTURAL AREA AT MOOSE KERR SCHOOL IN AKLAVIK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my statement is on the need for a cultural area at Moose Kerr School. Mr. Speaker, during my last visit to Aklavik, the school mentioned that they would like to have two buildings removed from the premises of Moose Kerr School's area. One building was built in the 1960s, and the other in the 1970s, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once these buildings are removed, the school would like to set up a cultural area where students can take part in cultural activities, both in Inuvialuit, Gwich'in classes and other areas that relate to this. Mr. Speaker, this is a great idea, a good initiative the school has taken on. I will have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the young people that are looking for work today, employment in small communities, specifically the small community employment program centre administered by ECE. Mr. Speaker, as most people know by now, employment rates in NWT small communities are very low. The small communities rely on short-term, and casual, and project-based employment in order to provide for their families. The small community employment program has \$1.2 million and that will help put people to work on various projects based in the communities. Mr. Speaker, the small community employment program is very important to our communities. With this program, the communities can apply for various pots of money that can also be used to create short-term jobs in the communities. Mr. Speaker, a small communities employment program can be used on housing projects, community works, road construction, to mention a few where this funding can be utilized. With a small community employment program, people are able to get off income support program during the time that they are working, and if the project provides them with enough weeks, they can even come off the income support program for a longer period or even permanently. That of course would be dependent upon their eligibility for the federal employment insurance payments or if their short-term work leads to a permanent job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later, I will have questions for the Minister of ECE on this matter. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD TRUST FUND

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund [English translation not provided].

Mr. Speaker, the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund studies the problem that face Aboriginal people across Canada and works to propose solutions and to protect First Nations cultures and values. Since 2009, the Trust has also delivered educational programs and student financial assistance. It also provides healing and reconciliation programs to support First Nations people as they address the intergenerational impacts of the Indian residential school program. Now I would like to talk about the last one a bit more. Mr. Speaker, through a fund administered by the Trust both individuals and groups can apply for funding for education programs aimed at healing and reconciliation.

[English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, individuals can also apply to this fund. Aboriginal people, including survivors of residential school can access up to \$20,000 to support their education, healing, and reconciliation. That could mean money for tuition, living expenses, or books and other supplies, or money for participation in traditional education programs or formal research. Mr. Speaker, the deadline for individual applications to this fund is June 24, 2016. I encourage anyone listening today to visit the website of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund for more information about this opportunity. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TUKTOYAKTUK TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to talk about tuberculosis or TB. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, residents of Tuktoyaktuk were tested for tuberculosis or TB after finding out a recent visitor had an active case of this disease. TB is a bacterial infection that typically affects the lungs. It is also a shameful part of Canada's colonial history. From 1950 to 1969, it is estimated one third of Inuit in Canada contracted TB, a disease brought north by settlers. During those years, thousands of people were taken south for medical treatment and many were never able to return to their homes. Today Canada has one of the lowest overall TB rates in the world, but Mr. Speaker, some regions and peoples are still hit much harder than that. First Nations, Metis, and Inuit are the most likely to have current TB diagnosis: 19 per cent of reported cases in four per cent of the country's population. In that group Inuit would have the highest rate of 154.2 per 100,000 population. Let's put that into perspective, Mr. Speaker. The rate for non-Aboriginal Canadians is 0.6 per cent per 100,000.

Last year, researchers traced a strain of tuberculosis common in the Canadian North right back to its arrival in 1919. These researchers also found that this strain was not any stronger than others, despite the prevalence of TB in the North. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that TB's impacts are magnified by Northerners' limited access to affordable healthy food, regular health care, and housing without overcrowding. Thanks to the quick work of health officials, the risk of additional infections in Tuktoyaktuk as a result of the recent incident is very low and all potentially affected residents have been notified. However, we must still be vigilant to address the root cause of Northerners' heightened vulnerability to tuberculosis. This incident is a reminder. Later on, I

will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN HAY RIVER

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the South Slave, we have many of the traditional tourist attractions: the waterfalls, wildlife, campgrounds, and miles of sandy beaches. We have to continue to preserve and promote these attractions. However, we need to think beyond these traditional forms of tourism. There are exciting and unique opportunities in my region that we need to capitalize on in order to diversify our economy and insulate us from fluctuations in global commodity prices. The government is working on the commercial fisheries revitalization strategy. As home of the commercial fishing industry in the territory, breathing new life into the fishery can be a boon to Hay River's tourist sector. One just has to look at the popularity of Pike Place Market in Seattle or the Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco to see that commercial fishing brings significant tourist potential. In fact, the Fisherman's Wharf in Hay River is already the most popular summer venue in town.

While designing our new fish processing facility, we must also keep in mind and capitalize on its potential as an integral part of the overall tourism strategy. Tourists have also expressed interest in going out on the lake on a working commercial fishing vessel, and this is something that we must explore as well. Because of jurisdictional issues, we will need this government's supports to work with the feds on policy and regulatory changes to allow this. Hay River is also lucky enough to be the home of the Northern Farm Training Institute. NFTI, as it is known, has garnered international attention from those interested in agriculture and the environment, as well as from academics in the scientific community. It is uniquely positioned to be an agritourist and ecotourist destination as well as a venue for scientific and agriculture conferences. This is truly something unique that very few places can offer. Because of the work NFTI has already done, it is a member of a world-wide network and has access to potential tourists from around the globe. It has also created a three-year tourism plan and is working hard to build its own capacity. This government needs to embrace and support efforts like this. Mr. Speaker, these are just two examples, but I could go on. By thinking outside the box and supporting these and other unique opportunities, we could help turn Hay River into a true tourist destination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the people in the gallery. We have a former Member of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Jim Antoine is here with us. Thank you. Masi. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member from Nahendeh.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also recognize Jim Antoine, his wife Celine Antoine, Tumbah Antoine, who graduated from Dechinta this past Saturday after two months in the bush, as well as Deneze Nakehk'o, former resident of Deh Cho, Fort Simpson, the Liidlii Kue First Nation and as well I'd be remiss not to recognize one of my sons, as I call him, Wade Vaneltsi. Welcome. Thank you.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the group from Dechinta there, and more specifically Rachelle MacCauley, who graduated this past Saturday evening, and her mother Helen. Welcome to the House.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to welcome everyone from Dechinta here, as well as Mr. Jordan Peterson. He's running in an upcoming election for the Gwich'in Tribal Council and it's good to see young guys like yourself getting into politics and doing the better good for your people. Welcome. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize one of my constituents, Deneze Nakehk'o, who is living out in Kam Lake now after relocating from Fort Simpson. I'd also like to recognize all of the folks here from Dechinta for the great work they do and the journey they've taken. Thank you, Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Iris Catholique. She is a former resident of Lutselk'e. Her family is still in Lutselk'e, I think she resides in Yellowknife now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize the Dechinta graduates, the on-the-land graduates including Tumbah Antoine and other students as well as program leaders that made this program quite possible. I'd like to extend congratulations to them, also acknowledging Celine and Jim Antoine and their family being present in the gallery, and also Deneze Nakehk'o as well. Last but not least, I'd like to recognize two Pages from my riding of Kakisa: Maverick Canadian. His parents are Terry Simba and Julie Canadian. He's in grade seven; he's 12 years old. I'd like to welcome here to the Assembly, at the same time, Sadee Simba. Her parents are Nora and Wayne Simba and she's in grade 8 and she's 14 years old. I believe their chaperone is Nora Simba. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member from Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Wade Vaneltsi also my cousin from Fort McPherson. Also I'd like to recognize Jordan Peterson and also everybody from Dechinta who just spent two months in the bush, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in gallery. Member for Great Slave.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize Jim Antoine in the gallery today. Jim is the chair designate of the new Territorial Health and Social and Services Authority and I look forward to continuing to work with Jim over the coming years as we move to one authority. Thank you, Jim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, first of all, congratulate everyone who was part of the Dechinta University experience this time around. I would like to recognize and introduce my partner Janice McKenna. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to attend the Dechinta grad on Saturday and just for the record I'd like to let Members know who's all here and which community they're from. Congratulations once again Rachelle MacCauley from Tulita; Tumbah Antoine from Liidlii Kue Fort Simpson; Barbara Ann Blanco, Colville Lake; Sheila Karkagie, Tulita; Wade Clifford Vaneltsi, Fort McPherson; Chelsea Marie Migwy, Behchoko; Kayla Tulugarjuk from

Igloodik. We're also getting students from Nunavut as well: Thumlee Etthenegon-Foliot. Once again, congratulations. I'd like to thank the staff for all their hard work and also welcome Jim and Celine Antoine here joining us today and a good friend Deneze Nakehk'o. Welcome and I hope you enjoy the proceedings. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous speakers stole most of my thunder, but I think there might have been a couple of names that he did miss. I believe Dr. Erin Freeland Ballantyne's in the audience. She's the dean of unbiased activities, research and innovation, Dechinta Bush University. I believe Barbara Ann Blanco of Colville Lake is also in the gallery. Greetings to all the folks here from Dechinta, especially the grads on your important achievement. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I too would like to congratulate all the Dechinta graduates, the great work of Ms. Ballantyne, and Bishop Converione, and Chelsea Migwy. Thanks for being here with us, and also those individuals that may not have been highlighted today; thanks for being here with us. It's always great to have an audience in the gallery. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 165-18(2): CONSISTENCY OF RESTRAINT AND REDUCTION INITIATIVES

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today you heard from my Member's statement about the topic of change. As I said in my statement, I have some questions of the Premier to help clear up some confusion and hopefully help the residents of the NWT have a clear understanding what is happening here in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, Cabinet decided that it was important to freeze excluded employee salaries increases and potential bonuses as part of the government's reduction plan. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier please explain to us in the public why Cabinet froze the excluded employee salary and at the same time the government continues to advertise in the paper for recruiting future workers and government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the government announced is that there would be no economic adjustments for excluded

employees and this was publicly announced by the Finance Minister in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: The Premier answered part of the question, but I'll move onto my next one. Mr. Speaker, there has been conversation and rumours out in the public service and on the streets of communities that the NWT are about to potentially realign some of the departments. Can the Premier please confirm that this option has been looked at and discussed?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: No decisions have been made as of yet. Possibly there could be changes. It depends on the outcomes of zero-base reviews. If there is a business case to support any amalgamations, those proposals will be reflected in the 2017-18 business plans and we'll reviewed with committees this fall, and I hope the committee will support changes that would be proposed, if any, at that time.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Premier for his answer. I know for one I will give my hand out and am willing to work with you if it's exchanged back and forth, so I thank the Premier for that statement. Mr. Speaker, with these potential alignments of departments, will the Premier look at reducing the Cabinet size from seven to six as part of the reduction process? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Our experience is that workload from Ministers does not significantly decrease when departments are amalgamated, and I'm not saying we're going to do that, but if we do I don't expect there will be any changes to the number of Cabinet Ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Premier for his answer. Mr. Speaker, I understand and appreciate how the Premier answered the question, but can he please explain what the difference is between Cabinet positions and public servant positions when we're doing reductions. If the government wants the public service to reduce their numbers, why can't we do that to show leadership on our end? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you for clarifying the position. If the business case shows that there's opportunities for increased effectiveness and efficiencies, that's where the difference comes in, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 166-18(2):
SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my Member's statement I'd talked about the small community employment program that's administered by ECE. I'd like to ask the Minister a couple of questions. Mr. Speaker, what is the plan for the utilization of the small community employment program in this fiscal year?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. With the small community employment support program, it's a program that's been around for many years. We're going to continue to do the work and focus on the training on the job as well as community initiative, provide project based on training. Training on the job has been very successful in our communities. Currently, I believe we do the program in 26 communities in the Northwest Territories. Small community is defined by any community that is less than 1,000 people. In the 2015-16 fiscal year we had 303 NWT residents participate; 196 went through the individual training on the job, and the other 107 through group-based training opportunities just to name a few of the successes of this program. We're going to continue in those two areas and hopefully we get more requests. There was a surplus of the funding last year and hopefully moving forward we get more people in the communities getting ready to take on some of the jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister another question on this. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister engaged other Ministers in carrying out the mandate of increasing employment in small communities specific to this particular program?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I think the program is very unique and very successful, and as I mentioned on April 20th when we did release the Labour Market Information and Needs Assessment and we're starting to develop the action plan that we're hoping to table in the fall session that from now until we develop that action plan we are going to be getting a lot of feedback and information all our stakeholders and that includes other departments as we move forward with the Labour Market Information Action Plan, but also utilizing the small community employment support program as we start developing skill development in our residents.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister advise how the Department of ECE will be allocating the small community employment program to the communities, whether project based or so much per community, just a quick word on how the funding will be allocated to the small communities?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, there's 26 communities that we currently work with. The reason 26 communities is because we don't have ECE regional office in all the communities, and the ones that are under 1,000 people, we work with them and we help them work on giving the applications to apply for this funding to support on-the-job training and support group-based activities in the community as well to develop that training. We'll continue to work with all our communities, the 26 of them, to make sure that they have an understanding and in having questions asked in a House like this also brings some public awareness to organizations, community members who want to access the program.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that the program was underutilized, undersubscribed, so I'd like to ask the Minister if information on how to access small community programs and what type of projects that the small community employment program can be tied to has been distributed to the small communities. Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I believe our staff regional office has worked really well in the communities. One thing that I did mention here in the House earlier or last week was our employment transition office. It's the first year of the program that the pilot's taken place in and they're out in the communities talking about these kind of programs, as well as getting our residents into employment job opportunities by developing skills and getting the education that they need. The employment transition officer is just going through his first year. We're hearing a lot of great successes on it and we're going to continue to use them to promote this program in the 26 communities throughout the Northwest Territories, and we do have five ETOs currently.

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

QUESTION 167-18(2):
ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF ALL-SEASON
ROAD TO WHATI

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the economic evaluation of the road to Whati and I have questions for the Minister of Transportation. Fortune Minerals wants this road built as a pre-condition of developing its mine. What kind of a commitment is the government getting from Fortune Minerals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories isn't getting any commitment from Fortune Minerals or we are not giving them any commitment for this road neither. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Given that answer, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could tell us how the government will make a decision about whether to invest in the road to Whati? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The 18th Legislative Assembly mandate confirmed by all our Caucus colleagues includes the investment in transportation which also includes investment in the Whati Tlicho all-season road, so that decision moving forward was made by all Members of this Assembly.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't feel like I made that decision. I haven't, until yesterday, seen the business case for this road, so I encourage the government to bring this investment forward for consideration especially given the fact that the economic benefit of the road alone without the mine is so small. Is this road in fact a subsidy to the mining industry?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: This road is not a subsidy for the mining industry. This road was brought forward by the Tlicho Government and it was pushed forward alongside with the Department of Transportation. It's unfortunate maybe the Member didn't get to read the business case before caucus decided that this was part of our 18th Assembly's in our mandate, but it is what it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I will be pursuing this topic again apparently. My final question has to do with who is going to obtain the employment to build the road. The economic evaluation says that the Tlicho Region will be the contractors for this road, a road that's being built with public money, and so to what extent is the government putting in place measures that will ensure that despite the fact that people in Whati have a high unemployment rate that they will be prepared to take advantage of the road building jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, no decisions have been made. Even if we were going to be building this road, we are still waiting to hear back from the federal government on infrastructure dollars of this road and when we receive those funds from the federal government, if we receive those funds from the federal government, how we

proceed will be something that the department will have to look at in how we farm out this contract.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the public in the gallery. We have Madame Josee Clermont, who is the director general of College nordique here with us. She has been monitoring our budget debates and she'll be here during the deliberation of Education, Culture and Employment. Thanks for being here. Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 168-18(2):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING CONSULTATIONS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke about the importance of transparency and consulting with residents about the important issue of fracking. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise what research the department is doing to learn more about the potential impacts of fracking, in other words, have we or are we conducting any reviews or studies to consider the risks of hydraulic fracturing in the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has been conducting research in the 16th and 17th Assemblies and working very closely with the standing committee on economic development. They went and did several site visits where fracking was happening and I think we have gained a much better understanding. Responsible resource development, including oil and gas development, could be a major component of the Northwest Territories economy. We have substantial resources and reserves and it could be essential to creating a prosperous sustainable future for our residents. There is no oil and gas development or exploration going on at this time. We expect that it will be at least ten years perhaps when there would be any exploration. We certainly have the time to get it right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for his reply. As I noted in my Member's statement today, although the oil and gas exploration seems to have subsided, it is certainly the time to engage in the public consultation in my view and I think in the view of my colleagues. Second question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister: is the Minister or has the Minister been willing to seek advice from industry experts, stakeholders, NGOs, and other knowledgeable officials from other jurisdictions with experience in regulation of fracking?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In response to priorities laid out by the 18th Legislative Assembly the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed to advancing a review of the Petroleum Resources Act and the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the regulations associated with it. We recognize that people want more time to think about how our resources are best managed and developed. This engagement also ties in with the work we are doing to develop a Northwest Territories Oil and Gas Strategy which will not only help us to unlock the petroleum potential of the Northwest Territories but to do so in a way that is environmentally responsible and benefits our communities. Through our work to develop a NWT Oil and Gas Strategy, we have been guided by engagement with communities, territorial stakeholders, leaders, subject matter experts, Aboriginal groups, industry, and the public.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate the Minister's reply again, but I am wondering again could the Minister explain how the department is planning to develop and encourage public input into hydraulic fracturing in the NWT? Some more specifics would be appreciated, and in particular I'd like to ask how the department plans to bring industry into this public debate?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Between April and June 2015 the departments of ITI, Environment and Natural Resources, and Lands conducted 14 public engagement sessions in 12 communities throughout the territory hearing input from residents, businesses and industry about the proposed regulations. Residents are also able to submit comments by mail and email. What we heard is there's a lot of education required on this matter and we will certainly engage industry and also as we go out and conduct a review of our Oil and Gas Operations Act and Petroleum Resources Act and develop our Oil and Gas Strategy.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the Minister: will the Minister after this engagement commit to developing a public report that includes the recommendations, advice, and opinions shared by experts, other jurisdictions, and the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In the 17th Assembly the standing committee on economic development after touring several fracking regions did release a report with quite a number of recommendations. We expect that what we would do is through the review of the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the Petroleum Resources Act we would deal with the issues and we expect the public to raise their concerns with regards to hydraulic fracking.

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

QUESTION 169-18(2):
ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN
YELLOWKNIFE

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the misfortune to encounter two severely intoxicated homeless people engaged in a vicious brawl here on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly, no less. Unfortunately, this is an all-too-common sight here on the streets of Yellowknife and Yellowknifers have had enough. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for Homelessness, what is the plan to address the severe need to do something about the homelessness problem here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi. Minister responsible for Homelessness.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, coming into work today encountered two individuals out back who were intoxicated; however, even though my history has been 20 years working with homeless people, I for one cannot attest that those two individuals were actually homeless people. I'm not sure if what we were seeing was public drunkenness, loitering, or homelessness. I often think that sometimes people see them all and just automatically claim homelessness which is actually an insult to people. What is our plan for moving forward? As Members know, we did have a community forum here in Yellowknife. Out of that forum, we developed two committees. One committee is looking at policies that impede people from accessing housing supports, government supports actually, and the other committee is led by the City of Yellowknife, and they'll be looking at all of the recommendations brought forward by that committee and bring it in timelines. Not only was that forum done, we also sent out a letter as well asking for input towards that. More than 65 recommendations will be reviewed by the City. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I thank the Minister for her answer. Of course as the Minister knows, the point in time survey undertaken by the City of Yellowknife showed that on a per capita basis we have a significant problem in this community as large the City of Toronto, so I think it's safe to say much of what we see is in fact part of this issue. We've heard of these two working groups and the recommendations, but we have yet to know how that's going to take shape. How will these working groups... Or recommendations... How many chronic homeless persons will be housed as a result of these recommendations?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The actual amount of homeless people within Yellowknife is really a hard number to pin down, as I've stated before; however, the City of Yellowknife did do a point-in-time survey last year and they figure that 139 people were actually homeless within the city. I, of course, based on personal experience, would beg to differ. How many people are we going to help within the next time? When I was elected as Regular MLA and as Minister, my commitment was to listen, and I have listened to the MLAs within the Yellowknife region. A couple of our MLAs, Yellowknife MLAs, have been really adamant and said you need to work with Housing First, you need to partner with the City of Yellowknife. In fact, I was even accused that if I didn't do that, I was not doing my job, quotations. Well, I've listened to the Yellowknife MLAs and we are going to partner with the City of Yellowknife in their Housing First endeavour, and we are going to move ahead with the emergency shelters as well and they're semi-independent. With the City of Yellowknife, the partnership that the Yellowknife MLAs really advocated for, we would be housing one person for this fiscal year. With the semi-independent housing options that we've done with the emergency shelters, we will be housing 30 people within this fiscal year. Together we will be housing a minimum of 31 people this fiscal year.

MR. TESTART: Those are interesting numbers. Again, my question was focused on chronic homeless people, which Housing First is designed to address. How much is this plan going to cost? Let's talk about chronic homelessness, not those in need of shelter, but chronic homeless people use 51 per cent of our emergency services and are a huge cost to the taxpayer. How much are we contributing and paying to make sure this plan works and that we can get that number higher than one?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: All of the people that I'm talking about are actually chronic homeless. Within the partnership with the City of Yellowknife, they will be housing one chronic homeless person. They have \$240,000 to put to the table for this initiative this year. As well, the GNWT is putting forward \$150,000 to help them with this, for a total \$390,000. For the 30 rooms that we're going to do, the semi-independent with the emergency shelters which are also working on a Housing First model, in fact, actually went down south to study the model, we will spend less than three times the amount, a one-time funding of \$600,000 maximum for the 30 people.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise on a timeline for this plan to roll out

and when we can expect to see the results and evaluate our success? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated, we are partnering with the City of Yellowknife on the strong advocacy of the couple of Yellowknife MLAs. Their RFP just closed today. We are not sure when it will be done, but they have promised us that their one individual will be housed within this fiscal year. As for the 30 individuals that we are working with, the construction will begin this summer, and, before the winter, that construction will be finished.

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

QUESTION 170-18(2):
CULTURAL AREA AT MOOSE KERR SCHOOL IN
AKLAVIK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Education. I would like to ask the Minister: will the Minister be in support of removing the two buildings for a cultural area in Aklavik? **Thank you, Mr. Speaker.**

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was brought up from the Member, and we have the department looking into it. We're also waiting for the Beaufort Delta Education Council to receive a request from the school. I encourage the Member and the staff at Moose Kerr School in Aklavik to talk with the education council as well as the education authority to see about getting that process moved. We obviously want to support the cultural activities in the small communities, all communities, in the Northwest Territories, and I encourage the Member to speak with the staff to bring that request forward. We'll take the appropriate steps when we do receive that request. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, many times when we speak about any buildings on the premises in the area of the school, it's a shared interest, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these buildings are a combination of both education and public works. I'd like to ask the Minister: will the Minister work with the Minister of Public Works as they have a shared interest in these two buildings?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: When it comes to government-owned buildings, we definitely always work with the Minister of Public Works and Services to ensure that they are demolished in a safe manner and, if there's any other environmental issues with it, that we do it the proper way, so,

definitely, once we get the request in and start working on it.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, these buildings were built in the '60s and '70s, well before DEAs were established, Mr. Speaker, so I don't think it would be proper that the DEA was to have to pay for this. Will the Minister reassure me that the department will pick up the cost for the removal of these two buildings?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, we're just waiting for the request, see what the cost will be, and we'll wait until the staff at Moose Kerr School brings it to the department, and we'll take it from there.

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

QUESTION 171-18(2):
GNWT SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I said I was going to address the questions around the summer student program. The summer student program, as you know, is a vital backbone to the next generation accumulating and generating their education to further seek their career of choices. As mentioned earlier, they face many challenges, and it's always comforting to know that, when they do come back home, this government is trying every which way to assist. I would like to ask the Minister responsible: what initiatives are under way for this current summer program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as always, the Department of Human Resources has set up the Summer Student Employment Program whereby we ask students to provide us with their resumes. We include them in a database which is shared with departments. Ultimately, the hiring of summer students is a department responsibility, each one of the individual departments. We do collect those resumes. When the departments indicate that they have a need, we forward the resumes that meet the job criteria that they're looking for, and we actually help facilitate the hire, but the hires are actually, ultimately, the responsibility of the individual departments. To support some of the departments, we do have the summer student Related Experience Program where we do provide some financial assistance to the departments to offset some of the costs of hiring summer students, and we also facilitate the Related Experience Program offered through health and social services. There's a number of things we do to support departments,

but, ultimately, the hiring of summer students is the responsibility of the individual departments, boards, and agencies of the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Looking at the latest report results on the numbers that show that the program is working, and I want to commend the Minister responsible for that. As I recall, some weeks ago or at the last session here that the Minister made a point in saying that the numbers were going to be met or increased from last year. This year, we're still below. When I look at the some of the larger centres, they are quite very high compared to the smaller areas, so would the Minister improve, by working with the regional leadership and the school principals or superintendents, to develop and increase those numbers in the smaller areas?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Once again, the individual departments, boards, and agencies are responsible for hiring summer students. On Friday, the Premier of the Northwest Territories did send a letter to all of the Ministers as well as the deputy ministers, directing them to hire more summer students. Our numbers are a little bit lower than they were last year. Currently, we have 217 summer students hired. Last year at this time, we had 273. By the end of the year, we had about 341. The Premier has already given direction to have all the departments hire more students to try and get us closer to the number where we were last year.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my last visit home, I had the opportunity of talking about this issue with Imperial Oil, a large employer in Norman Wells, and they reinstated their program. At the time here, they had five students. Looking at the numbers here, this government has five students. I think there's room for improvement. Would the Minister target for ten by the end of this session?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. Last year by this time, we had hired four summer students in Norman Wells. This year, we've already hired five summer students in Norman Wells, so we're a little ahead of where we were, but we're on par for where we were by the end of the year. I have already directed my departments, Human Resources and Health and Social Services, to hire as many students as they can. There has to be meaningful work. They can't just be hired to sit around an office and do nothing. There has to be work for them to do. I have directed my two departments to hire the same number or more than they did last year, and I know that the Premier has already given that direction to the other Ministers, to hire as many summer students as they did last year. They will be moving forward trying to hire as many as they can.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Would the Minister agree to hiring 15?

---Laughter

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I can't speak on behalf of the other departments. The other departments have to look at their budgets. They have to look at their workload. They have already been encouraged by the Premier to hire as many students as they can, with a focus on getting in as many hired as we had last year.

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

QUESTION 172-18(2):
TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMS

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, I talked about TB, and my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: currently, how many known cases of TB are there in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of 2016, we have two active cases of TB and one pending. We have two confirmed and one possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my second question is: what active steps is the Department of Health and Social Services taking in 2016-17 to prevent tuberculosis and reduce new infections in the NWT?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the TB rates in the Northwest Territories are declining. Over the last ten years in the Northwest Territories we have seen a yearly average of about ten TB cases. In the last two years, we've actually seen lower numbers than that, four or five. Regardless, we are focused on having no TB here, in the Northwest Territories, and we've got to do that by ensuring that a hundred per cent of the people diagnosed with TB are cured. Identifying and treating those who are infected but don't have symptoms, often referred to as latent TB, is necessary to continue to reduce rates here, in the Northwest Territories. The department does have resources for TB surveillance and screening that are targeted at high-risk groups and includes efforts to identify and treat those with latent TB. Our community healthy living fairs are one of our tools

that we're using. It's an attempt at bringing health and wellness promotion to the smallest communities. They do talk about TB during those events. These are a valuable opportunity to do just that, to talk about TB, encourage people to get screened. If they are screened, then we can take the next steps to treat. There are a number of different things we're doing. If somebody is diagnosed or identified with TB, we do contact screening with them. We talk, have a conversation with them, figure out who they've been in touch with, and we follow up with every one of those individuals in order to confirm and test to make sure that they don't have latent TB and they haven't been exposed.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week there was some social media brought up, the case of tuberculosis in Tuktoyaktuk, which caused a big scare in the community, and there has been a few concerned residents which they have contacted myself to just basically more get an education of what happens next when someone who think they may have been in contact with someone that has tuberculosis. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: what should someone do if they think they have been in contact with someone with TB? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, if someone feels that they have come into contact with somebody with active TB, they should get in touch with their healthcare provider. Individuals should follow the instructions of their healthcare providers, which may include testing and/or the requirement for them to take medication if they're latent. The Chief Public Health Officer confirms that causes of infectious TB is one of the conditions that is tracked here in the Northwest Territories. We monitor everybody that has TB and we'll take steps to follow up with everybody that has come into contact with anybody who does have active TB. Again, go to the doctor. Go to your health centre. Talk to the individual. Get screened. If you're prescribed medication, take it to conclusion as one of the best ways to stop the spread of TB.

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

QUESTION 173-18(2):
CARBON PRICING

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In March, our Premier took part in the first federal/provincial/territorial leader summit in almost a decade. It was largely focused on climate change. At that meeting, carbon pricing was a central issue in achieving greenhouse gas reductions. Can the Premier inform

us of the position he took at the meeting on the issue of carbon pricing? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the meeting, we raised the concerns that carbon pricing could have a negative impact on the cost of living in the Northwest Territories and other northern territories, and I did point out to the first Minister that it was possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without introducing carbon pricing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: It's clear that carbon pricing is an indispensable element of any strategy to reduce carbon emissions and that the federal government could still impose carbon pricing if agreement can't be reached. The closing accord promised that measures could be adapted to the realities or should be adapted "to the realities of Canada's Indigenous peoples in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions," end of quote. Is the Premier prepared to move on achieving a sensible and sensitive carbon pricing regime for the Northwest Territories?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: At the Vancouver meetings, the Prime Minister did indicate he was going to work very closely with the 166 communities in the North that are solely dependent on diesel for electrical production. We're not sure what format that will take. I expect that will be developed during the meetings of the four federal working groups that have been set up to report in October. Certainly, we are very prepared and we are putting into action an approach to develop a new Northwest Territories climate change strategic framework for consideration by the 18th Assembly. As part of that process, we're going to go to every community, ask the public if they support carbon pricing, and that will be part of our strategic framework.

MR. O'REILLY: I thank the Premier for his answer. It looks like he's actually read some of my last two questions I've got, or certainly anticipating them very well, so the Premier did mention that there are four working groups. One of them is specifically on carbon pricing. What role is the Northwest Territories taking on that particular working group, and how will the Regular MLAs be consulted?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are participating in all four of the working groups, and we're very open to working out a process with my colleagues in this house. We have also, for our climate change strategic framework that we will be working on, we will be setting up our own departmental working groups and also will be consulting with Aboriginal governments and community governments early in the development process. Whatever we develop, we expect it will be consistent with the commitments that were made at

the Quebec Summit on Climate Change and the Ontario Climate Summit of the Americas, as well as, I expect we will be consistent with whatever is developed with the federal government. I think if we haven't already written to offer a briefing where we can discuss how Members would like to provide for input, we will be doing so in the near future.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Premier for the commitment for briefing to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, presumably. The Premier did mention that there's going to be consultations taking place over the summer for Northwest Territories climate change strategy, and I believe there's also a greenhouse gas strategy renewal that's to take place this summer. How is that work that the Northwest Territories government going to do over the summer? How is that going to feed into federal/provincial/territorial climate change measures including carbon pricing? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I believe that by participating on the four federal climate change working groups we will have the opportunity to provide for input. We certainly benefit from the interaction with other provinces and territories where we learn what their thoughts on carbon pricing are. Some provinces are looking at not developing an across-the-board carbon pricing mechanism. Maybe that's something that would be suited for the Northwest Territories, where you develop criteria where there's no development, where communities have no business opportunities, perhaps you would not introduce carbon pricing but you could develop it so you could apply, you would have, different criteria. Those are all kinds of things that we'll be looking at, and, certainly, I expect that, recognizing that the Northwest Territories or northern territories are the most affected by climate change, it's going to be very important to us to do a lot of work in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address, day four of seven. Member for Nahendeh.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. THOMPSON'S REPLY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, upon returning to this session, I started preparing my reply to the Finance Minister's budget address. It has been an interesting process, to say the least. I have worked for the government for more than 23 years as a public servant and

always wondered how the budget was developed, scratching my head and wondering how Ordinary MLAs could allow things to happen as they did. Now that I've been through the process, I still am scratching my head, but now I know the process a little bit better.

Mr. Speaker, I'll start with a bit of history. For me to understand the process, I looked to the past as I always do. I started my research with the 2008-2009 budget address. Why, you would ask. This was the year that GNWT needed to cut \$135 million and proposed huge cut or huge job reductions. As I was working away on Sunday, May 29th, I took a break to see what was on TV, and, as I flipped through the channels, I came upon an amazing document or documentary called "NWT1973, One Third of Canada." I strongly recommend watching it. It was well worth it, for sure. Mr. Speaker, I will share some of the highlights from the documentary:

1. People of the Northwest Territories were asked to debate, discuss, and provide recommendations for the budget, but, in the end, the bureaucracy did what they wanted.
2. The budget was developed by the senior bureaucracy and given to the elected officials without consulting them very much.
3. The elected officials could delete items in the budget but could not add to it.
4. There were close to 5,000 civil servants working, looking after the 4,000 people living in the NWT, which included Nunavut.
5. The greatest resource for the Northwest Territories is its people.
6. Housing was an issue with the government.
7. Companies from down south used the "smash and grab" approach to work up north, taking employment opportunities for Northerners. These companies found ways around the regulations and northern companies had to follow. There were no benefit to northern companies or communities, and the money left here with southern companies and workers.
8. There was a debate about resources and who owned them.
9. Less fortunate people were not being treated like the fortunate people. There was better housing in larger centres than in the smaller centres.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the reporter ended with some wise words from a Dene elder: "No one learns unless they learn to listen." He was talking about

bureaucracy and some politicians not listening to the people. Does this not sound familiar? I was totally taken back by this documentary. It was surprising to see that in 43 years some things have not changed.

After hearing our Finance Minister's budget address on Wednesday, June 1st, I continued to review the 2008-2009 address, budget address, and did a comparison. Now, I'd like you to close your eyes and go back in time as I read a few quotes from the 2008-2009 budget address:

- We depend on people and business around the world to buy our products and services, so the health of the world market and the pocket books of the world consumers affect our economy.
- The budget I am including today begins to make the substantial investment needed to advance our priorities. It is built on key existing programs and services and moves our territories towards our vision and goals.
- Now, Mr. Speaker, if we are to achieve the vision that Members have set, then we cannot continue to do business in the same old way.
- We have limited revenue in the NWT. They are growing, but, without change, our expenditures will grow faster. We face a situation where our operating expenditures have continued to eat into our revenue base, eroding our ability to fund important priorities like roads, schools, water treatment plants. If this is addressed, it will hurt our long-term financial position, and our ability to invest in our strategic priorities towards building a better future will be compromised.
- NWT residents know what it means to make financial choices. Households, families deal with the same set of choices every day. They know that, if you spend money faster than you earn it, you will eventually end up in debt. You'll end up using your credit cards for day-to-day expenditures like rent and food, and you don't have any extra cash along the way to make major investments and improve your standard of living, like buying a truck or renovating your home. Worse yet, if you haven't put your financial affairs in order during the good times, then it's even more difficult and dangerous when rough times arrive. We all know that that's not a prudent way to secure the future of our families.

It is amazing how similar the wording is that of the 2016-17 budget address. After reading the old budget, I wondered if the Regular Members of the 16th Assembly felt the same way I did through the

whole process, so I checked the Hansard to find what they said. I'd like to share some of those comments:

"Mr. Speaker, I listened today to the Premier's budget address with some interest. There were a lot of positive things in there, but, at the beginning of the 16th Assembly, we were informed that reductions were needed and that we had to live within our means or we would be in dire fiscal or financial situations down the road. I want to buy into that argument and believe we could have good-quality input into the whole budget process, Mr. Speaker. I was wrong. As a Regular Member, I thought my input was going to be important and would be a part of the whole budget process. I found out differently. I was not part of the whole process. I still believe and listen to the financial situation of this government down the road that reductions are needed, but I think good, thought-out reductions that come from the 19 Members are reflective of what we hear from the residents. We have to listen to their voice. I don't think these reductions should be coming from bureaucrats who are in debt or protecting their backsides. At the end of the day, they don't have to wear the reductions back in their communities."

Who said that? It was the Member from Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. R.C. McLeod.

Another one, here's another one:

"On several occasions since I was elected, I have gone on the record talking about morale in the public service. The staff of the GNWT are our most valuable resources. They are people who provide the essential services to all the residents in NWT. Without a happy and motivated public service, we are failing in the delivery of these essential services we are expected to deliver as the government. Now, with this Premier's announcement of \$135 million in reductions over the next two years, there are waves of terror running through the public service. The continuous reference from the Premier to cut jobs does nothing to raise an already poor morale. It seems to me that focusing on job cuts is exactly the wrong way to pursue a course of correction with respect to the government's spending patterns. Once every reasonable effort has been made to reduce our overall spending through streamlining as well as creative and innovative thinking and planning, we may still be faced with some job cuts. These cuts must be a last resort. They should not be the government's first solution to our fiscal difficulties. In 1976, the Government made the mistake of implementing short-sighted job cuts with intent to reduce spending. It failed. It did not result in fundamental changes in how the public service does business, which is what is truly required. In the end, people of the NWT left, which affected the

amount of money we received from the federal government. All the structural changes, such as eliminating personnel, and consolidating renewable resources, and economic development tourism have reversed themselves to the great cost of GNWT. Let's not relive these same mistakes. Let's get it right. To this end, I encourage the Premier and Cabinet to engage staff, the public, as well as the 11 MLAs on the other side of the house to find creative solutions that will improve our fiscal situations without cutting public service jobs. We must support our valuable resource. Our dedicated and committed staff deserve better than the message they are currently receiving."

Some of you may remember those words from the Member of Yellowknife's Great Slave, Mr. Glen Abernethy.

During question period, Ms. Bisaro asked the Minister of Human Resources: what mechanisms currently exist for staff to provide input into our annual budget process?

Here is the Minister's response:

"We certainly recognize that human resources are our biggest asset, and we are always trying to get the input of the individual staff and employees because we find that they're the ones that work with the programs and services that they deliver. Generally, they come up with some of the best ideas that we have. We have developed, as a government, a communications strategy and approach for dealing with our budget process. We have requested our deputy ministers send the information to the managers, and all managers are familiar with the process. I would suggest to employees that have any suggestions or comments and want to have input in the process to raise them with their supervisors or managers. We would welcome their commitments."

The Minister who said that was Bob McLeod.

Now, I'm not trying to embarrass the three Ministers, but these are the words where cuts were being proposed in the 2008-09 budget. Mr. Speaker, I feel totally just like they did eight years ago. I guess things change when we get to the other side of the House.

I totally believe our employees are the best and most valuable resources, a resource that is not tapped into yet at all. The Minister and senior bureaucrats need to be open to suggestions from all employees. Most of the time, the best ideas come from those in the trenches who see the waste and inefficiencies within the government on a daily basis.

The current Minister of Finance says we have to reduce our budget by \$150 million. I'm not sure that

we have to. The question we need to address is: what is the best way to reduce spending? I do not believe it is by setting arbitrary targets on each department. To be fiscally responsible, you must encourage or engage everybody in a dialogue to identify areas of waste, limited results, and low priority according to our mandate, not only listen to the bureaucrats and senior management. The old style of across-the-board reductions has not worked in the past. Why do you think it's going to work now? Changes need to be made, but those changes need to be carefully analyzed, which takes time. This has not been done, from my eyes. This is a government that wants to be visionary and proactive, not reactive. This is what they need to do. Unfortunately, I do not see this happening during this budget process. I hope that they do that for the next business cycle. As well, as we are moving, if we are going to do it right, we need to do zero-based budgeting for all departments, just not a few. This way we can do the job right once and for all. I do not want to say the whole process was bad and that the sky is still falling. I think the government did a great job in scaring everybody, including me. After it is all said and done, the Finance Minister is actually proposing a \$31 million reduction with a \$35.5 million in new incentives. Overall, spending is up almost \$15 million from last year. Some of the highlights for me are:

- Education, Culture and Employment, with an increase of \$6 million to enhance support for post-secondary students, to support children and families with low-cost, low and moderate income, and for employment programs for people with disabilities.
- Municipal and community government, core increase by two per cent. A little short of the \$40 million, but it's a good start.
- Department of Justice, Aboriginal Justice Strategy Fund, there's a \$316,000 for community-based justice programs.
- The Housing Corporation will receive \$35.4 million in new federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Finance Minister for being in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration to protect the \$4.3 million of program in this budget. However, I must say I was disappointed that I did not see an increase in the sport, recreation, youth area. I realize that approximately \$6.5 million is allocated. Sounds like a lot, but, if you compare it to the overall budget, it is only approximately 0.3 to 0.9, depending on which numbers we use from the budget, \$1.6 million to \$1.98 billion. This does not say much about where youth sit in the priorities of this government. We need to invest in them in addition to what we've done, in education. It was

disappointing to see the government did not take the opportunity to invest more on our youth returning from school. As I've said numerous times, this is our most important resource for our future. Why hasn't the government developed a strategy to encourage summer employment as a priority or available to our Priority 1 and Priority 2 students upon their return home? Wouldn't this be a great way to show them that they are important and that we want them back where they graduate? If they cannot or are not able to develop a strategy to address this issue, they are easily earmark funds to hire at least 350 summer students each year.

As for staff reductions, I am disappointed the government did not try to trim the cream from the top. It always seems to be the people in the trenches who are affected. I appreciate the government has staff retention policy and is doing its best to ensure that affected employees are offered their positions, other positions in the Government of Northwest Territories. To better realize budget efficiency, I ask the question: where are the senior management bureaucrats' reductions in the process?

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I must say I'm very disappointed in the Government of the Northwest Territories. This government seems to be making life more difficult for communities outside of the major centres of Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Inuvik. The government is bringing positions back to Yellowknife, and that isn't right. I guess we are now centralizing positions. I hope that we learn from these lessons from our first budget that will lead us to changes for the better in the second one. If not, we will continue to go around and around as history has shown us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 11, replies to budget address, day 4 of 7. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters with Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to continue on with

Tabled Document 50-18(2), NWT Main Estimates, 2016-2017 and we would like to do the Department of Education, Culture and Employment today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will re-adjourn after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will now consider Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017, and we have agreed to consider Education, Culture and Employment. I'll turn to the Minister responsible for the department for any opening comments he might have. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 main estimates for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of \$6.06 million or two per cent over the 2015-2016 main estimates. These estimates continue to support the objectives of limiting expenditure growth in order to sustain the long-term sustainability of the fiscal framework. Highlights of the proposed estimates include:

- \$2 million to support NWT children through enhancements to the Income Assistance Benefit Program and NWT Child Benefit;
- \$2.2 million for enhancements to the Student Financial Assistance Program;
- \$1.25 million for the Canada-NWT Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities;
- \$1.02 million for collective agreements increases for education authorities, Aurora College and the department;
- \$240,000 to establish two new archivist positions to review, appraise, store and manage all of the archival records transferred under the Devolution Agreement;
- \$112,000 in increased funding for emergency shelters. This will increase the number of available beds at the Inuvik Warming Shelter and the Salvation Army in Yellowknife;
- Reductions of \$2.1 million as part of the government-wide expenditure reductions,

The proposed Department of Education, Culture and Employment estimates include activities to

support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Highlights include:

- Continuing to implement the Right from the Start Early Childhood Development Framework. This includes changes to funding daycares and day homes.
- Continuing implementation of Educational Renewal, which includes initiatives like:
 - Expanding the pilot for distance learning for high school;
 - Developing new NWT K to 9 competency-based health and wellness curriculum, Northern Studies 20 and 30;
 - Implementing the renewed Inclusive Schooling Directive; and
 - Developing renewed High School Pathways and graduation requirements that include stronger career and transitioning supports as students enter the workforce or post-secondary education.
- Developing and implementing the Skills 4 Success Action Plan that will include a focus on:
 - Increasing skill levels through relevant education and training;
 - Bridging education and employment gaps through targeted supports;
 - Growth in the NWT workforce through a partnership approach; and
 - Improving decision-making with relevant labour market data.

The department is also reviewing its income security programs, which has included the work that led to the changes we are making to how we support children from low-income families and will include a review of the Senior Home Heating Subsidy program.

These are a few of the highlights for the 2016-17 fiscal year. I look forward to working with Members to advance our priorities and mandate actions related Education, Culture and Employment during the 18th Legislative Assembly. That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes I would.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. To my right I have our deputy minister, Mr. David Stewart, and to my left assistant deputy minister of corporate services, Mr. Olin Lovely.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Moses. We will now proceed to consider the detail for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I will defer the departmental summary and review the estimates by activity summary. There's that org chart on the first two pages. Do the Members have any comments or questions about the org charts? No comments, questions. On the third page we have graphs. Are there any comments or questions about the graphs? No comments. We can move on to page 50, revenue summary. This is an information item. Are there any questions on this page, questions or comments?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): On page 50, Education, Culture and Employment, revenue summary, information item, any questions? I recognize Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just see there's a Canada-NWT cooperation agreement. I see there's some numbers there and I was wondering: is that for the funding for the French first-language schools?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. In my opening comments I made the comment for persons with disabilities and that agreement is for that.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Minister Moses. I'm looking at the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages as well as the line item below that "Agreement for Minority Language Education and Second Language Instruction in French." I was wondering if that was funding for the French schools in Hay River and Yellowknife, and if so, what the breakdown is on each government's contribution. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that first \$3.8 million is for French and Aboriginal languages. The second, the \$2.588 million, is for schools.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a Canada-NWT cooperation agreement, so is there money coming from both governments that goes into that pot, or is that just the federal contribution? Is that just the territorial contribution?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, the one that's stated in here is the revenue summary, it's coming from the federal government. We also make contributions ourselves above that.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry if this is later on, but what is the territorial contribution?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are just working on the details but we do have a contribution. Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's \$2.8 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Anything further, Mr. Simpson? Questions? Further questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Labour market agreement for persons with disabilities, I see about a \$650,000 reduction from the mains. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I'll go to my assistant deputy minister, Mr. Lovely.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Go ahead, Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last year we received \$1.25 million from the federal government for that program. Based on the reduction exercise that we had to undertake we reduced that by \$650,000. That is 50 per cent of the cost of the programs that we have for persons with disabilities as the GNWT invests the other 50 per cent. Over the course of 2015-16 of the \$1.25 million that we have available we have only expended about \$850,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Thompson?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Just to clarify, this is the federal funding and is it dollar for dollar or is it 50/50? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's correct; dollar for dollar.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're talking about there's only \$800,000 worth of requests for this program. What has the department done to promote it? Because I'm pretty sure there's more people that have disabilities that are not able to access this. What has the department done to promote this; to get the message out to people that this funding is available? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Well, through our regional service centres we have client service offices, career development officers, as I mentioned also we have employment transition officers that go out and do this type of work and focus on getting the information to our residents so that they know what kind of programs are available to them.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister explain how they get the information out? Is it a walk-in or do they actually go out and go and see the people, the clients, out there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. Well, we do have walk-ins that come into the offices in the regions. We have our ETOs working in the communities. Our staff now contacts employers that actually employ some of these individuals and help them understand what services and what kind of services can be provided to them.

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

MR. THOMPSON: What about the people that have disabilities, are not employed and don't know about this? How do we get the message to them? Because I've heard from the Minister and the deputy ministers that they don't access the program. We've still lots of money still left over at the end of the day, so how do we get the message

to these people that have disabilities that can access this program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We also work with NWT Disabilities Council, the disability groups in the communities, to let them know how to get these programs out to residents, persons with disabilities in the communities. I know they do a really great job of advocating. I've done work with them in the past. We also work with our NGOs in the communities, our local governments, Aboriginal governments. I think one of the concerns is the heavy reporting that's required to the federal side of the dollars, so some people might not want to have to fill out all the paperwork and give all the reporting to the federal requirements. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the reporting, has the department gone to the federal government and said this is a hindrance, this is a challenge for the people within our communities? You know, the reporting is a challenge, and if that's stopping people from accessing funding that doesn't bode well for the people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. It's always a concern that we bring up as well, whether being on the Regular Members' side or now in my new position. It is a requirement by the federal government and we can ask them but we can't tell them to do the changes. It's something that they have initiated themselves. It's all about accountability and we want to make sure that departments are accountable and that organizations are accountable for the dollars that we do access.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for the answer but still at the end of the day, if people in our smaller communities can't access these funds and one of the hindrance is the reporting. Can you not work with the federal government and make sure they understand this so that we can try to get these people in the smaller communities to be able to access this program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We can continue to lobby the federal governments on moving forward in terms of the accountability structure and if there's any way we can make it a little bit easier for people that want to access the program. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister, I'm going to allow one more before time is up there. Go ahead, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of areas I want to explore here a bit. Just so I understand it, the second and third lines for revenue relate to agreements with the federal government on French and Aboriginal languages and then the other one on the second language instruction in French. Those two agreements, what do they actually cover? Do they cover operations of the schools? Is there any capital money in there? I'm just trying to understand what that money is for. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The first pot of money was, as I mentioned, for programs in the Aboriginal and French language services. The second program is just for K to 12 school programs specifically for French. More detail on what kind of programs there are, maybe I'll ask my deputy minister to get into more details. But those are dollars that go to the schools and they work on what kind of programs and services that they feel is appropriate to be done. But any more detail, I can ask my deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Did you want to allow your deputy minister to add to that, Mr. Minister?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As the Minister mentioned, the \$3.8 million is around support for Aboriginal language revitalization efforts as well as those types of programs, and then on the French side it's also related to the delivery of French language services that came out of the court case. For the schools, it is a pot of money that's provided that is added to by the money that the GNWT provides, and that obviously covers both the O and M side and any of the capital that's required. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Then I just want to check, have we made any approaches to the new federal government in terms of capital funding for French school expansions? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are looking at possibly working with the federal government. Not possibly: we're working with the federal government to see if we can get any kind of funding through their Heritage Canada Plan as well infrastructure dollars that might be there. We have also met with the French association, Commission scolaire and talked about how we can move forward and looking at those kind of fundings for infrastructure. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I appreciate the answer from the Minister and I look forward to trying to work with him on that too. I think that there is some receptiveness on the federal side. I've been around for a while, I know that most of the money, in fact 80 per cent of the money, for the initial school here in Yellowknife, for the francophone school, actually came from the federal government. I think it would be great to continue to pursue them and I'd like to work with the Minister on that. I want to move down to the cooperation agreement for labour market agreement for persons with disabilities just so I understand this a bit better. Are these matching dollars then that come in from the federal government and we're required to match them? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The Minister is then quite confident that this reduction from \$1,250,000 to \$600,000, we can still accommodate the needs of our residents based on that sort of reduction in expenditure or revenues coming from the feds and presumably the same on our side? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. Based on past expenditures this is still higher than what we actually spent last year. If there's more uptake and

more clients accessing the program, as a government we could always come back and look for more dollars.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Was there any consultation with the NWT council for disabilities in this sort of change in the amount that we would expend under this agreement? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We are always working with our partners, NWT councils with disabilities but in terms of corresponding, in terms of the reductions, there was no consultation on that part. We looked at program services, when we had to go through the exercise and see where dollars weren't being utilized fully and thought that those would be areas that we can look into when we went through the reductions exercise. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I might contact the council myself, but like my colleague, Mr. Thompson, I wonder whether the issue here is really one of promoting the programs to ensure that there is stronger uptake, but I appreciate the answers from the Minister. That's it for me for now. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Any further questions? Moving on, page 51, Education, Culture and Employment, active position summary, information item. Any questions? Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: In regards to a notice of reduction in some of the positions, are these part of the reduction plans, or is it stuff that was something that you guys planned on doing before?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. With some of the positions, they were in the reductions exercise that we went through. Some of the positions were also sunsets for certain programs. When we look at the position reductions, they are always difficult. We looked at options and wanted to make sure that when we did the reductions, that any work that was still left could be distributed among the remaining staff. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a North Slave and a Tlicho. Can the Minister explain the difference in these two areas? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, the North Slave is here in Yellowknife, and Tlicho is in the Tlicho communities. Also, some of the other communities up here in the North Slave region. We do have an office here, and then Tlicho also have their TSCA and they take care of their communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: The North Slave, what does that consist of? What communities? When he's talking about this for the North Slave, what communities are being served? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. That's Yellowknife, Detah, Ndilo and I believe Lutselk'e.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I notice that there was the reduction in the Dehcho by one position. Could the Minister explain what position was this? Was it sunsetted or was it part of the reduction process? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It was the corporate services position.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Was this reduction or sunset? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It was a reduction and as mentioned before, when we went through the reduction exercises, you want to make sure that any work that the position was doing could be still done with the remaining staff within the department. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: This position, was it filled or was it vacant?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that position was filled.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also notice in the South Slave, they got an increase of two positions. If we are doing a reduction, could you please explain how we are getting an increase in positions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. As part of the evolution, we do look at decentralizing positions out into the communities. With the South Slave, there were two identified positions that we're going to be going to the South Slave through decentralization and the devolution process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm kind of disappointed. I see that the small communities are getting hit again. I mean, bigger centers are now getting two more positions and we're taking a half position in a small community. I'm kind of disappointed so trying to understand the rationale with decentralization, why weren't you looking at moving these positions into either the Sahtu or the Dehcho. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. It's part of a broader GNWT plan when you look at decentralization. In some cases, we also have to look at office space and resources in the communities as well, but this one was planned within the decentralization.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly then.

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, the questions just asked by my colleague made the case for some information I'd asked for earlier in the week. I'd asked our Minister of Finance if we could get a table that shows the changes that are going to happen throughout the budget. If we can get that table that sort of shows where those reductions are the result of actual program reductions versus sunseting and whether those jobs are filled or not for each of the communities and regions in the Northwest Territories, that would be really helpful in understanding this.

I could probably start to put together a table, something like that, but it would take a heck of a lot of work. I'm sure you folks must have this information at your fingertips. Could the Minister undertake to work with his colleagues to get us that sort of a table so we can clearly see where the job losses are going to be and whether they're a result of sunseting or program reductions and whether those positions are filled or not. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. Definitely out of the department we can look at providing that information from a department, but working with my Cabinet colleagues to look at those as well, and as the Minister had mentioned, he can look into that and get back to the Member when it was a question in the House, but we definitely can.

MR. CHAIR: Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I know we are all working flat out to try to get this done, but if that information could be provided sooner than later, it would be really helpful, I think, as we start to go through the other departmental budgets, so just a heads up that it would be really helpful to get that information sooner than later. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, as I said, from our department side of things, we could get that information. We don't know the full details with the other departments but that is something we can look into discussing, but our department can get those numbers to you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One thing I have heard from some of my constituents is that they find ECE to be a top-heavy department, and I was wondering, when you're looking at these reduction exercises, how exactly are they done? Who is it that decides what gets cut, who gets cut? Is it upper management looking down into the department? Because I know that universally accepted best practices for internal audits are you get someone from the outside or you get someone on the inside who is independent, who can talk to anyone, who can report to anyone. Is this someone from the outside looking in the way maybe a company would do it if they are trying to save money, or is this upper management seeing what they can cut? I will just ask that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. As I stated, when we go through position reductions, it is always a difficult exercise, and any reductions we did make, we made sure that the program services were not going to be impacted, and that other staff can also participate in the workload. Generally, the process was that senior managers were asked to look at their operations and proposed options coming forward. There needed to be some balance between position reductions and other operating expenses like travel and other O and M and any other program changes. ECE is particularly challenged, because obviously, we don't want to touch the K to 12 system, and we don't want to touch income assistance, two big pots of our department. When we look at these positions, the proposals were then finalized and decisions were made at the Financial Management Board.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do you have a breakdown of how many positions were reduced in, say, senior management, and how many were reduced in positions that offer frontline services? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As the questions before about the positions that were reduced, we can get that information from the department and give it to the Members, in what positions they were.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I take that as a question that you will be distributing all the Members with that information? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Nothing further right now, and just so the other departments are aware, I will be asking this of most of them, so thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Agreed on page 53, Education, Culture and Employment, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$12,309,000. Questions? Agreed? Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and this is just a question in terms of the status I wanted to get in terms of the initiative towards amalgamating the Northwest Territories Official Languages Board, and also the Northwest Territories Aboriginal

Language Revitalization Board. Has the department contemplated the need for draft legislation to ensure at least there is consistent application and legislation at the same time? I am sure there is fluid in terms of the structures that we have before us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. Our next steps in that area is: we are going to be creating a legislative proposal to make sure that work gets done.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister give us an indication of a timeline? I don't think I have seen it in terms of perhaps draft legislation. When can we see perhaps draft legislation? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We can get a legislated proposal done and be ready for the fall.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if the Minister could provide some detail around the line chargebacks in the expenditure category. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I will go to assistant deputy minister. That would be Mr. Lovely, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Lovely, go ahead.

MR. LOVELY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That amount is the amount that we pay to Public Works and Services' Technology Service Centre for providing services such as laptops, desktops, network usage, and so the amount that is shown here is for the department, and also for the education authorities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How does this category then differ from computer hardware and software immediately below? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Ms. Green. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The TSC chargebacks are based on services provided out of PWS that are for staff who will provide back-end services and the amount that's provided under computer hardware and software are dollars that we allocate for things like licences for our own Oracle software, for various other software programs that we utilize in ECE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your licensing fees are \$518,000 per year. Since 2014-15, that is an amount that's gone up by about 20 per cent? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, those dollars have increased as a result of having to implement a new student information system across education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Lovely. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Nothing further?

MS. GREEN: Nothing further. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

MR. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Like I said earlier, it's not always clear to me where we are supposed to ask questions, given the way that the mains have been put together, but I see that there is a policy legislation and communications line item here for corporate management. Can our witnesses explain what sort of legislative initiatives the department is looking at bringing forward in the next year or two? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We do have a few that are listed as one Mr. Nadli brought up. In terms of Aboriginal languages, the Education Act will be looking at as working with Members to look at moving forward in terms of the concern with College nordique and Dechinta. For more details I will ask... And some of the other legislation that we need to bring forward for the changes that we are making to the income assistance programs, but I will get more detail. I will ask my deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Minister touched on most of them, but the languages, the amalgamation of the two boards will be one; a piece of legislation to allow degree granting for Dechinta and College Nordique; Heritage Resources Act is one that has not been updated for a long time, but I know there's an interest in seeing that get developed; and then there may be others. There probably will be some minor changes to the Education Act and those sorts of things, but those first three are probably the big three for us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Stewart. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate the answer very much. Might we see legislation... As I understand it, there is an Aurora College Act that sets up the institution and allows them to accept monies from other orders of government, but also gives them the ability to grant degrees. Are we looking at doing the same thing with Dechinta and College nordique, and any idea whether that legislation would come forward in 2016-17? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are working with the two organizations. We did have some meetings. It's something that's been brought up by various Members of this Assembly. In terms of a timeline, I will ask our deputy minister what the timeline looks like.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think we can try for 2016-17. I wouldn't be surprised if it's early next fiscal year though, realistically, with some of the other changes, there's a lot of consultation, I think, that needs to be done on this one in terms of what we should include in that type of legislation. I think realistically it may be next fiscal year that you see actual legislation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Stewart. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do want to thank our witnesses. I was hoping to hear that. That's something I will be watching for closely, and there might even be some folks in the gallery that are watching or will be listening as well. But I appreciate the efforts of the Minister and I look forward to working with him on those pieces of legislation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, look forward to working on that piece of legislation and seeing where we can go. Obviously, we had some Members here in the House earlier, or some of the graduates in the House here today and some of the staff, and I think that they will be happy to hear that they got strong advocates of Regular Members on this side that are constantly asking. We all will be looking at moving that piece of legislation and seeing the work in consultation that needs to go into it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just because we are under the section who has the director, I would just like to ask the Minister what type of process has this department used to ensure that when there are new hires coming into the department, not necessarily into the authorities, but to the department, that the Affirmative Action Policy is being followed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. Any hiring that we do, we make sure we go through the correct processes. I would say with our department too, we also utilize the regional recruitment program very well. People that we recognize that can move up into more senior positions get the training dollars to get into those direct appointments, and affirmative action is always looked at when we do our hiring. I don't have the full numbers now, but I know what's come by my desk. We have seen a lot of our Aboriginal Indigenous employees getting into higher positions through that regional recruitment program, very successful program.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was the response I was looking for. I just wanted to indicate that with the departments that we are reviewing, because there is information out there on the various ways that the departments go about hiring people into the department. I just wanted to confirm for the record that this department follows the Affirmative Action Policy all the time. Each hire that comes into Education, Culture and Employment, so there is never a situation where individuals would just be hired without going through a process that is the affirmative action program that the Department of Human Resources is involved in. This is what I was hoping to achieve, so I have the right response. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister, addition?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We will just take it as a comment and continue to do the right type of practices when we are hiring, and utilizing the Regional Recruitment Program moving forward as well.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Just in regard to Affirmative Action Policy and practice, I'm a little confused with terms and when people are getting term positions within the system and they are able to be hired without going through another... I don't want to call it direct appointment, but moved into positions within the education system. Could the Minister explain the process and how that works? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I did mention the Regional Recruitment Program, a very successful program, that we look at employees that can move up into a higher position, get paid a little bit more. I believe they get 80 per cent of the salary, and then the other percent goes to training, but if that was what the Member was asking, or else there was something more specific, I just ask him to provide a little bit more detail, and we can see in terms of the direct appointments. We have gone through some more regional recruitments. Where the directors and managers actually recognize the employees that have been there for a while, and they feel can take more responsibility and leadership roles within the department, but if it's with something other than that, something more specific, I will ask if the Member can just get a little bit more detail. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chair, I think I am a little ahead on the schedule. This is corporate management. I can look at the policy and I guess I will deal with the regional education authorities and stuff like that. Thanks, Mr. Minister, for that answer, and I have actually seen some of that work done in our region, so I thank the department for doing that and continue to support doing that. In regards to contract services, I noticed a huge decrease in the budget. What's the rationale for that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I will go to our assistant deputy minister, Mr. Lovely, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Lovely. Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, just looking for the details on this one, but we will go to our deputy minister to provide a little bit of detail. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I think in terms of the corporate management contract services, that is primarily related to the student information system that the ADM was speaking of earlier. There's been some purchases that had to take place under that in terms of both software and those types of things to get the new information system in place. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I'm just looking at that line, and looked at actuals of 2014-15; then I look at what the revised numbers were in 2015-16. It concerns me that we are setting ourselves up for a supplementary later on. Can the Minister or deputy minister confirm that this won't be occurring, that this is just some information system that they're talking about and it won't be coming back to the House later on? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. I think the Member has said it right. It was one-time costs on the information systems, so I don't think we'll be coming back for a supplementary on this one here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I guess can the Minister, deputy minister, explain how long it took to implement the system, because when I look at the actuals, it's \$1.146 million, and the revised budget for 2015-16 is \$1.143 million, so it was a \$3,000 reduction compared to the year before, but it is what the main estimate was: \$747,000. It was almost a \$400,000 increase. It concerns me that there was a revised budget, and they had revised estimates later on. Could they explain if it was a process this system is now done and it was over two years, or what is that contract services all about then? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That early work in 2014-15 and into 2015-16 was really getting the system in place. It is there now. Now, we are into the stage of some level of customization and those sorts of things that the boards wants to see in terms of being able to report out attendance and making sure that the report cards are being generated and all of that sort of stuff. I think we are at a much more manageable phase now where the pace is more controllable in terms of making sure that we don't need to make those big one-time expenditures. I think we are pretty confident that we will not have to see the kind of increase that you saw earlier, that we will be able to do it within that \$887,000 overall budget for contract services. The main implementation is already in place, and now we are just tweaking the system, so to speak. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I thank the deputy minister for that answer. It cleared up a lot.

Now, I'm hoping I heard this correctly. Is this the system for the whole NWT, for all education boards including the Catholic board and the French board? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MINISTER: Yes, that is correct, and the program is called PowerSchool. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Minister. Mr. Thompson, nothing further? Any further questions? I see none. Education, Culture, and Employment, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$12,309,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Page number 54, Education, Culture and Employment, corporate management, active positions, information item. Any questions? I see none. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Page 56, Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$206,243,000. Questions? Go ahead, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister explain how his budget was developed? I am sitting here looking. There are increases and decreases throughout this page here, and it doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason, but I know that the department has done a good job of preparing it.

I just need to understand how they did it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

MR. THOMPSON: Obviously, when we go through it, it is our biggest budget, working with organizations in terms of what they have spent in the last year, and then what we think they will be spending. A lot of things are taken into consideration: forced growth, the reductions, but we do consult with our education authorities as well as other organizations that we do fund, and that is how we usually come to our budget. We do have a fixed number and all our educational authorities when they are working out their budgets, they got to try to make sure they get within the fixed budget. I will go to my deputy minister for further detail on how we come to this \$206 million. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are a lot of big pieces in this overall sort of area of education and culture. A couple of the ones I will note are the changes in early childhood program funding in terms of the subsidy adjustments that we are making is reflected in this budget. There are changes in terms of the funding of the education renewal initiative in that you see under some of the items here. There is some portion that is collective bargaining increases under the NWTTA which was the last portion in this first quarter of this year. There are also tweaks that were done around the Aboriginal Languages Secretariat, and so there's a lot of moving parts in this section, so I appreciate the Member's comment that there seems to be lots of moving around, but a big portion of this, as the Minister mentioned, is also the schools funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Chair, when we are looking at inclusive schooling, it has gone up by about \$100,000, but I have heard the deputy minister talk about this being important and how it is going to be making it better for the students and that. They seem to have big plans. I am just trying to figure out how those plans actually meet this budget when we are only talking \$105,000 increase, when in reality, the work that you guys seem to be talking about seems to be huge in nature. Can you please elaborate? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: With the inclusive schooling in the past, money was given to the schools, and they took that money and used it how they wanted to. We are giving a directive now to all the education authorities to ensure that funding is going to be used for students with special needs. We are actually developing an accountability framework around that as well, ensuring that the dollars we give as a department are actually being utilized and used for what it was meant to be used for. Even though there is not a big increase in inclusive schooling, the way we are going to be funding it, we are going to be getting more PSTs, program support teachers, into the schools and also making sure that the dollars actually reflect where we want those dollars to be spent, and that is with students with special needs. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister and the department for doing this. I guess I am still struggling with the amount of money. It is only an increase of \$105,000 if my calculations are correct, from the mains revised from last time. To me, it is important. I think we need to be doing it. It is probably one of our struggles and why we have some challenges in meeting national standards in our education. Are you guys going to be monitoring this and seeing if there is going to be a need for increase with the PSTs and actually go on a needs basis? What I mean by that is: do some research in the schools and see how many students require a PST for help. In one of my communities, one PST teacher in a classroom doesn't meet the needs when you have three or four students who have challenges. I don't call them disabilities. They have some challenges with learning. Will you be monitoring that to be making it more effective? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are developing these monitoring, evaluation, and accountability plans moving forward. There was widespread consultation and guidance from external experts on this when we were going through the ministerial directive on the inclusive schooling moving forward. The consultation was there. Obviously, moving forward, we do want to monitor how our programs are working. We have a lot of new initiatives. This is one of them, but we also have the Pathways to Graduation, early childhood development. All these programs that are in this section, we are going to make sure that we are following up and making sure that our education authorities and people that are running the programs are doing a good job. For more detail with the directive, I will go to the deputy minister, that I may have missed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will recognize Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of the Member's comments around the needs side, we actually just completed a project with the regional inclusive schooling coordinators, where they did an assessment of every kid in the Northwest Territories in terms of a variety of factors in terms of the needs they may have. They did a lot of work in advance of that to make sure there was consistency from region to region. It is probably the best snapshot we have had in a long time because it was the regional inclusive schooling coordinators working with teachers in the school to try to get a sense of the kinds of needs for all of our students as well as the nature of those needs in terms of severity and those types of things. That is really informing some of the next steps in this inclusive schooling work in terms of whether it is speech and language, whether it is trauma related, or other types of supports that might be needed. We are very happy with that. I think it starts the basis of looking at more of a needs-based approach. It is a challenge when you get into diagnosis in the small communities, but I think this is from the people that are working with those kids every day. I think it is actually a good set of overall data, and we should look at how we can do this on a fairly regular basis without becoming burdensome in terms of trying to do reporting. We are very pleased with that first effort. Thank, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: This will be my final question, I hope, on this section. I thank the deputy minister and the Minister on this. I think that it is very important to do a needs-based assessment. I would hope that we do it yearly so that we can continue to see that we are meeting the needs. The other thing is, are you guys going to be doing reports and, are you going to be sharing that with committee so that we can see the progress in the work that the department is doing and from there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Thompson, I am going to recognize a closing answer.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we will be developing reports, and we will share that with committee. I am sure the residents of the North would like to get information on that. With our early childhood, in terms of monitoring, we do have an Early Development Instrument that reflects how children are going into the K to 12 system. What we have developed now is an MDI, Middle Development Instrument, which is pretty neat in the sense that all these students that went through the

EDI are now just going into this year and will now develop on the end, looked at on the MDI. We will see what improvements have been made and how we can continue to support those and develop those.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Moving on. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is I see that the second to last point, schools for \$128,914,000. I would just like a breakdown of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Those are our education authorities. We give out funding every year. Then it is distributed to the schools. We can get a breakdown for each of the regions if the Member would like, or if he wants to know what the schools are getting from the education authorities, we can get that information. To my assistant deputy for the breakdown and the real numbers.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. What we have right now is a breakdown of the school funding that we provide to education authorities for inclusive schooling, the school funding for territorial schools, and the amount that we provide for Aboriginal languages. The total amount that we will be providing to schools this year is about \$149 million. The balance of that, the \$2 million, will be provided to education authorities based on actual disbursements that they incur during the year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you. That clarified. And also the other Member had asked the questions that I was looking for earlier. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a few points on this page that I would like to get clarification for. On item "education operations and development," in the 2014-15, under actuals, there was a significant pot of about \$9,158,000. The last couple of years it seemed significantly reduced. This year, \$2,282,000. Can the Minister give a little explanation on what education operations and development is and why the significant decrease over the last couple of years? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: For that question and amount of detail I will go to our deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount in 2014-15 is quite large because of the cost of litigation related to residential schools. It was a one-time expenditure that we had to pay out on the residential school amounts. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am happy to see that inclusive schooling has a little bump up. If we go under expenditure category and again this is contract services. This is a category that always gets questions. We have seen from 2014-15 actuals to the estimated amount for 2016-17, it is nearly a \$3 million increase. Can the department describe for us what they are projecting to be needing contract services for this year and why such a significant increase in the last couple of years? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. As we are going through our Education Renewal and Innovation Action Plan and running some pilots in some of the communities, that is the amount there that is covering those pilots and some of the work that we are doing with the education and renewal. The budget that we do have fits the work that we do need to do moving forward this fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know if this is the time or place to ask this question. Because this seems to get raised all the time, virtually within every division of every department, we always have questions around the contracted services. Is there a way in which Members have the opportunity to see whether it's on, you know, some form of database that Members can see what departments have put out for contracted services and to whom and for what amounts? That would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The government tables a report every year, of contracts over \$5,000, and it has all the information in there I believe for all departments. I think when that report

comes out it might be something that the Member would like to take a look at.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To be honest, I think I knew about that, but I do appreciate the Minister's reply. Thank you again. That's all I have for this page right now, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Recognizing Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister at what grade EDI applies?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: For anybody that went through the EDI... It's great news because now they're going to be... The first group of kids that took the EDI assessment will now go through another assessment and that's grade four. Eventually, we're hoping to bring one at the grade seven level as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thanks Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, back to inclusive schooling, can the Minister advise if it's based on the assessment of the student, I was wondering if they need to have parental consent before they assess the individual students?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In terms of a medical-type assessment then, yes, they do have to go through a formal form of consent. Some of the other ones is just teacher reporting in the classroom.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so as I understand it, if parent consent is received, an individual comes and does an evaluation on that particular student. The deputy minister spoke earlier of more of a blanket assessment just talking to the teachers who work with the students to do an overall assessment to determine where the greatest needs of inclusive schooling occur. Does that mean that maybe next year or even sometime during this year some sort of shift in the funding of inclusive schooling dollars? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: With a lot of the work that we're doing within Education Renewal some of the work is pretty new so it's too early to really say right now. The way we're doing the funding framework for inclusive schooling is something new as well: the accountability framework on the side, making sure that the schools and the education authorities with the dollars that we give them are being utilized directly for special needs and the students that need that little extra help.

It's too early to say right now but we are developing these monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure that we're providing adequate resources for inclusive schooling.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just looking at again the inclusive schooling budget and I'm looking at things like the rates of graduation. Something indicates to me that if you have very low graduation rates that then there would be a higher need for inclusive schooling. I'm wondering if, in addition to the maybe sort of like an informal assessment that's being done by teachers, for I don't really know what purpose if it's not going to shift inclusive school dollars. We also have a long history of knowing what the graduation rates are between communities, whether they be large communities, Yellowknife, or small communities. I'm wondering if that information would be used to reallocate the inclusive school funding or, better than reallocate, increase the amount of funding that goes into inclusive schooling to make sure that there's sufficient support in place for communities where graduation rates are lowest? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: A lot of concerns are... Obviously graduation rates are a big concern and you can tie that in as well to attendance and looking at developing what we can do as government on the attendance issues in some of the communities.

With the inclusive schooling it also needs to reflect what some of the complex needs are in some of our communities in the Northwest Territories. I know that the schools also get funding on an enrolment basis so there's a lot of areas that the number brought up in terms of how we fund inclusive schooling, but we've also got to make sure that we have dollars and resources there for the everyday

operations of our schools and organizations that provide programs to our schools.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just trying to make sure that no students are left behind. One of the things that the Minister just mentioned does tweak my interest, and that's attendance. I actually think we have a solution to attendance and that's to give their parents jobs. Anyways, I'm always talking about jobs and employment and that, you know, one of the main reasons I do that is because I'm trying to increase the graduation rates and have the smaller communities, having educated people able to do jobs that may come to them in the future. Again, looking at just the information that we have now, would the Minister feel comfortable in saying that, at this point, the \$27-some-odd-million dollars that's going into inclusive schooling is fairly allocated between the various education authorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I believe the amount for inclusive schooling is a reasonable amount when we allocate it to the schools. With the attendance issue as well, and I want to increase graduation rates just as much as the Member does. One thing that we are doing that I did mention in the opening comments was the Pathways to Graduation. That's something unique and something different through our Education Renewal and Innovation Action Plan. Hopefully, we'll see some great results coming out of that pathways program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister mentioned graduation rates. You know, during my last visit to Aklavik the principal wanted to know if the department would be open to changing the actual months of the year. As you know, springtime, a lot of people like to get out on the land hunting, trapping. One thing she noticed as well is a lot of students actually miss a lot of school because of hunting and being out. I know in some communities, I believe Sachs Harbour, they start school in August and they finish school in May. She wanted to know if that would be possible, if the Community of Aklavik would change those dates. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. There's a lot of, I would say complexities in this one, but we do

have a bargaining agreement, NWTTA, with our teachers and the amount that teachers can work during the year, so that's always been a concern or an issue. We do have that e-learning program that is great, but the one thing with the e-learning program is everybody has to have the same schedule as well. It is something that we're also looking at with the Educational Renewal in terms of modules. If a student doesn't get their module or their work done within the term that they would be able to take the same course again. It's an initiative that we are looking at with Educational Renewal. It's helping assist students to graduate and get the classes that they need, the amount of workload.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. Well, it's just something the principal noticed. You know, she felt it would benefit those that are in senior high to be given that opportunity. Just to be clear, the Minister did say it can't be done because of the NWTTA guidelines and labour standards? Thanks.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It's not that it can't be done. There's still a lot of work to do and we've got to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to either go to the classrooms or even just make sure that we're also taking care of the wellness of our teaching staff as well. It's something that we can talk to the principal about and the Beaufort Delta education authority to see what are the options out there, because obviously a lot of people do go out hunting in the springtime right around school.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. According to one of my colleagues, in Fort Providence they have year-round schooling. It's just what I've been told, but it doesn't seem to be an issue there, but maybe you could give me a little more details on that. Thanks.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In terms of that type of work, we need everybody at the table and we need all the information from teachers, from students, in terms of how do we make sure that the students are getting the right education and once again just protecting the wellness of our teaching staff. I'll refer to my deputy minister, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay, we'll recognize Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I mean, I think the Member is right there are places that do these sorts of things. But as the Minister said, everybody has the same interest here in terms of wanting to get the best outcomes for our students. It's complex, but I think it's something that we definitely should be looking at in the coming years in terms of those alternative school years and, in particular, given our northern context and some of our smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Blake. None? Further questions? Seeing none. Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$206,243,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Page 57: Education, Culture and Employment; education and culture; grants, contributions and transfers. Any questions? Information item. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just a couple of points. One is of note here is the cultural component of sports events. We've made contributions in the past for \$40,000 and \$50,000 respectively. This year we're indicating no contribution on this line item. Can the Minister give us an explanation of what cultural component of sports events is and can he enlighten us on what or who those contributions went to in the past and why it is that we're not giving that type of contribution this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We are re-profiling that amount of money and I will go to the deputy minister to get into the details of how that money is going to be re-profiled. Thank you. Deputy minister Stewart.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne. Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. You'll notice I believe there's a few items there that are related to cultural aspects that have seen some changes. You'll also notice there's a new line called arts organizations operating funding; that's \$460,000. I believe it's the third one down on the list of contributions.

What we've done is we've consolidated a bunch of little pots into one new line, which is that arts organizations operating fund. There's no reduction on this funding; it's just re-profiling some of it into a standard pot so that these organizations would have to fill out fewer application forms and basically

to lessen the administrative burden on this side, so it was really a consolidating of that one.

You'll notice there's changes on the cultural organizations line; there's changes on the northern arts, I believe, as well, that got changed. It was really a consolidation into one pot from a number of different pots. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the identified efficiencies within the department and it is also helpful because it answered a second question that I had relative to the northern arts programs. But I do still have a question on the line item of minority language education and second language and then we say "Instruction French." We've identified it's pretty consistent there year after year. This year \$2,539,000. Can I get clarification from the department on is this pot of money entirely for French? If in fact it is, what other pots have we identified that we put towards contributions relative to the other official languages of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: That line item is specifically for the French and it is federal funding. For other Aboriginal languages we do have a line item at the top in the amount of \$4.8 million. Our department is also looking at trying to get longer multi-year funding working with the federal government to ensure that it's sustainable funding moving forward, so that's some work that we, as a department, still got to do a little bit of work on.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will apologize to my colleagues for overlooking the line item Aboriginal languages right at the very top, and I appreciate the Minister for bringing that to my attention. Thank you. Those are my questions for this page right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Recognizing Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. First off, I'd like to ask the Minister and his staff about the funding for francophone affairs. It's a rather significant reduction. Last year it was \$124,000 and this year it's to be \$77,000. Has part of that been combined in this arts organization operating fund or can someone explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: That funding is sunsetting and it was funding that we did give to WSEC in the contribution.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks for that information. My other questions are I believe somewhere in this list of contributions there may be money for Dechinta and College nordique. Can the Minister confirm that? Can the Minister also tell us whether there has been any changes in the funding these two organizations received last year as compared to them this year? Thanks Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The government does fund both College nordique and Dechinta. It is later on in the business plan or in the main estimates under the post-secondary education.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I will hold off on any questions around those two organizations until it comes up later. How about the NWT Literacy Council? Is it found somewhere or would funding for it be found somewhere in this list of contributions? Thanks Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: There are various areas in terms of the literacy funding. It goes up. We have a bunch of other early childhood programs as well and other healthy children initiatives. I will give it to my DM to get into more detail on that funding and how some of that is allocated. Deputy Minister Stewart.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister noted, we fund the Literacy Council through a variety of specific projects that they deliver on behalf of our department. Last year, their funding was about \$922,000. A portion of it is here, but there are portions elsewhere as well for adult literacy as well as other programs. We would expect the funding to be similar this year as it was last year. Many of our contribution agreements with them are multiyear, so they are pretty consistent in terms of their funding levels. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I note that there is a reduction for supports and other performers by just under \$100,000. Can the Minister indicate if that has been rolled into this new arts organizations operating funding, or if it is a straightforward reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. The Member is correct. A lot of the money went into that pot there. As the deputy minister said earlier, it makes it a lot easier for organizations to get that funding in terms of streamlining everything together so it is in that pot.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure if my math adds up because not everything is clear what is going into the funding. Does the new arts operating funding, versus all these re-profiling, there has been no changes to funding? All funding remains intact from the previous year or has there been a reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. All the funding remains the same. Just put into one pot. Makes it much easier to access and apply on that funding. So, yes, it is the same as last year. No reductions.

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

MR. TESTART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The remaining funding for supports and other performers that is there, if it is easier to access than the other funding, why is it staying as its own program? Just wondering why. If there are more efficiencies, we would be fine with putting everything in a single-use fund such as the SEED funding and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, which is a very large pot of money that is easy to access. If that is a more efficient approach, should we not just be doing that with all these little funding pots instead of leaving some the same and eliminating other pots? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In terms of some of the programs that our northern artists have been accessing, this one is under \$15,000, so it is less reporting that has to be done. It is taken out of that area. I will ask the deputy minister if he would like to give a little more information on that program itself and why we did move it. It was under \$15,000 available funding, so less reporting in the end.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member will note, the \$101,000 that is up top, that is up for grabs. Anything that is under \$15,000 we are handing out as a grant where there is much less onerous reporting. The other portions are contribution agreements where there is a required level of reporting that comes with the contribution agreements. That is the difference between the two: we consolidated all of our contributions under one program, but we left the grants for those under \$15,000 in what is above with the \$101,000 that are still. Those are small amounts that go out to individual artists and performers that are supported under that program.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My final question involves the heritage centres. Is that an actual increase to funding for heritage centres? Could the Minister indicate who accesses that funding and how it is used? I would just like to gain a better understanding. I know there is not a lot of well-celebrated heritage centres in the North, shall I say. It would be nice to see more of them roll out and take a bigger role in underpinning our tourism strategy and really promoting and preserving our cultures and minority languages as well. If we could just get a better understanding of how that money is used and who is using it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. Thank you. Contributions to the heritage centres are contributions to registered and emerging heritage centres for the operation of community-based facilities that acquire, preserve, and exhibit information, objects, artifacts, and works of art portraying the heritage of the Northwest Territories. The heritage centres that we currently fund are the Fort Simpson Historical Society, Hay River Museum Society, Norman Wells Historical Society, Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, Northern Life Museum, and the NWT Mining Heritage Society. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions. Recognizing Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have a question that concerns the northern arts programs. There is no funding indicated there this year. That has gone into arts organizations operating funds. Is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. That is correct.

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

MS. GREEN: I would like to understand, given this change, whether the amount of money available for northern film producers is the same as last year, which I believe was \$100,000. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I believe that budget line item is under Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Any further questions. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to look at two other line items. Early childhood program. We seem to have an increase of roughly \$1 million compared to last year. We look down a couple of line items and we have the Healthy Children Initiative, which seems to be a reduction of roughly about a million dollars from the year previous. Is there any correlation between the two of these? If there isn't, maybe can we get explanations either way as it relates to the increase on early childhood programming and the reduction on healthy children initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. As we were going through Right from the Start Action Plan and the way we, as I made a statement this morning, in terms of how we were going to be funding daycares and day homes, we did have to do short-term reorganization of how we fund certain areas. Also, have a look at the Early Childhood Intervention Program, as well as how we were funding those as well. It all relates, but it is all going

to the same type of focus and area. But as I mentioned, I did make a statement in the House this morning on how we fund daycares and day homes. That is going to be reflective in making sure that we are able to sustain our daycares and day homes in the communities.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's comment. How about relative to the Healthy Children Initiative? That is a reduction of \$1 million. Those funds have been rolled into the early childhood program, is that what I was hearing in the explanation, just to be clear. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's pretty well correct, and moving forward is just providing funding to integrate early intervention services. I will ask my deputy minister for a little bit more detail on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay, thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing deputy minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister has noted, the Healthy Children Initiative, when we did the review of the program one of the things that was noted about that program was that a lot of the funds that went out to it was for general wages and salaries inside of daycares. The numbers that reflect here reflect the first part of the year we had the old programs and now we're rolling out the new programs. There is going to be much more concentrated approach to the Early Childhood Intervention Program to make sure it's going to kids with special needs, and so what we've done is allocate a portion of the money that was previously for Healthy Children to the overall operating subsidy and then targeting the program much more directly on the Early Childhood Intervention Program. But part of what you see here is reflective of that program rolling out in mid-year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one more question that I'd like to raise and I apologize if somebody else has already raised it, but as the Minister is aware and colleagues very well know, we have identified within our mandate that we will develop an action plan for universal daycare within the next couple years. Can the Minister describe for committee where, if any, funds have been identified to start that action plan where it would be identified within the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: With the universal child daycare programs and moving forward, right now I think the early stages that we have made in terms of the programs and subsidizing our daycares and putting more money into our daycares and day homes is the first step. Next we are going to be looking at developing that action plan per to the motion that was brought in the House. Right now, the funding changes that we have made is to have better services in the communities and to make sure that our daycares and our day homes are able to sustain their operations.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the reply. I'm just wondering then what are the next steps in developing the action plan and what resources will be put towards that. Are there any this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Well, just looking at development of some of the parameters around the program itself, as you know early childhood is a big area to focus on. We had some very startling statistics with our EDI results last year and we want to make sure that we're adjusting some of the bigger issues, the priorities right, and eventually we will get into those areas, but obviously we can't do everything all at once. I think the changes that we made right now is really reflective in making early childhood a priority of this government. I think we need the support and make sure that we're implementing these programs right now, and then as things start to progress and we're able to sustain it then we started working on that action plan. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lastly because I know we're going to move past education and culture and move into income security right away, and I just think this is the division that we want to ask any questions on junior kindergarten. I just want to maybe ask the Minister at this time what the department's perspective is on junior kindergarten knowing that we actually had a report presented not long ago, the independent junior kindergarten review. Again, similar to that of the universal daycare, what is the department's next steps as it relates to junior kindergarten and what do we see rolling out in that regard for this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, out of that report it did talk about more consultation with the communities and specifically the communities that have had the program before. You want to make sure what's worked, what hasn't, we want to get an inventory of the resources, the space that's available in the some of the communities that want to implement it. Initially, I believe there was 23 communities that did look at trying to do daycares, I mean junior kindergarten. But some of them couldn't offer the program because they didn't have any four-year-olds. Our next steps is to go out into the communities, especially the ones that were working well and seeing what was the success in there, but also looking at other communities in terms of resources and space and if there's anything that we need to provide in terms of resources. Also consulting with our daycares, our day homes as well. As I mentioned, we did make a statement earlier today on our funding for daycares and day homes so we're going to be able to show them that we can work together as well as the Aboriginal Head Start Program. We had meetings back I believe in November and this week our staff is going to be meeting with Aboriginal Head Start. There's, I believe, eight in the Northwest Territories and we're going to make sure as we roll out junior kindergarten that we want to have everybody on board and that we're all providing the services with the right intention that it should be focused on some of our most vulnerable, which is our young kids going into kindergarten.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you Mr. Chair, I appreciate the response. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Further questions. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just as I've been listening to the answers the Minister's been giving and looking at this page, I wonder if one early childhood provider of services was looking for government money, it seems like there would be a number of programs that they would be eligible for at any given time. I know the Minister earlier today said that there was some simplification going on, but I wonder if is a scope for more combinations of programs that would reduce the administrative burden of them? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, as I mentioned in my Minister's statement earlier today, all programs that

daycare and day homes have opportunities to access, we have tried to streamline it all together so it's easier for them to get the programs and with the applications increase the burden of filling out so many applications. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question really was whether there's any more work of this type coming along. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we're always looking at ways that we can improve the systems and supports that we give to our stakeholders and our partners. The one thing that I did mention in the Minister's statement is that we're looking at multi-year funding agreements right now just on a year-to-year basis. We're looking at ways that can make it easier for operators to stay open and still be able to do their operations and have them a little more stable and sustainable as well in terms of not having to always come back and reapply for that funding.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that the multi-year funding would be a benefit. I'm just wondering about the administrative burden, like if some of these programs listed here were amalgamated where they share a common focus, whether this would in fact reduce the departmental overhead and put more money into the frontline services. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Each pot of funding has a different set of criteria to follow in terms of how you access it and we're always looking at ways we can improve it. That's something you'd take a look as well and see if there's anything in there to do something similar as we did to the arts operating funding.

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

MS. GREEN: I'm pleased to hear the Minister say that because for example there are a number of pots of money that deal with heritage and with languages and with performers and maybe there's some scope to bring them all together. That's just a remark. Thank you, that's all for me.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Ms. Green. Recognizing Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First thing in regards to the minority language education, second language, instruction, French, I heard the Minister say it was federal funding. Is this a cost share or is it 100 per cent funded by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As mentioned, earlier within some of the other discussions around how we fund French and Aboriginal languages, obviously we do utilize all the federal funding and sometimes we do top it up with some of our funding as well, GNWT funding.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Could the Minister provide what percentage is federal and what percentage is territorial? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: One hundred per cent federal for some of these line items, and then as I mentioned earlier that some pots of funding is dollar for dollar but this one's 100 per cent federal. Sorry, and further in terms of the funding that we give through GNWT, if he wants the percentages we'll have to do the calculations and get that to the Member.

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

MR. THOMPSON: If it's 100 per cent funding from the feds, I just need to know if that budget line is 100 per cent funding feds for the French program or is there a percentage that the territorial government puts in there. I think I heard the Minister say it was 100 per cent. 100 per cent/. I don't think I need to have a breakdown if that's what it is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: For the minority language education line item, the \$2.5 million, that's entirely federal dollars. As I mentioned, our government does top up other programs in French and Aboriginal languages. In terms of percentages with other areas, we can get that information to the Member.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You still have time, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the arts organizations operating funds, just kind of a comment. It was kind of confusing. If they could actually do a budget line or like a description and say this is where the money went to I think it would have helped alleviate some of the questions we have. Some of the organizations out there that'll be looking for this funding may be sitting there going, well, the money's gone, and not realize it's out there in another pot. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thanks. Appreciate the comment and I know our department works very well with our stakeholders, so any of these changes, we'll make sure that they're passed on to the appropriate previous applicants if they see that funding might not be aware.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I'm not sure if it's junior kindergarten in this section or on page 70, so can the Minister clarify questions for junior kindergarten to be on this page or page 70? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Some of that funding is in the previous K to 12 budget that we had. There's other areas within this one that also funds some of the programs, some of the services and resources that they need in the communities.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the PTR and junior kindergarten we had a presentation by the department. Can you please explain to us what the pupil-teacher ratio is going to be for the implementation of junior kindergarten? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, and I know that some information is brought forth to standing committee in terms of getting that information out. We are always looking at ways to improve our ratio moving forward in terms of pupil-teacher ratios, and that's one area that we are looking at.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure... Is it confidential presently or are we able to

provide that information to the public, what the pupil-teacher ratio is for junior kindergarten? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. One of the options that we did present to committee was a 12:1 ratio for junior kindergarten. We are always looking at options. As I said, with the junior kindergarten being implemented during the presentation we did say in the academic year of 2017. We've still got a lot of consultations to do. We're going to be speaking with the communities and the schools that have implemented junior kindergarten, see how it's working with them, take some of the best practices, learn from the challenges moving forward. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for sharing, and I wasn't too sure how this all works. I applaud you guys and I appreciate the fact that you guys are going to go out there and share this information of best practices. Just one final question on this here. This is not going to have an impact on the other student-teacher ratio that we presently have in the schools? Junior kindergarten is basically 12:1? Is this correct, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Your time is up, so I'll recognize that as the last question. Your answer, Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The PTR that we got for junior kindergarten will not affect PTR from other older grades and throughout the school system. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is in regards to the funding for Aboriginal organization and Aboriginal languages. It notes here 2016 and 2015-16 there hasn't been a change. At least \$4.859 million has been accorded to Aboriginal languages. My question is to the Minister, what portion of that is designated to the 11 Aboriginal official languages? I mean, maybe to try to set the context of the question is that I understand like there's these 11 official languages, but then we have regions. Like say my region, the Deh Cho, we speak Slavey and Dene and, you know, similarly up north they would speak the Gwich'in languages. Which portion of the \$4.8 million is given to the language groups? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. Of that money, about \$3.5 million is given to the Aboriginal language communities. It's something that we worked on through the last government in terms of providing funding for the Aboriginal groups/organizations so they can start delivering their programs to try to revitalize it. We're also always working with the federal government to try to get more money in this particular area as well as looking at trying to create multi-year agreements with them on terms of seeking funding for Aboriginal languages. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. If I could understand it correctly, Minister, of the \$4.859 million, \$3.5 million is accorded to Aboriginal groups? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, \$3.523 million to the language communities. We also fund the Aboriginal language and culture instructors, and some funding going to teaching and learning centres as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to understand the role in terms of ECE and plus the communities that are recipients of these contributions that are given to them to try and put effort in terms of revitalizing the language at the community level. What role does ECE play and, plus, what role does the language groups in terms of receiving the dollars play? I know there's been challenges in terms of monitoring at least the status of the languages, then there's been challenges in terms of ensuring that the efforts are made, that best practices are made in terms of revitalization initiatives. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We're also currently working with the Aboriginal organizations on developing an Aboriginal language strategy and action plan. Obviously, we do fund them and through contributions, and as a result we are developing an accountability framework as well to make sure that our Aboriginal language organizations are actually using the funding to do exactly that and try to revitalize the languages in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Okay, thank you. That's kind of leading up to my next question, and I'd like to thank the Minister for his reply.

In terms of, at the very minimum, in the absence of having accountability framework and measures in place to ensure the transfers of resources are brought to the community level I just wanted to see, at the very minimum, what are some measureable outcomes that the department is working to ensure that progress is being made in terms of reservation and revitalization of Aboriginal languages at the community level? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: A lot of those plans with the Aboriginal governments are being developed right now. As we progress, we are going to develop those monitoring and evaluation plans as well, M and E Plans, and making sure that they're accountable for the money that we do contribute to them, and ensuring that they have some measureable outcomes in their action plans too so that we can stay on top of it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is my final question. I think in the previous years we had perhaps, you know, mainly for broadcast organizations to be recipients of funding, to help supplement their... At least bringing information to the public and information of that sort.

There were a couple of hiccups and have those, at least that working relationship, been improved in terms of ensuring that there's consistent approaches, ensuring that a recipient such as CKLB will not have perhaps to close down their operations? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we do fund Aboriginal language broadcasting organizations. We're always working with the groups to make sure that whether it's reporting, whether it's getting a budget in place, that we're working together to make sure that the hiccups and issues that have happened in the past are minimized and not looking to happen again in the future.

Just like every other little program and how we're shaping up the department, we are looking at multi-year funding agreements as well, so they don't

have to continue to come back and apply on the same funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson. Further questions? Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is my final question. The Minister had indicated that the department will be working with the regions in terms of the Aboriginal languages and that an accountability framework will be developed. Is there a timeline in terms of when we could be party to that and be involved with that process? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (MR. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I would say by the fall. We are currently working with the Aboriginal organizations right now to develop those plans, so as those plans are being developed, we will also be creating those monitoring and evaluation plans as well. We are looking at the fall and we will make sure that committee is up to speed on those as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (MR. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In case I missed it, I am going to ask what is going to be done in 2016-17 to implement the Court of Appeal ruling respecting the Ecole Allain St-Cyr. Was that a question? If that was a question previously asked and on the record, then I apologize, and I can certainly go back and check on that, but if not, I would appreciate an answer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are staying on top of that in terms of what was put out in the court order. We are doing what the final decision was. We are working with the French groups in terms of developing that relationship to move forward in terms of: how do we adjust this? As I mentioned earlier, we are also working with the federal government in terms of trying to get some funding through their heritage plan, so there is a lot of areas that we are working on and trying to get situations addressed, both in Yellowknife and Hay River, and that is the next step.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions? Seeing none. Page 58, Education, Culture and Employment; education and culture; grants, contributions and transfers. Any questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Chair, just for point of order, can we do an agreement on 57?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): 57 was recognized as information item. Page 58, questions? Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I am a little confused because on page 57, I thought we were going to authorize the spending on this page, and then 58 and 59 explains some of the detail there. Do I have that right?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): For the Member's information here, the number \$171,409,000 on page 57 has been approved on 56, which is outlined on your expenditure category, second item down. If that is approved, the information detail on 57, 58, and 59 supports the previous adopted. Go ahead, Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the additional insight, but then I guess what we need to discuss is maybe a point of process. That being that I think that Members are going to naturally when we get to this point in the budgets, when we get into these divisional breakdowns, that Members like we just did spend the last hour talking about page 57, that we want to maybe not be so quick to approve the summary page before talking about the actual breakdowns. If we can be cognizant of that moving forward, then it allows us the opportunity just in case there might be a recommended change of some kind. You never know. It would be wise of us to maybe not approve the summaries prior to talking about the pages that have more detail in the grants and contributions and transfers. That would be a recommendation, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay, Members. It is recommended by Mr. Vanthuyne on moving forward that we will adopt that recommendation. Recognizing Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You have addressed my questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (MR. McNeely): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: No. I agree that we had already approved all of this, so we are moving forward.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Questions on 57, 58, and 59? Page 60? Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, active positions, information item. Any questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There is a fairly substantial difference here. There will be six less employees in this part of ECE. Can the Minister and his staff explain those six positions and whether there are people currently in them? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, there are four positions. The admin secretary, research assistant, the archivist, and then the library clerk. They were all reductions. Positions were also filled.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, you probably never want to have me as your Finance Minister because I can't even add and subtract anymore, but those four positions, have any of those people found other employment within the GNWT at this point? Do we know that level of detail? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I know with the reductions throughout the department, we did have plans for some of our employees. Some also sunsetted. Other positions were vacant. On these particular four, I don't have the update on whether or not they got into another department or into a job, but I will ask maybe my deputy minister for an update on if they were able to get employment for these four.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is early days, but it is my understanding that one of the positions has been placed in another one of these positions. The incumbent has been placed in another position. Two of them we expect are going to retire. They are in a position that they are able to retire, but we don't know for sure whether they will do that or not. One of the other ones, though, we are still working to find placement for them.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do appreciate the level of detail that's been provided, and I do understand that we're going to get regular updates in terms of what happens with the employees as time goes along, so I do appreciate the efforts of the other side to track that important information for us and to give it back to us. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, and our department will provide that information as well.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I notice that there's a reduction in another position at Dehcho. Please explain what position this was. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The update on that position was a transfer from the Dehcho to the North Slave region.

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

MR. THOMPSON: The position was in the Dehcho and they moved it to North Slave. Is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's correct.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that. However, I guess my question is: how come this information wasn't brought to our attention previously? One of the positions was cut; now this is the first time I'm seeing it and I'm seeing it in the business plans here. The information we're getting about cuts, are they only full-time positions? Is that the information, and that half-time positions are just showing up? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned earlier, in terms of when we're doing reductions on positions it's always tough when we always look at the best scenario, that if a position is moved that other people in that department or in that division can actually take up the work that needs to be done. With this particular position it was a vacant position. They moved that position to the North Slave. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Just to clarify. This position's moved into North Slave, which is a Yellowknife office, correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, it's moved into here in Yellowknife as I mentioned, but the North Slave, they cover other communities as well, yes.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When are we going to find this information out, about half-time positions that are being moved? We have to look at the budget and we have to research to find this information? Because this is now two positions within your department that have been either deleted with reductions or transferred, and which is two positions in my riding. I'd like to get that clarified please. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The regular process when we get to where we are today with main estimates, a review of the business plans and what's going to be proposed in the main estimates is done, a business planning review. We did go before committee with all reductions, all the information was given there. As well, in terms of some of the discussions, in terms of whether we're going to give updates on employees that have been affected, we committed to that and we also committed to the positions and areas from the questions that were asked earlier. The process is we do present all this information at business plans before we get to the main estimates here today. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer, but I regretfully disagree. Like, I mean, at no point in time was I aware that these positions were going to be cut. Anything we receive from the finance department was in there. I guess I'll be more diligent in listening and looking at business plans from now on. I'm a little bit disappointed, you know, right now I've lost 1.5 positions in my riding, and two from this department or one full-time position if you look at the two halves. I didn't see it anywhere and I apologize. I guess I must apologize to my riding, because if I've missed it, it's something I'm kind of disappointed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you and we'll take that as a comment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Any further questions? Seeing none, moving on. Page 62, Education, Culture and Employment, income security, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$47,578,000. Questions? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Previously, the department indicated it was doing work on the NWT Child Benefit to bring it in line with the new Canada Child Benefit. If the Minister could update us on the work to date? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we did go before committee on this one as well. We are doing the work that's needed to be done. There are some regulations that need to be fixed within the Income Assistance Regulations. We're hoping to have a lot of this work completed when the federal government puts their plan in place, which is July 1st, and we're hoping to have some of the work ready in August.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the Minister could give us a firm date in August? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It will be August 1st when we start doing the assessments of the income that was brought forth in July when the federal government implements theirs. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does the department have an idea of what the new NWT Child Benefit will look like in terms of the benefits to northern residents? Like, will it be enriched? If we get an idea of what Northerners will be getting out of this to help with their cost of living and parental needs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: There is going to be significant increases throughout the Northwest Territories. I did make comments in the House on this last week and, as well, going to be making another statement moving forward on how we are going to be implementing this program. There will be benefits for low- to moderate-income families. For more details, I can ask my deputy minister to get into a little bit more detail. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's two components to these changes. The one is the change, as the Minister talked about, to the Income

Assistance Regulations to make sure that we're not counting Canada Child Benefit as well as the NWT Child Benefit, as well as support payments to families on income assistance in calculating that level. That'll take place in, as the Minister mentioned, August 1st assessing July income, so that'll have that impact. In terms of the NWT Child Benefit, there's a couple changes that are needed. One is changes to legislation, specifically the NWT Income Tax Act, so we'll be working with committee to try to expedite those changes so we can make them as quickly as possible. Then we'll need to work with the federal government to tweak their systems as well.

In terms of the sort of description of the overall benefits, the increased NWT Child Benefit will apply up to an income threshold that'll be in the range of \$30,000 and then the benefits will start to go down, similar to how the federal system works. We expect families up to \$80,000 income will receive some NWT Child Benefit. There'll be differential rates for whether there's children under six or between six and 17 years of age. All of that detail will start to get rolled out here now that it's been announced and we'll get the Members more detail on that in the upcoming weeks as well. That's sort of the general characteristics of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is that individual income or total household income, the \$80,000 ceiling I believe the deputy minister indicated? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's net family income. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The federal government, when they rolled this out as an election promise, they could say the maximum this benefit is worth, I think it's around \$530, something like that. Can the department provide that level of detail today, what the maximum benefit will be to families in a dollar amount? I respect that there's a lot of legislative work that needs to be done, but can we get a sense of what the new benefit will be worth to northern families? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister. Recognizing Deputy Minister Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What we're looking at now is for children under six, one-child family, this would be the maximum amounts, would be around \$1,164. For two children, that would go up to around \$2,088; three children, \$3,000 and so on. For children six to 18, the amounts are a little bit less, \$931 for one child, \$1,670 for two, and so on. But we can get that detail to the Members, the exact calculations that'll be on that. It follows a very similar pattern as what the federal CCB is using. Our income thresholds are slightly different than the federal program, but, again, the reduction rate as that family income goes up is pretty similar to what the federal Canada Child Benefit will do.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Finally, just this is more of a comment, but when this program rolls out or when the new benefit is, having something like a calculator available on the ECE website and sharing that with the public would be, I think, a step in the right direction to let people know exactly what their benefits were, in fact, beforehand. If you know what the calculations are going to be and the it's just a matter of going through the legislative changes, communicating that with the public I think will ease a lot of the economic burdens that people are going through right now, so good peace of mind and I think a good exercise in communicating the benefits they're going to get from that. I would encourage the department to look at developing a tool like that and generously communicating it with the public. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I appreciate the Member's comments and definitely take it into consideration. It's a great suggestion. With the amount of individuals and families we have on income assistance right now, clients, is going to be beneficial for them to understand the changes that we are going to be making in the months to come. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing the clock. Committee members, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses from the Chamber, please.

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report, Member for Sahtu?

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document

50-18(2) Main Estimates, 2016-2017 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Deh Cho. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 23, third reading of bills. Item 24. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Replies to Budget Address (Day 5 of 7)
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 50-18(2): Main Estimates, 2016-2017
21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

