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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 25, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 90-18(2):
2016 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from a statistical perspective, 2016 was a below average fire season. A total of 188 wildland fires were reported in the 2016 fire season, burning 229,000 hectares. As a comparison, there were 241 fires and 622,000 hectares burned in 2015. That is half the number of hectares burned in 2016 than in 2015, and 50 fewer fires. Of the 188 fires this year, 16 fires were suspected person-caused. The department provided some type of action on 83 fires, or 44 per cent. In addition, 292 extra fire fighters were hired in the NWT for training or in support of wildland fire operations.

We had a slow start to the fire season with cooler weather conditions which allowed our government to provide much needed fire personnel to help with the Fort McMurray fire and other fires in the northern part of Alberta. As a government, we are honoured to be able to provide assistance to other Canadian jurisdictions as many of them helped us in our time of need during the 2013, 2014, and 2015 wildland fire seasons and later on in the 2016 fire season. While there was a slow start to the season in the NWT, there were several significant fires across the territory including the Snare Lake Fire, the Reid Lake Fire and the Norman Wells Fire. End of season procedures, including tanker base shut downs, fuel systems shut downs, and field equipment retrieval is underway. A debrief of this year's lessons learned will be undertaken and public meetings will take place over the winter. At this point we have expended roughly \$29,990,575 in pre-suppression and suppression costs. There

are a few outstanding reconciliations to be done in the regions before we have the total amount. But we are much better off than in the previous two years.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough the value and importance of our FireSmart Program. It is everyone's responsibility to firesmart their home and cabin, and promote the FireSmart Program in their community. Property owners and communities should be using firesmart tools to reduce their risk of loss from wildland fire.

The department is leading an initiative to review and update community protection plans. Community wildland fire protection will be integrated into existing GNWT emergency management processes. This will ensure communities have a more complete understanding of their role in firesmaring and what is required to ensure their community has mitigated the risks of a wildland fire. Information about the FireSmart Program and community protection plans is on the ENR website and at your local ENR office.

Forecasters are predicting an early, colder than normal winter with an average snowfall. It is our hope that this provides plenty of snow cover for the spring melt and increases our water levels. It is important to note that, while the 2016 fire season was relatively normal, there continue to be areas of extreme drought. We will continue to be vigilant in working with all values at risk to reduce the risk and in preparing for a potentially extreme fire response. Whether we receive plenty of precipitation or not, ENR will continue to be proactive and prepare itself for the next fire season.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our fire personnel, from the fire crews out on the fire line, to our radio operators, logistics, planning, air attack officers, and everyone who worked hard all summer to protect our residents and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the public gallery today. We have with us a former Member, Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford, Sergeant-at-Arms, and a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Minister, and also the speaker and

Commissioner of NWT, and last but not least the honorary clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Why aren't you at your post here, Mr. Whitford?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. It is always great to have you here. Masi. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NORTHERN YOUTH

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we are talking about all the drug addictions that are happening. It is happening all over the place. Mr. Speaker, today the residents of the Northwest Territories are suffering from the impacts of severe addictions and mental health issues. As this Assembly knows, I represent four small communities: Ndilo, Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution, and Detah. Each one of these communities has recently seen the deaths of young people due to drugs and alcohol, not to mention similar deaths in Yellowknife and the regional centres. These deaths are totally unnecessary and one hundred per cent preventable. Preventable, Mr. Speaker, is the key word.

As a people and as a government, we must all do our share to step up the pace at which our mental health and addictions programs are being delivered. I cannot over-stress the urgency of these matters. Within the GNWT, the Department of Health and Social Services must show this Assembly an increased emphasis on prevention and an increased investment in addressing mental health and addictions. I know this is a big job and that results do not show up right away, but Mr. Speaker, that's all the more reason to get started as soon as possible. We must also look to our communities and our Aboriginal partners for their collaboration and support in addressing this huge issue.

In my riding, the unnecessary and untimely deaths of these young people have devastated their families. These families never recover. Mr. Speaker, I know what I am talking about. In 1977, my brother Fred died as a result of alcohol. He was a 22-year-old mechanic at the Pine Point mine. My dad never got over it, until his own death in 1993.

Earlier this year, after burying one of our young people, I sat down with a friend in Fort Resolution. We noticed that every family that was there supporting this grieving family had been touched by a similar tragedy. It gets easier to bear as time goes on, but it never goes away: you never forget the

loved ones that are taken from you far too soon because of alcohol and drugs. We cannot let this go on. Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADMINISTRATION OF SPORT AND RECREATION FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about some big changes that are happening to the sport and recreation system for the way funding is handled in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, according to the CBC news, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will be taking over funding of all sport organizations in the territory beginning April 1st that used to be done by the Sport North Federation. Mr. Speaker, according to the news, this means that Sport North will receive a million dollars less in administration and program funding next fiscal year. This is a huge concern for all sports groups, whether it is at the grassroots, regional or territorial level. Mr. Speaker, as people have heard from the first day I was elected, youth sport recreations are dear to my heart. I understand and have lived more than 40 years in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I know the majority of the funding for sport and recreation in the territories comes from lottery proceeds spread through the Sport and Recreation Council to the five organizations in the system, including Sport North. Mr. Speaker, Sport North represents territorial sport organizations of the NWT, territorial sport organizations, commonly called TSOs, are dedicated to development of sport at every level of participation in the NWT. Sport North Federation and TSOs are recognized leaders in sport development and are ensuring that opportunities in sports based on fair play are accessible to all residents in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard that the reason the department is looking after the lotteries next year was because we were told that Revenue Canada made the recommendation if we didn't do this we'd lose the money due to taxation. To stop this, the department will take over the responsibility of lotteries. Mr. Speaker, according to the news in the department, they hired a consultant firm, Sutcliffe Group, to conduct a review of the sport and recreation programs for the territories around the same time.

Mr. Speaker, you've heard that changes were needed, but it needs to be done in a more collaborative way that would include a development of a sport and recreation physical activity strategy made for the territories, for the residents of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues out there. Mr. Speaker, it's been a little frustrating to say the least, according to some of the organizations that were involved in the process. It wasn't entirely clear to them what the rationale was for the structure change for removing Sport North as a funding agent for the membership. Mr. Speaker, by removing Sport North as a funding agent to its membership it seems the department limits the ability of the federation to help improve the health of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I could spend hours, maybe months, maybe years on this topic, but I will stop here. Later on I'll have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue we're hearing a lot about lately; that is the government's current and future plans for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the future of power generation and distribution in our territory. The Minister's statement to the House the other day was appreciated.

Clear communication from Ministers is always welcomed by the Members and, of course, residents. However, Mr. Speaker, some of the claims in the Minister's statement are in dispute, specifically the claim that different rate zones don't subsidize each other. So I'm concerned that while the Minister said he intended to clarify things, in fact a lot remains unclear.

Mr. Speaker, Northland Utilities, which distributes power in Yellowknife and other communities in the territory, is part of ATCO Group, an international company with assets, resources and expertise around the world. Northlands has been part of our power distribution system for many years and is a long-standing partner with Denendeh Investments Incorporated. According to a recent news article, Northlands says it seems the Minister is "ill-prepared," that his claims about rate zones and cost subsidization are not correct, and that conclusion is supported directly by NTPC's own documents.

Mr. Speaker, power and electricity is a critical and crucial part of our existence in the remote North. I'm concerned that in an area where we need

openness and engagement with the public, as well as creativity and collaboration with strong partners, the government seems to want to keep both the residents and private enterprise in the dark.

I'm concerned about the little things: the dissolution of the public representative board of NTPC without input from Members or the public; NTPC choosing to compete for distribution of power in a market-based community; a reluctance to communicate with an innovative company that ought to be one of its most important private sector partners.

I'm concerned that Northerners still don't have a straight answer about the rate structure we pay for power. So while I thank the Minister for his statement earlier this session, many questions remain, and residents deserve answers. I will have questions for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before on the need to diversify our economy and I have always supported a key industry that can help achieve this goal, our northern manufacturing sector. If this government is truly committed to building a diversified and sustainable territorial economy that can be resilient in the face of volatile commodity cycles, then it must continue providing support for this sector in Yellowknife and throughout the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, for those who don't believe the NWT can support a viable manufacturing industry, I believe now is the time to break new ground and be ambitious, Mr. Speaker. Not only is our manufacturing sector developing and innovating, they are thriving. The NWT manufacturing sector generates annual revenues of \$25 million, employs over a 100 Northerners and has an average annual growth of 2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, Kam Lakers know that we can capitalize on this opportunity, quite literally through our world-class business leaders. That's why I'm pleased to see this government lend support to Energy Wall Engineered Homes by giving them an opportunity to build manufactured homes for our communities. This business has been an innovator in the North for decades, manufacturing value-added products such as roof trusses, windows and fibreglass tanks. Recently, they have expanded and developed into a whole new field that will change how our territory houses our people.

Energy Wall Engineered Homes is now manufacturing affordable modular housing units, and has recently entered into a contract collaborating with the NWT Housing Corporation in a pilot project that will build one home in Yellowknife. I applaud the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation for supporting our local businesses; this is a clear sign of support to our hardworking business community, that she is living up to her mandate commitments by identifying potential areas of growth in our manufacturing sector and pursuing them with vigour.

Now, I encourage all Cabinet Ministers to follow the same, and move the entire government in this direction so we can realize the longstanding goal of economic diversification for a stronger economy and a stronger Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECORDS OF NON-CONVICTION

MS GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today to share one NWT resident's experience with a document called records of non-conviction and to call for the end of its use in Yellowknife.

A constituent of mine who was on income assistance got a job working with clients in the vulnerable sector. The employer properly requires applicants be screened to ensure that they don't have criminal records. Two days after getting the job, my constituent was let go. He has never been convicted of a criminal offence but the forms supplied by the RCMP detailed the things he was not convicted of. Mr. Speaker, this is a record of non-conviction.

What kind of things has he not been convicted of? Well, I don't know. From my research, I can say that these documents contain records of a person having been questioned by the police and not charged, or charged with charges that were later dropped, or charged and later acquitted.

So my constituent lost a job he desperately needed because the police issued a form which confirms he has no criminal record, but which also says there is "adverse information" on file. In this circumstance, information is released on the crime investigated. But again, this is not a conviction, it's a suspicion.

Mr. Speaker, not to put too fine a point on it, this is outrageous. When I learned of this practice, I went to the Justice Minister for background information, and asked whether our administrative oversight powers under our policing contract enabled us to

tell the RCMP to stop issuing records of non-conviction. The Justice Minister said this is a national policy of the RCMP and that the information is given to the job applicant, so it is not the police prejudicing anyone by informing prospective employers.

This is just obfuscation, Mr. Speaker, because you can't get or keep the job without the criminal record check and the criminal check is released along with the record of non-conviction, it's all on one page. The injustice of this situation is clear for any fair-minded person. The words "innocent until proven guilty" come to mind, but do they mean anything? I will have questions for the Minister.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESTRICTED DRIVER'S LICENCES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a driver's license is considered an essential part of the modern lifestyle. It is required for many types of employment and viewed as an important rite of passage for youth. But, Mr. Speaker, not all NWT driver's licenses are created equal. If you get your license in a community of under 500 people, you can only drive within 100 km of your home address. In a community of up to 2,000 people, you can only drive within the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the reasoning behind these restrictions is that small communities have limited traffic and rural-grade pedestrian infrastructure. There will not be opportunities for applicants to demonstrate proficient ability to parallel park, operate a vehicle safely at highway speeds, or even stop at traffic lights. That said, Mr. Speaker, these restrictions place some obvious limitations on drivers themselves, with far-reaching implications.

A valid driver's license is required for many jobs, especially entry-level and service positions. We are putting people at a disadvantage when it comes to employment opportunities. If they want to apply for a full, unrestricted driver's license that is recognized across Canada, they have to travel to a large centre — Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Inuvik, or Fort Smith — on their own dime.

Mr. Speaker, this policy creates a barrier to workforce development for people in our small communities who need job opportunities, and an unreasonable expectation that people will be able to afford to go to a larger centre to successfully complete their exam. The government put major steps to allow students to finish high school in their home communities. It should be possible for anyone to get a full driver's license in their home community as well. We expect high school diplomas to be valid and recognized across

Canada. It is a major issue when they are not. We should have similar expectations for NWT driver's licenses. We should be preparing our workforce by providing the opportunity to get a full, unrestricted driver's license to all NWT residents, regardless of where they reside.

Mr. Speaker, we need to find equitable ways to grant driver's licenses throughout the NWT and get our residents ready for the road. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HOUSING REPAIR
AND RENOVATION PROGRAMS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, winter has come to the Delta. At this time of year and throughout the coldest months, people struggle with deteriorating homes. Things that are falling into disrepair become bigger problems. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT offers assistance to many residents to find adequate, affordable, and suitable places to live. Housing is crucial to a person's overall well-being. In the past, governments have encouraged people to build their own homes or even given homes to people in communities. Programs are available to subsidize the cost of home heating and repairs. Many people who could benefit from these programs in our small communities do not qualify because their total income is above the threshold.

Sure, we could all use extra funds to put towards renovations or repairs, Mr. Speaker, but that's not the issue. The problem is that many people simply cannot afford maintenance of their homes in places like Fort McPherson, Aklavik, and Tsiigehtchic because so much of their income goes towards heating fuel, power, water, food — the basic necessities. Mr. Speaker, it is unreasonable to expect a family to save up \$60,000 to \$80,000 for a new roof, new windows, or weather-proofed doors. Even on a higher income, projects that would save homeowners money over time are out of reach for many people.

Mr. Speaker, income testing is important to make sure our programs are being used fairly and as they are intended. We need to take a closer look at how they are applied and where subsidies are most needed. Our programs need to respond to the diversity of needs throughout the North. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we need to look at the whole picture, from keeping the roof over people's heads to home ownership, ongoing maintenance to energy efficiency. It is too easy to sit in our warm, brightly lit offices in Yellowknife without considering the reality of our small communities. Mr. Speaker, we need to find a solution that works for people trying to make ends meet in places that are remote, cold, and where the cost-of-living is highest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have questions for the Minister later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEW HEALTH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On August 1, 2016, Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, came into effect. On this date, the NWT Health and Social Services Authority, the NWT Health and Social Services Leadership Council, the Regional Wellness Councils, was established. This new governance structure allows us to make necessary changes across the system which will help improve care and services for the NWT residents. Realizing it's only been two and three quarter months since the initiation of this new legislation and operations act, later I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
YELLOWKNIFE HOMELESSNESS ROAD MAP
ACTION PLAN

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, monsieur le President. Someone on the other side of the House may say that I'm not known for and may not recognize the good work of Cabinet. Well, today is their lucky day.

---Laughter

More seriously, I want to recognize the work done to produce the Yellowknife Homelessness Road Map Action Plan and the individuals who contributed. The regular members of the working group who produced the plan were Jeff Anderson, NWT Housing Corporation; Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Homeful Partnership; Linda Bussey, Yellowknife City Councillor; Bryany Denning, Yellowknife Women's Society; Lyda Fuller, YWCA Yellowknife; Mayor Mark Heyck, City of Yellowknife; Catherine Lafferty, Yellowknives Dene First Nation; Matt Peggs, RCMP; and Dusty Sauder, Salvation Army.

Minister Caroline Cochrane played a key role in all of this through the Homelessness in Yellowknife Partnership Forum that took place in April of this year, that was the catalyst for this work and the resulting action plan. Minister Glen Abernethy has also assisted with enthusiasm, including a commitment to wrap-around services and to explore innovative harm reduction approaches.

I have reviewed the action plan and find it to be a balanced approach, a good mix of short, medium and long-term actions on homelessness here in Yellowknife. The actions are based on best practices and lessons learned from other jurisdictions. The plan will require an increasing investment from GNWT and other governments, but I look forward to this investment from our government in the 2017-2018 budget.

Homelessness and the situation in our downtown were the top issues during my summer engagement of residents in Frame Lake. I look forward to the action plan as a clear path and commitment to address these important issues. Again, I applaud the work done by Ministers Cochrane and Abernethy with the City of Yellowknife and others, towards a real Action Plan on Homelessness for Yellowknife. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRIBUTE TO TRADITIONAL INUIT TATTOO
PROPONENT ANGELA HOVAK JOHNSTON

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the first sitting my colleagues mentioned the Arctic Inspiration Prize, and today I just wanted to commend one of the projects. It's called the Inuit Tattoo Revitalization Project, and the lead on that is Angela Hovak Johnston.

I'm just going to say a few words about Angela Hovak Johnston, who currently lives in Yellowknife, grew up in the little Inuit settlement of Umingmaktok, which is Bay Chimo. She was sent away to residential school at the age of seven to Cambridge Bay, and then started her family in Kugluktuk. She has an intense passion for her culture and a deep connection to her traditional roots. She tries her best to pass on the knowledge to keep traditions alive and going strong. Hovak always had a love for traditional tattoos, but the strong passion for tattoos started 11 years ago. After three years of hard research and many questions, she received her first facial tattoo eight years ago. Having experienced the difficulty in getting traditional tattoos and finding the right artist, she felt a longing to be tattooed by an Inuk woman. Unsuccessful and disappointed in finding nobody in

her culture who practiced the lost skills, she then made it her dream to become a tattoo artist herself and learn those skills. It was her goal to make it available to Inuit women so it would not be difficult for them to carry on this tradition. She felt that it should be possible while there are so many talented, capable Inuit seamstresses who could fit the title.

Traditions, like in ancient times; never again will these Inuit traditions be close to extinction or be only a part of history you read about in books. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to commend all the hard-working women out there in the projects that work in collaboration and coordination for projects like this. Quyanainni.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REMEDICATION OF CONTAMINATED SITES ON
NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
PROPERTIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my riding of Hay River North we have some beautiful waterfront property. Much of that property is owned or leased by NTCL, and unfortunately, too much of it is littered with old fuel tanks, barges, scrap metal, derelict buildings, and garbage. This mess is a constant eyesore for the residents of Hay River, works against this government's ambitious plan to increase the number of tourists, and does nothing to help attract new residents to my community.

We all know that NTCL won't be cleaning up these properties, so it falls on this government to take the initiative and reclaim our landscape. Many people take for granted that the federal government will swoop in and clean up. I don't. I'm positive that the feds hold the liability for many of the contaminated sites, and where they do, we need to ensure that we aggressively pursue federal support to not only accept this liability, but to remediate those sites as well.

This is a complicated issue. When I raised it before, it was pointed out to me that we don't know where the chips are going to fall, and until we do, the GNWT doesn't really know who is responsible for what. Mr. Speaker, that's not good enough. I hope that, since I last raised this issue, the government has been more proactive.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that there is someone in the Department of Lands who has been designated as the lead on the NTCL file. This would be someone who knows the liabilities associated with each leased parcel and has plans on how to deal with the likely eventualities for each parcel;

someone who is coordinating with ENR and proactively engaging the federal government; someone who understands the intricacies of the Devolution Final Agreement, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act; someone who is doing everything in his or her power to ensure that NTCL's contaminated sites across the Territory are cleaned up so the people of the Northwest Territories can rest assured that this government is taking the steps needed to ensure that their health and the health of the environment will not be compromised by NTCL's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I will have more on this as the sitting continues, but for today I will have questions for the Minister of Lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 2-18(2): INTERIM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF MEMBERS' CONDUCT GUIDELINES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le president. I am pleased to present the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Interim Report on the Review of Members' Conduct Guidelines.

Introduction

It is a priority of the 18th Legislative Assembly to promote and ensure, to the greatest extent possible, a high standard of personal and public conduct for current and future Members. An important step was taken via Motion 6-18(1), entitled "Adoption of Members' Conduct Guidelines." Introduced by the Member for Hay River North, the motion represents this Assembly's first referral of work to a standing committee:

WHEREAS the Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly are mindful that it is an honour and a privilege to serve the people of the Northwest Territories as legislators;

AND WHEREAS the trust and confidence the people have placed in conferring this office upon us demands the highest standard of conduct, integrity and honour;

AND WHEREAS Members are resolved to do our utmost to hear the voices of all our people; preserve our traditions and bridge them with new ways to build our future; provide legislation, policies and services for the good of the people as individuals, families and communities; promote the

equality of all our people; distribute resources fairly and justly; and respect and honour our land and all its inhabitants;

AND WHEREAS Members recognize that we owe to this legislature respect as well as dedication to ensuring the integrity of our government and to earning the confidence of the people;

AND WHEREAS Members recognize that we owe to our constituents our best efforts at effective representation as well as accountability, honesty, fairness and courtesy;

AND WHEREAS Members recognize that we owe to the public a responsibility to work for the well-being of all residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members recognize that we owe to our colleagues fairness and respect for differences, and the duty to work together with goodwill for the common good;

AND WHEREAS Members are resolved not to act, nor condone others to act, in ways which are dishonest or which exploit, slander or discriminate against others;

AND WHEREAS Members acknowledge a vision and a responsibility to improve the lives of our people and to act in creative ways to overcome the hardships which destroy life and hope and the human frailties which fall upon us;

AND WHEREAS Members are resolved to respect and abide by the laws of Canada and the Northwest Territories and will not act in ways which will violate these laws;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 75(a) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that each Member shall perform his or her duties of office and arrange his or her private affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the Member;

AND WHEREAS past Assemblies have seen fit to adopt principles to guide Members' conduct;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this 18th Legislative Assembly formally adopts the Members' Conduct Guidelines as appended and which forms part of this resolution;

AND FURTHER, that each Member of the Legislative Assembly shall sign a copy of the Members' Conduct Guidelines before the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who shall make all signed copies available to the public through the Legislative Library and by posting signed copies on the Legislative Assembly website;

AND FURTHERMORE, that this Assembly refer the Members' Conduct Guidelines to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for a comprehensive and public review, including a thorough examination of conduct guidelines from other jurisdictions, both parliamentary and non-parliamentary organizations, all relevant legislation, and the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, and that the standing committee report back to this Assembly during the fall sitting of 2016.

The committee notes that, while the referral motion directs a review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines, it recognizes that legislation and rules of the Assembly also govern Members' behaviour. Taken together, they set the overall standard of conduct Members are expected or bound to uphold. This report describes that matrix, and provides some comparisons to systems elsewhere. The purpose of this interim report is to outline useful information to support public discussion, consultation, and further research that will lead to recommendations for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee's work began with an examination of laws that govern who can run for office, and what is done in the event a sitting Member breaches the law. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass this on to Ms. Green to continue.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Laws Applicable in the Northwest Territories

Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides that every citizen has the right to vote in elections for Members to the House of Commons or Legislative Assembly and to "be qualified for membership therein." However, the right to run for office may be limited in ways justifiable in a free and democratic society. Court decisions to date show that such restrictions, when challenged, will be carefully scrutinized to determine if they are absolutely necessary to ensuring confidence in the election process. Within those parameters, provinces and territories may set criteria for candidates running for election.

Eligibility for Office in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

Provisions of the Elections and Plebiscites Act and the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act define who is an eligible candidate for election and who may serve in the Legislative Assembly.

Generally, a person is eligible to be a candidate if he/she is a Canadian citizen, is at least 18 years old, and has been a resident of the Northwest Territories for at least 12 months.

Current legislation disqualifies candidates or Members convicted and imprisoned as a result of a criminal offence; the disqualification ends with the term of imprisonment. The legislation is silent on offences that do not result in jail sentences. Such matters fall to the Legislative Assembly's rules, code of conduct, and the use of parliamentary privilege to discipline or expel its Members.

Elections and Plebiscites Act

Legal precedents set elsewhere in Canada have sometimes led to changes to NWT legislation. For example, in 1995 the Elections Act was amended to allow persons imprisoned in a correctional facility to vote if serving a sentence of less than two years. The law was also changed to ensure that prisoners remained ineligible to run for office (also a provision of the Canada Elections Act). This led to questions about what would happen in the event of an offence by a sitting member. Such circumstances were subsequently addressed in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, discussed below.

The Elections and Plebiscites Act also includes a five-year prohibition of anyone convicted of a major election offence from being elected or sitting as a Member, voting, or holding office appointed by the Commissioner or Legislative Assembly. These offences include such conduct as voting more than once, intentional miscounts, knowingly making false statements about a candidate's character, attempting to intimidate or compel a person not to run for election, and others.

Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act sets out requirements for Members' and Ministers' conduct, including conflict of interest provisions and a Member's general obligation to "arrange his or her private affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence."

Since its inception, the act has been amended respecting offences that would prevent a Member from continuing to serve. In 1995, following changes to the Elections Act and the adoption of a zero tolerance motion the year before, the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act was amended to disallow a Member from serving if convicted of an indictable Criminal Code offence involving violence or sexual exploitation of a child. Expulsion was not automatic if a Member was convicted of a less serious summary offence. In

such cases, the Legislative Assembly would determine if expulsion or discipline was necessary. However, the act did not specify particular criminal offences, left important issues open to interpretation, and ignored other potentially serious offences that might tarnish the public confidence, trust, and integrity of a Member. This provision was therefore repealed in 2006 and replaced with the requirements that exist today.

Currently, any Member who would no longer be eligible to be a candidate for election is not permitted to continue in office, and his or her seat is deemed vacant. In the event of a conviction or imprisonment of a Member, a suspension from office allows for legal appeals to be resolved before full disqualification takes place.

Other Relevant Legislation

Canada Elections Act

Under this Act, a person who is imprisoned in a correctional institution is not eligible to be a candidate. In addition, any person convicted of an offence that is an illegal or corrupt (election) practice under the act is not entitled to be elected to or sit in the House of Commons for five or seven years, respectively.

Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (Nunavut)

Nunavut's legislation sets out the circumstances which will lead to a Member's loss of his or her seat. Under Nunavut's Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, a Member cannot serve if they are convicted of an offence under the Criminal Code prosecuted by indictment (typically, a serious offence). The law also sets out a discretionary provision to consider whether it is in the public interest and in the interest of the Assembly to expel a Member convicted of a lesser (summary) offence. Nunavut's regime has not been challenged in court and is similar to the Northwest Territories' restrictions in place from 1995 to 2006.

House of Assembly Act (Nova Scotia)

The laws of several provinces prevent a person imprisoned on conviction of an indictable offence from sitting as a Member or running for the office. This limitation generally expires when the term of imprisonment ends, as it does in the Northwest Territories.

In Nova Scotia, it is possible in certain circumstances for the prohibition from candidacy or holding office to be longer than the actual sentence imposed. This could occur if a person was convicted of a serious offence punishable by imprisonment of more than five years, but sentenced to a shorter term. In such a case, the

person is ineligible to be nominated as a candidate for a period of five years from the date of conviction. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the report on to Minister Sebert.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Members' Conduct Guidelines

The Legislative Assembly of the NWT first established a self-imposed code of behaviour during the 12th Assembly. Each subsequent Assembly, except the 15th, formally adopted a similar code of conduct.

The Code of Conduct was amended by the 18th Assembly to put greater emphasis on effective representation. An excerpt from the Conflict of Interest provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act was added to help ensure Members arrange their private matters so as to maintain the trust and confidence of the public. A commitment to respect and abide by the laws of the land was also incorporated into the revised code.

For the first time, Members of the 18th Assembly formally signed copies of the Conduct Guidelines before the Clerk. These signed copies are publicly available and posted on the Assembly's website. This demonstrates Members' collective commitment to the spirit and intent of the Conduct Guidelines (see Appendix A).

Oath of Office

Sworn oaths of office are another mechanism obligating Members to a standard of conduct. The Legislative Assembly's oaths of office for Members and Ministers are set out in Schedule B of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. For example:

I, (Member's name), do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. So help me God.

Members' and Ministers' oaths are sworn before the Commissioner with due ceremony and gravity, generally with close family present, in a televised proceeding in the Chamber.

There may be an opportunity to increase Members' focus and public attention to matters of conduct by linking the oath to additional duties, standards and statutory requirements set out elsewhere. Newfoundland and Labrador's Oath of Office is a good example, with specific links to the province's Elections Act and the Assembly's Code of Conduct:

I, (Member's name) do swear (or affirm) that:

a) I am fully qualified to hold the office of Member for the District of _____ to which I have been elected;

b) I have not knowingly contravened the Elections Act, 1991 respecting any matter in relation to my election;

c) I will faithfully, to the best of my ability, perform the duties and responsibilities of my office and will not allow any direct or indirect monetary or other personal or private interest to influence my conduct or affect my duties in public matters;

d) I hereby affirm, subscribe to and agree to follow the Code of Conduct of Members adopted by the House of Assembly, (in the case where the oath is taken, add "So help me God").

Observations from Other Parliamentary Jurisdictions

Codes of conduct are well-established in a number of parliamentary jurisdictions. Elected leaders around the world have noted that their codes of conduct are extremely useful in dealing with constituents and local organizations by providing a formal standard to judge the actions of their elected politicians. According to some experts, Members are more cautious of their behaviour because they are subject to stricter scrutiny inside and outside the House.

As a result, codes of conduct can be used to build trust in government institutions. Or, their absence can undermine it. The overall purpose of codes of conduct for parliamentarians varies from country to country. They usually aim to promote ethical behaviour and prevent unethical behaviour, provide a set of ethical standards, increase public trust in and respect for the institution, as well as to establish rights and responsibilities for parliamentarians.

A commonly held view is that codes of conduct are better adopted through the Rules of the House or by formal motion rather than by statute. There is a strong argument that adoption by standing order or resolution enables the House to retain jurisdiction over its own affairs, rather than delegating them to the courts.

As well, there seems to be benefit in having a code that is relatively simple and easy to understand, readily accessible, and aspirational in nature. A Code of Conduct can include both aspirational provisions, what Members ought to do, and prescriptive provisions, what Members must do or not do. Many jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories have opted to incorporate prescriptive provisions in the statute including fiduciary matters

such as conflict of interest, gifts and favours, asset declaration, nepotism and outside activities. Many of these items are addressed directly in the Conflict of Interest Provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. The effectiveness of a code of conduct for elected leaders depends on a range of factors, including effective consultation and discussion prior to the enactment of the code, the existence of an active constituent base pre-media, a functioning integrity system, effective protection for whistle blowers, an oversight mechanism, clear and appropriate sanctions and parliamentarians' commitment to the structure and process, regulation and enforcement.

Regulation and Enforcement

An effective conduct regime includes systems for enforcement and sanctions to deter potential offenders as well as to ensure the integrity of the House in the event of breaches. Three main models have emerged:

- internal regulation by the parliament;
- external regulation by a judicial body; and,
- creation of an independent commissioner who reports to a parliamentary committee.

Self-regulation by parliament typically entails the creation of a special ethics committee to deal with the reporting, investigation and sanctioning of Members alleged to have violated the rules. However, this model has met with considerable criticism as it turns legislators into investigators, judges and juries. In addition, if the intention is to ensure or restore public trust in politicians, a model that relies on politicians investigating themselves is unlikely to retain public confidence or credibility.

The second model involves the creation of a judicial or quasi-judicial body to oversee and enforce regulations on behalf of Members. The difficulty with this model is that breaches of the rules can become subject to criminal proceedings and, therefore, may interfere with rules relating to parliamentary privilege or immunity. In addition, Members may feel little sense of ownership in an external regime. If the intention is to build collective acceptance of its provisions, there may be more direct ways to build the regime into parliamentary culture.

The third model combines elements of the first two. This model involves the creation of an independent regulator appointed by and reporting to the legislature. The regulator is then responsible for investigating alleged breaches and advising Members on the application of the rules, but the imposition of penalties or sanctions is decided by a committee of the House. This model closely aligns

with our own enforcement provisions in the Conflict of Interest section of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. One option may be to expand our Conflict of Interest Commissioner's responsibilities to include oversight of the Code of Conduct. This is the arrangement in Newfoundland and Labrador under the Commissioner of Legislative Standards.

It is important to note that our existing territorial regime does very little to address regulation and enforcement of the aspirational provisions contained in our current Code of Conduct. Apart from the code's catch-all clause taken from the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act that Members "will perform the duties of office with integrity, objectivity and impartiality" and will arrange their "private affairs to maintain the trust and confidence of the public," the code is largely non-binding and perceived as not having real teeth or meaningful enforceability. This is due, in part, from the difficulty enforcing some behaviour promoted in the code, in part, from the lack of a publicly-described procedure for registering complaints and taking appropriate action.

There is no Assembly committee tasked with handling complaints, and no ethics Commissioner. Our current system relies primarily on complaints to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, whose authority is limited to provisions set out in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. This authority is weighed toward financial matters, contracts, and private interests. The act also establishes the Board of Management, chaired by the Speaker, to administer Members' allowances, and set regulations and policies for all services to Members. The board ensures that its policies and regulations are followed, and exercises its authority to enforce them. The board is also the final arbiter of workplace harassment cases involving breaches of the Legislative Assembly's policy and potential discipline of a Member. The workplace harassment policy is described in the Members' Handbook, included in employee orientation, and administered by the Clerk. I will now pass this on to Mr. Thompson.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank Mr. Sebert for that part.

Municipal Councils

Municipal councils are not an equivalent level of government, but their standards of conduct are nevertheless an indicator of public expectations. Many municipal governments in Canada have adopted codes of conduct, some of them quite stringent. Ontario provides several similar examples in Barrie, Kitchener, the County of Brant, and

others. These codes are both aspirational and prescriptive, with direct references to the Criminal Code of Canada and several Ontario laws governing Members' conduct.

The County of Brant's code of conduct, for example, features typical conflict-of-interest provisions as well as general standards of conduct and responsibilities including:

- Members are responsible for making honest statements. No member shall make a statement when they know that statement is false;
- Members shall exercise care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances;
- Members shall competently exercise his or her office by educating themselves either formally or informally, in matters pertaining to their official duties;
- Members of council must uphold the law and conduct themselves with the highest degree of ethical behaviour and integrity; and
- Members shall not attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence the decision-making process as it relates to the awarding of contracts.

As is typical of other municipal codes of conduct in Ontario, Brant County's includes detailed procedures for complaints and investigations by an Integrity Commissioner. The Commissioner is empowered to recommend a reprimand, or suspension of a councillor's pay for up to 90 days.

However, the compliance section of Brant County's code also refers to expulsion; Members of Council may become disqualified and lose their seats if convicted of an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada or for failing to declare a conflict of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

Most conduct guidelines for non-parliamentary organizations are vague, unenforceable, and do not deal with personal matters. Generally, such codes focus on workplace conduct and business integrity and do not venture very far into personal conduct.

References to alcohol and substance abuse or violence outside the workplace are virtually nonexistent or purely aspirational in nature. Likewise, confidentiality policies and general integrity clauses (re: good stewardship of public resources) do exist elsewhere but are no more strongly and specifically-worded than what we already have. However, personal conduct is a live

issue for many NGOs working to improve governance and ensuring the confidence of donors and funders.

Some organizations' codes of conduct reflect high standards and are linked to enforcement mechanisms. For example, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) requires its employees to act "at all times with integrity and in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny, an obligation that may not be fully satisfied by simply acting within the law." More specifically, CBC's code deals with conflict of interest, use of public funds and resources, discrimination and harassment, and so on.

Compliance is a condition of employment, and failure to comply "may result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal." CBC employees are "obligated to immediately report possible breaches of the Code of Conduct; channels for doing so are clearly set out. Events at CBC in recent years illustrate that to be effective, even a rigorous code of conduct must be actively supported by management and a healthy workplace culture. At this part, I would like to pass on the next part of the report to Mr. Beaulieu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Tu-Nedhe Willideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

Sanctions and Penalties

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), with more than 50 member legislatures, identifies benchmarks of good governance and best practices. It recommends that codes of conduct should "specify graduated sanctions and penalties for breaches of the code according to the seriousness of the effects of breaches on the functioning, reputation and legitimacy of the parliament." The CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Codes of Conduct Applying to Members of Parliament also advises that codes should "specify that a Member convicted of a breach of the criminal law, may in addition be subject to a sanction or penalty if found to have breached the Code."

There is no mention of sanctions or penalties in the Legislative Assembly's Code of Conduct. However, the Conflict of Interest provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act specify punishments when a Member is found guilty of contravening a section of those provisions. The potential punishments include:

- a reprimand;

- a fine not exceeding \$25,000; an order requiring the Member to make restitution;
- an order requiring the Member to pay compensation to any person for a loss sustained;
- a suspension for a period not exceeding 30 sitting days;
- a declaration that the seat of the Member is vacant; and,
- an order that the Member pay costs in an amount to be determined.

It is vitally important to note that the Legislative Assembly's authority to regulate its internal affairs and discipline its own Members for misconduct is unchallenged. These rights and powers, which fall under the banner of Parliamentary Privilege, are the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively, and by Members individually, without which they could not carry out their duties and functions. These rights and privileges exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals and are, to a certain extent, exempt from the general law. It is also vitally important to understand that this does not place the Assembly or its Members above the law. Court rulings have assisted in setting precedents to define the boundaries of Parliamentary Privilege and general law.

Examples of sanctions that can be imposed by the House and that go beyond the other sanctions already identified in statute include:

- verbal warnings;
- formal reprimands;
- censure / severe rebukes / admonition;
- naming and order to withdraw;
- suspension from membership for a specified period;
- revocation of appointments;
- imprisonment;
- expulsion / loss of seat.

The arsenal of penalties and sanctions is thus well-stocked. Analysis of codes of conduct elsewhere reveals varied approaches on whether it is advisable to formally identify clear sanctions for specific breaches, or whether it is better to address them case-by-case. The most important consideration is that any sanction should be reasonable and appropriate to the misconduct. Avenues for appeal or review should also be

provided in instances where a Member is found guilty of misconduct.

Fostering a Culture of Ethical Conduct

There is a trend toward enforceable standards of conduct in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Tougher rules do serve a preventive purpose, and while enforcement may ultimately be a deterrent, it is necessarily reactive to events. Prevention of such events must be part of our goal.

Promoting a culture of integrity within public life and the parliamentary context is fundamental to any effective ethics regime. Educational and training efforts can contribute to the effectiveness of an ethics regime by clarifying what constitutes misconduct and identifying ways of eliminating it. Ethical behaviours can be fostered when ethical standards are clearly known and people become attentive to identifying and discovering wrongdoing. People are often hesitant to commit an unethical act if they believe everyone else around them knows it is wrong, or if they are likely to get caught. These positive behaviours are more common in environments that emphasize ethical behaviour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pass it back to the Chair, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Next Steps

Members of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures wish to engage the general public in a dialogue on the development and refinement of laws, Members' conduct guidelines, and enforcement mechanisms in support of high ethical standards befitting the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly.

Following this report, the committee will issue a discussion paper posing a series of questions on key issues to stimulate public consideration and feedback. The committee plans to conduct public hearings outside the capital in November and December, 2016. The meetings will be well-publicized; the committee invites everyone interested to attend, discuss the issues, and provide their advice. Written submissions are also welcome. The committee's final report and recommendations will be tabled at the earliest opportunity in 2017. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 2-18(2) be received and adopted by this Assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I really don't want to speak at any length about the report. It is an interim report as noted early on in the presentation and on the cover of the report. We do intend to do some further work in terms of engaging the public. But most importantly, I want to thank the members of the committee, Mr. Sebert, Ms. Green, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Beaulieu for their hard work in putting this together. We look forward to the support of all Members moving forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

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

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to Section Number 6 on the orders papers.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a couple people working in the building today. I'd like to first recognize the two interpreters from Tu Nedhe-Willideh, Mary Rose Sundberg and Tommy Unka. They'll both be here for the remainder of the sitting. Also I understand that another young lady that's from YK Dene that works in the Members' office, Ora Williamson Mercredi. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to welcome Manuel Jorge who is here today with us. He's a great member of my constituency in Kam Lake, and the owner/operator of Energy Wall Building Systems. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Tony Whitford, former member for Kam Lake amongst many other things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the same as my colleague and as yourself, as we

know Mr. Whitford is a man of many titles and one he is also is a Yellowknife North resident, so I want to recognize him today and welcome him to the House. I also want to recognize a good friend and my former employer, Manuel Jorge. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my wife, Anne Sebert, and her son Peter Reid in the audience.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Have we missed anyone in the gallery? I'd like to welcome everyone to our proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in the gallery. Masi. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 378-18(2): ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs recently commissioned in the Sutcliffe Report to review MACA's mandate and goals in support of recreation and physical activities, and to make recommendations about how to manage lottery funds and operations in support of our revised mandate goals. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please provide some information about who the Sutcliffe Group consulted in the development of their report and recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Consultation to develop the Sutcliffe Report was actually done fairly comprehensive in my opinion, so it included two rounds of consultation with sports and rec groups and other stakeholders from across the Northwest Territories.

The first round of consultations consisted of 17 people in person and telephone interviews with representatives from Municipal and Community Affairs, sports, rec and youth division, territorial and regional sports organizations, the NWT Association of Communities and local government administrators of the NWT.

In addition, interviews with representatives from similar sports and rec divisions in the Yukon and Nunavut took place. The second round of consultations provided stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment in writing on the

set of draft recommendations and proposal developed by the Sutcliffe Group with several submissions that were received from that feedback. Finally, the consultant led an online webinar as well as a one-day policy workshop to support the development of the policy statement on recreation, sport and physical activity for the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for her answer. Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations of the report was to establish an NWT sport recreation and physical activity/physical literacy policy. Has the department developed this policy? If so, what is it meant to do?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, a draft NWT Sport Recreation and Physical Activity Policy has been developed that will be used to guide the funding and operational decision-making for the department. This policy is an internal document though and doesn't represent the whole NWT Sectorial Policy which we'll be looking at on a later date.

MR. THOMPSON: I again thank the Minister for her answer. Can the Minister explain how the department has been able to engage stakeholders, specifically Sports North, as a means forward with the implementation of the Sutcliffe recommendations and the development of an NWT physical activity/literacy strategy?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: So moving forth with it and actually getting more consultation, we've actually already met with Sport North organization. We've talked to them about how we see their role. They've decided where they see their role as well. They'll be providing a business case to us within the next month or so.

As well as that, we've also committed to meeting all of the five sports organizations to come together, and so we can actually talk more broadly on what are the results in the Sutcliffe Report, where they see a policy going, some of the limitations and the assets of the current policy that we use for the funding and operations.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her answer. The Sutcliffe Report had 18 recommendations and one of the recommendations was about the funding relationship. When will the department begin implementing recommendations as listed in the Sutcliffe Report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: So the Sutcliffe Report was actually received in January 2016 and it was shared with the affected organizations for their

comment on April 2016, so not that long ago. Between April and July, the department took a comprehensive review and analysis of the report. On August 19th, the former Minister of MACA announced that the department's modified approach to western Canada's lottery funding and the creation of a new NWT Sports Recreation and Physical Activity Funding Policy which will be used to guide our funding allocations and our operational components.

The department is also moving forward now to make the required legislative, contractual and human resources changes to bring the operations and revenue of the Western Canada Lottery Program inside the Governments of the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 378-18(2):
TERRITORIAL POWER RATES, GENERATION
AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, communication to the public on power rates still appears unclear. The Minister indicated in his statement last week that, "the latest rate application will charge Yellowknife customers only 98 per cent of the cost of the service for 2016-2017."

Yet Northlands pointed to the rate application showing that it was charging Northlands 114 per cent. That's 14 per cent more than what it costs to produce power for Yellowknife. This is not open for interpretation and it can't be both ways. I would like to ask the Minister again which rate is correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the Public Utilities Board sets rates for both NTPC and Northland Utilities. NTPC did apply for 114 per cent in 2013-2014 based on a calculation of revenue-to-cost coverage. The Public Utilities Board rejected this calculation and directed that NTPC bill electricity at 98 per cent which is where it remains to this day. Thank you.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for that clarification. Another question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister is, fundamentally, what would have to change for the government to consider opening talks with ATCO?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The government has initiated an energy strategy which the House heard about last week, and we will be inviting proponents to attend and discuss energy in the NWT. ATCO is one of the invitees.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to reducing or stabilizing the cost of power to consumers, the GNWT has typically taken an approach that results in higher costs to government. That is only cycling taxpayers' dollars and placing the costs on future governments. How does the GNWT plan to reverse that trend?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The GNWT has been subsidizing the cost of power for NWT residents, most recently through the \$44 million to offset low water in the North Slave. I certainly agree with the Member opposite that finding ways to make our energy system more sustainable is crucial, and the government is in the early stages of partnering to tie into the continental grid.

We have also been partnering with communities such as Colville Lake to introduce solar arrays and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. I look forward to hearing what other ideas are out there and the results of the energy strategy that I referred to earlier.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, in the interests of open government and transparency, I would like to ask the Minister: how do residents get a say in whether the GNWT is our sole power provider or whether we look at other options, such as partnerships with private entities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, it is important when we're looking at this issue to look at the situation in Hay River. It was the municipal decision of the Town of Hay River and its people to seek proposals for power. NTPC was one of the bidders. ATCO was another. It was a town decision to go with that NTPC proposal. There have been no decisions made for Yellowknife, but it will be the city that decides whether or not to go out for proposals when the current franchise expires in 2020.

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

QUESTION 380-18(2):
 REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SITES ON
 NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
 LANDS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about NTCL and their lots in Hay River. I have some questions for the Minister of Lands. When I brought this up before, the government didn't seem to be doing much, and so I was hoping they've been a bit more proactive.

Has the department done any inspections of NTCL's lands in Hay River or anywhere in the Territory to check for environmental and compliance issues, and what were the results of these inspections, if they occurred, and what future actions are they leading to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, this is a complex issue. The company is not yet bankrupt. They have a lease, and we need to wait for the CCAA process to proceed. However, the department has conducted inspections of lands that are leased to NTCL. This includes lands that are directly leased to the company by the GNWT, as well as those leased through head leases given to the Town of Hay River. No lease compliance issues have been identified. Lands will be working with other departments to identify areas of particular concern that would be in need of additional environmental assessment. Again, we must wait for the end of the CCAA bankruptcy procedure in court.

MR. SIMPSON: I'm glad to see that there have been some inspections. There are some sites that you don't really need to wait to see how things turn out. You know no one is going to buy them; you know no one wants them. So we can have plans in place for those lands, at least.

In the devolution agreement, there are clauses that absolve the Government of Canada of any responsibility to remediate sites. These are called released sites. Are there any released sites that the department has identified in Hay River or anywhere in the Territories?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: There are no NTCL sites that fall into this category 10. Not all of the NTCL leases fall under the category of operating sites, and as such may be subject to provisions of the devolution agreement that allow us to assert to Canada that they have responsibilities for remediation of the sites. This assertion does not necessarily result in Canada's acceptance of a liability for the site, and there is a process laid out in the devolution agreement through which the GNWT

would have to develop and provide evidence to support the assertion.

MR. SIMPSON: There's a lot of work ahead, I can tell. Is there someone in the department who is tasked with the NTCL file, that is the expert on this, who is making the plans, who knows the acts, knows the devolution agreement, who is focusing on ensuring that this government is doing the right thing when it comes to NTCL lands?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Within the Department of Lands, the assistant deputy minister of Planning and Coordination is leading and coordinating the NTCL file, supported by a director, regional superintendents, as well as our lands inspectors. Our team has been proactively meeting with officials from across the GNWT, including ENR, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, and the Department of Justice. Meetings occur regularly and, in fact, there is another scheduled for this very afternoon. We are treating this matter very seriously.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to keeping me updated on any movement on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly we will keep the Members opposite updated.

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

QUESTION 381-18(2):
 ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
 AFFECTING NORTHERN YOUTH

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following my Member's statement I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister what services are available today, right now, for youth struggling with mental health and addiction issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a wide range of services available to residents of the Northwest Territories, including youth. We do have community counsellors in most communities. Where they don't exist in communities, we can reach them by outreach. We have 1-800 numbers, a 24-hour help line; we have the ability to do psychiatric assessments and provide treatment.

Every community in the Northwest Territories has a community wellness plan. Many of their activities focus on supporting youth through on-the-land programs. We as a government fund different Aboriginal governments and organizations to deliver on-the-land programs. A number of them have opted for youth-focused programming.

There are some differences, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is referring to individuals under 18, we do have a number of treatment options available to them. We have some Northern specialized treatment resources, based in Yellowknife and Fort Smith, to provide treatment and education to youth under 18. We have some southern placements available for youth under 18 if our northern facilities aren't appropriate. We have treatment centres with four different contracts. So there are a wide range of services available to all residents, including youth.

MR. BEAULIEU: My understanding is that the department is currently working on developing a mental health and addictions action plan specific to youth, or for youth. Is this correct?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We've actually just almost concluded the work on a mental health and addictions framework here in the Northwest Territories, which I hope to share with committee either later this week or early next week and table it the week after. That framework outlines the parameters on which we're going to be moving forward on a number of items, including the development of a comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Youth, which we hope to get out as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell the House what is available for detoxification from alcohol and drugs, or alcohol or drugs?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the Government of the Northwest Territories when it comes to detox, we often refer to withdrawal management. There are basically two different streams of withdrawal management that are available. There's social withdrawal, which we are facilitating through counsellors and other NGOs throughout the communities across the Northwest Territories. Then there's also the medical detox component or the medical withdrawal management. That can be done in a number of different locations in the Northwest Territories, Inuvik and Yellowknife are the prime examples.

If somebody needs that medical withdrawal management, we can facilitate them within our hospitals here in the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, aside from some of the counselling that goes on in the small communities and I guess sort of like a blueprint of what the wellness plans also bring to the communities, is there anything outside of that occurring in the small communities that's specifically trying to address the issues in the small communities relating to alcohol and drugs? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, there are variations across the Northwest Territories depending on the size of some of our smaller, more rural remote communities. Some of those communities do have mental health and addictions counsellors in them, some do not. All have access to our 24-hour hotline; all of them have access to professionals regardless whether they are there in person, by way of phone.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, every community in the Northwest Territories has developed the community wellness plans, as I've mentioned before. Many, if not all, of those community wellness plans actually involve focus on youth, and those I believe are up on the website and available to anybody to read. But they focus on youth through things like on-the-land programming and other means of supporting youth who may be in crisis.

Having said everything that I've said, Mr. Speaker, I just want to be clear that we acknowledge that there needs to be significantly more work done on youth mental health and addictions here in the Northwest Territories. That is the prime reason that we are moving forward with a very focused youth mental health and addictions action plan, so that we can ensure that our youth are receiving the services they need regardless of where they happen to be located in the Northwest Territories. This is a priority, this is a mandate item, and this is certainly something that we're moving forward. I look forward to working with committee, Members and the public as we attempt to address these challenges here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 382-18(2):
NEW HEALTH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier in my Member's statement here on the new system coming into place for the health and healthcare services reform, I understand that the territorial and regional councils have met and I'm just wondering if the Minister could elaborate? Taking into account it's only been nearing three

months of operations, what can we expect for the remainder of this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the single authority went live here in the Northwest Territories earlier this year. Since that time we've had an opportunity to bring the different council members, the Regional Wellness Council members into Yellowknife for some training and orientation into the new system.

They've all then gone back to the communities, the chairs have come together and have held their first board meeting, if you will, then there has been some of the communities, regions, have actually already had some regional wellness council meetings. The CEO is travelling to those often with the Chair of the Territorial Board to provide some orientation upfront.

I had an opportunity to meet with the Chair of the Territorial Authority last week, and he indicated that he's got a real interest in getting out to the communities, meeting with people, meeting with the Regional Wellness Councils and working with them to focus some of the priorities within their individual regions. Mr. Speaker, this is still a growing phase, we're still in the learning phase, and we're looking forward to continuing to roll forward and make changes in the best interest of clients with a focus on clients throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: I know that would at least support the new administration after hearing a number of frontline concerns there on how to better improve our system, mostly in particular the area of service, travel and coordinated travel. Can the Minister elaborate, are we going to get regional referral coordinators back into the regions like we once had?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'm not sure that I actually understand the question, I'm not familiar with the referral coordinators the Member is referring to. Is the Member referring to something related to medical travel or something else? I'm not sure.

MR. MCNEELY: Can I expect, for the Sahtu region, a regional medical travel coordinator to make travel arrangements and accommodations arrangements for patients from the Sahtu?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, one of the advantages of coming together as a single authority here in the Northwest Territories is when there are vacancies in different regions or communities some of the other communities and

regions can stand up. It was my understanding that there was an individual once upon a time responsible for some medical travel coordination in the Sahtu. I'm not aware of whether or not that position was eliminated. I will have to get back in touch with the department and the authority to find out what is the actual status in the Sahtu, and I will commit to getting that information for the Member.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. I'm very glad to hear that the Minister's going to be cooperative. We all have the heart of reform, better care, and to approve efficiencies where we can. So I look forward to hearing from the Minister on progress reports on the operations of the coordinated travel for any of the members or the senior members going to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll take that as a comment, but I'll allow the Minister to answer if he wishes.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, we are doing some review of our medical travel policies here in the Northwest Territories with a focus on improving the results for our clients as they travel. I've made a commitment to getting that information to Members and I'll continue to provide the Members with updates.

I will say that now that we have moved to a single authority there's a real ability to consolidate and figure out how we can work together as a system to provide our residents a more seamless medical travel experience, and we're looking forward to seeing some positive results coming out shortly as a result of that.

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

QUESTION 383-18(2):
REMEDIATION OF ARSENIC CONTAMINATION
NEAR GIANT MINE SITE

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend the lead story on CBC's national website was about arsenic contamination throughout the Yellowknife area. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. What role is the Government of the Northwest Territories taking on the analysis and remediation of the widespread arsenic pollution beyond the borders of the Giant Mine site? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, GNWT, we're a co-

proponent of the Giant Mine remediation project, and the Giant Mine remediation project we are currently undertaking an additional human health risk assessment to supplement the previous assessments. This work includes consolidation of a wide array of existing studies and reports both on the Giant Mine site and offsite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister. I'm aware of the health risk assessment work that's being done around the Giant Mine site as part of that work. What specifically is the department doing about the offsite activity or the offsite contamination outside of the Giant Mine? You know, what sort of review of the effects of arsenic pollution caused by mining activities in the Yellowknife area on our environment and human health is the department actually working on?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have an interdepartmental GNWT legacy committee which includes Health and Social Services, ENR, Lands, WSCC, and ITI. It was created in 2015 to provide a coordinated approach to the topic of legacy contaminants. I am also aware of at least seven projects that are being conducted by academic institutions and one by ENR to study the legacy of contaminants in the Yellowknife area.

MR. O'REILLY: I thank the Minister for his response. I understand that there are a number of departments coordinating their work. That is good. Our understanding of arsenic and its toxicity has changed significantly over the last decade. How has this new knowledge influenced how we approach our assessment of arsenic in the Yellowknife area?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. We have a better understanding of the effects of arsenic. Development of a bio monitoring program through the human health effects monitoring program of the residents of Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Detah, to understand current health is underway. This will set a baseline for our ongoing monitoring.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the Minister for doing his homework before coming into the House today. That is great.

---Laughter

Again, thank you. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources published an environmental guideline for contaminated site remediation in November 2003. Appendix 4 of that document contains remediation objectives for arsenic and soils depending on the end use. These guidelines,

though, are now almost 13 years old. When does the department intend to review and update these guidelines? Will the Minister commit to consult this side of the House and the public as part of that update? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member pointing out the fact that I need to do additional homework on this particular issue. That is fine. I will make that commitment to have a conversation with my officials and see what updates are underway, and then I will share that information with the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 384-18(2): RECORDS OF NON-CONVICTION

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice. First off, I want to ensure that I understand the Minister's position on records of non-conviction based on our correspondence. As Justice Minister, do you believe the RCMP should release information on criminal incidences for which a person has never been lawfully convicted when the release of that information can result in unjust and even unlawful discrimination against innocent people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I would just like to remind Members to direct their questions through the Speaker, please. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. In the year 2000, the Criminal Records Act, the federal piece of legislation, came into effect. It provided for an enhanced criminal record check in situations where vulnerable people, either children or other vulnerable people, were involved. This was seen as a way of protecting the vulnerable groups. I appreciate the Member's opposite concerns as there is also balance between individual right and the rights of the vulnerable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't object to having criminal record checks for vulnerable sector individuals or for any others who require them. What we are talking about here is providing records that say that there has been an interaction with the law but not a conviction.

The Minister has said that the 2012 territorial policing contract was designed so that the RCMP remains independent of political influence, and yet has the ability to apply the rule of law as determined by and in consultation with the territorial Minister of Justice. My understanding of the rule of

law is that people are innocent until proven guilty. Will the Minister apply this rule and direct the RCMP to stop issuing records of non-conviction?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The short answer is no, Mr. Speaker. As I say, this act came into force in the year 2000. It has been in force for 16 years now. I frankly don't know whether it has been subject to Charter scrutiny or not, but since it still seems to be in effect, I assume that Charter challenges have not been made or failed. In my view, there always has to be a balance between protecting individual rights and, as I mentioned earlier, the rights of those that are vulnerable, children, and perhaps the aged in some cases. I think the act does set a correct balance. This can't be asked for in all circumstances. It can only be asked for when those two groups, vulnerable and children are involved.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the 2012 media release announcing the new territorial policing agreement said, "With the formation of a new contract management committee, the Government of the Northwest Territories, together with other provinces and territories will have influence over cost and service decisions in an ongoing and co-ordinated way." Will the Minister put this issue on the agenda of the next contract management committee meeting and call upon the RCMP to cease issuing records of non-conviction in the NWT?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: While we do meet with the RCMP, we do not interfere, if I can put it that way, directly with their day-to-day operations. As I mentioned earlier, I think that the enhanced criminal record checks provided for in the Criminal Records Act are a good idea protecting vulnerable groups. So I am not asking for any change.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for his responses. A practice, of course, is no less unjust for being national rather than territorial in scope. These records of non-conviction are opposed by, among others, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the John Howard Society, and most recently the Government of Ontario, which is taking steps to outlaw their use.

The RCMP is a contracted provincial territorial police service in all jurisdictions except Ontario and Quebec. I am going to ask again, will the Minister of Justice consult with his provincial and territorial counterparts at the next meeting of Justice Ministers to seek an elimination of the use of records of non-conviction by the RCMP? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned already, I believe that these types of

checks, this enhanced record as it could be called, are essential in certain circumstances dealing with the vulnerable populations or children. I am always willing to consult, but I am not just going to go forward with the position that this should be changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 385-18(2):
CHANGES TO CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES
ACT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently there was a news release from the City of Yellowknife recommending certain changes to the City, Towns and Villages Act to allow them the flexibility to engage in certain initiatives like local improvement charges, hotel taxes, etc. These recommendations have been long supported by the NWT Association of Communities. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs today if the department plans to take action on that request from our municipal partners? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MS. COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is aware of the request from the City of Yellowknife. We are looking at them. We are researching into them. We do have to do a thorough consultation process before we change any legislation or acts, and so we haven't started that process on these as of the moment.

MR. TESTART: I believe the legislation was last updated in 1988, and many of these recommendations have been long-standing for as long as five or six years. When does the Minister plan to direct the department to begin this work? Can our municipal partners have some timelines to consider, as they've been asking for a very, very long time?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated already, the department is already at the point of researching these requests, so we've already given direction to look into them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Is the Minister aware of the long-standing resolutions being passed by the NWTAC, and more recently by the City of Yellowknife amongst other councils? Is the department paying attention to that? Is the Minister paying attention to that, and how does she respond to these long-standing issues? Has the department looked into this before, Mr. Speaker? Has the department done

research before this point, or is this research just starting now?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Members may be aware that I have just taken over the position of Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I can't state what has happened historically on these subjects, but I can state that, at this point, we are researching it to see about the viability and, like I said, there will have to be public consultation with all of the communities that this may impact before we make a decision on it.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I try to be economical in my questions. Finally, does the Minister believe that this work will be completed by the end of this term, or will we have to wait until another Assembly, or potentially the Assembly after that, to see these changes come forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Right at this point, it's hard to determine whether it will be done during this current Legislative Assembly. However, like I have stated, we are researching it at this point. We do have other major legislations that we are putting through with this Assembly related to health or public safety, so those are our priorities at this time. Once that work is all finished, the next step will be to look at these legislative amendments that they're requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 386-18(2):
SMALL COMMUNITY RESTRICTED DRIVER'S
LICENCES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. I was pleased to learn that the Department of Transportation is reviewing the restrictions on drivers in very small communities, so that someone from Tulita or Deline, for example, could use regional ice roads to legally travel throughout the region, not just 100 km from their driveway. When will the department's review of restrictions for drivers in very small communities be complete? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the department is currently reviewing what's called condition G driver's licenses to allow the drivers in small communities to drive without any restriction beyond 100 km in their region. What we're hoping to do, in this review that we're looking

at, would allow them to drive on the ice road system, basically. The Member has referred to Tulita, and presently if a person has a code G driver's license, they can only drive to Norman Wells, and that would be their restriction on their license. The policy is being reviewed, and we want to be able to let them drive safely to Fort Good Hope or Deline within that region. I would have to get back to the Member and find out when we're going to be finished this review.

MR. NADLI: Can the Minister provide examples of how other jurisdictions manage licensing for drivers from rural and remote communities so that applicants can get a valid, nationally recognized license without incurring major costs?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I don't have that information readily available. I would have to get back to the Member on that.

MR. NADLI: I would like to thank the Minister for his reply. Would the Minister be willing to look at ways to extend the opportunity to get a full driver's license to all residents and communities and working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, for example?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department always looks at all departments and all avenues to try to bring better driver opportunities for all residents in the Northwest Territories. One of the main things, though, that we have to take into account is public safety. The reasons for some of these restrictions in the communities, we have two restricted types of licenses, a code G and a code B. Both of them are based on various restrictions, but most of them are due to lack of infrastructure in a community such as curbs, sidewalks, lights, crossing devices, and merge lanes.

So if you are in a small community such as Colville Lake, you don't have the opportunity to drive in this type of situation, and public safety is the number one thing for highways and this government. So we would have to look at different ways to be able to bring those types of things to the communities, but that would be very challenging.

With that said, we're always looking at opportunities and how we can do that, but at present, the only communities in which you can get an unrestricted license in the Northwest Territories is in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Hay River, and Inuvik.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has stated indeed that the department is doing a review in terms of trying to standardize the licensing of drivers in communities, and not just large

communities. Would the Minister perhaps outline this in general, just the scope of the changes that he anticipates, at the same time whether he can commit to this House that, whenever that report and review is available, that he will make it available to this side of the House? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Currently, the review that is being done on condition G licenses, as we said, is basically on the ice road system and allows people to commute beyond 100 km of their community or their residence where their license is registered. I can get the information of exactly what we're currently reviewing on the whole aspect of expanding this, and I can get back to the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 387-18(2):
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HOUSING REPAIR
AND RENOVATION PROGRAMS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions from my Member's statement earlier to the Minister of Housing. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, at the moment our programs go by the total household gross income. Even if we went by a net income, this would make a huge difference for people to qualify for the programs that are offered through Housing, so I would like to ask the Minister what the department would be willing to do to make this change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently within the Member's region the income threshold maximums are, for a single person, \$91,900 a year they're allowed to make. With people up to five people in their house, they're allowed to make \$107,000 a year to be able to, so anything under that is eligible for programs. We do have to recognize that we have 44,000 people in the Territories, and so we have to be conscious of that to make sure that we're providing our housing programs for those most in need, so those in low- and middle-income families. A total review of the income thresholds will be conducted, though, once we finish our engagement strategy that's coming up right away, here, and at that point we'll be looking at all incomes and making sure that the good food box is calculated within that so that our regions are represented appropriately.

MR. BLAKE: I realize the department is doing their census through the communities, but I'd like to ask the Minister, what is the plan to help people in the remote communities maintain and repair their homes?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, there's a number of programs that people can access to maintain their homes, to take care of their homes, again making sure that they do fall within the highest maximum income threshold. So within that region, we're talking \$107,000. So if you make more than \$107,000 you won't qualify for the programs in that region; however, under that amount they can access a variety of programs. For example, we have the CARE Minor Program which would do minor renovations, a CARE Major Program that'll do things like fixing your roof, your furnaces up to \$100,000. We have CARE Mobility which will help people to address any kind of mobility issues that they may have with their homes and then of course we have the SAFE Program which is available to everyone to make sure that their health and safety issues within their houses are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I realize the thresholds of income that people can make even though it does sound like a lot, Mr. Speaker, you know living up in our age in the Beaufort Delta, it's the highest cost of living anywhere in Canada I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. So would the Minister be willing to consider introducing the regional approach to thresholds to qualify for different housing programs, so a person in Aklavik for example would have a higher income threshold to qualify for a program than a person, for example, in Yellowknife?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The NWT Housing Corporation already does take in the different regions. We have three different regions, so there is a difference already between Yellowknife and the areas up in the northern communities. So I'm not sure how we'll address that differently because we already have the regions, and, like I say, once the survey is brought in we will be doing a revamp of the income thresholds to make sure that they are meeting people's needs.

I should point out as well though, even though it's not part of the question, that people that are struggling to meet their housing needs may also want to talk to Income Support because they may qualify for an Income Support Program.

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

MR. BLAKE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, many of my constituents do not qualify for these programs, so are we making home energy efficiency improvements available to people in the smaller communities? Mahsi.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: There's a number of initiatives for energy efficiency. All new houses that are built by the NWT Housing Corporation are built to the EnerGuide 80 standards or better, so we're already addressing that. There's programs that people can access through the Arctic Energy Alliance, things such as the LEDs which will be coming out next year, so every public housing unit will get LED lights put in.

There's a program that gives wood stoves, that's a cost-shared program by the community governments that they might want to access so people can put wood stoves into their units. Arctic Energy Alliance will do energy audits to see where people are and to make sure that people are energy efficient. So there are a number of programs that Arctic Energy Alliance also provides.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 388-18(2):
3RD ANNUAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
GOVERNMENT MEETING

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions now are for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Last week the press secretary issued a media advisory announcing the third annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Council which comprises of course the GNWT and nine First Nations, as well as the Inuvialuit Government. To quote the advisory, they were meeting to cooperate and collaborate on matters related to lands and resource management. I'm wondering if the Minister can give us any more detail of the topics on the agenda? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we had a meeting on Friday. It was very well attended by all of the signatories to the devolution agreement, and the discussion was to review the recommendations of the secretariat and also to review implementation of the devolution agreement, specifically related to the commitment to devolve and evolve and to understand what the priorities of the Aboriginal governments were. We also gave an update on the recreational land management initiative of this government and on climate change and energy, the consultations that we will be undertaking as a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Premier for that answer. Mr. Speaker, in June of this year I asked the Premier a series of questions about content of similar meetings held with the same group of people, and I asked him if he would keep Regular Members informed of and invite our input into positions being put forward at these meetings by

him and other Members of Cabinet. Can the Minister explain why this didn't happen this time either? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We invited the Chair of the Standing Committee of Priorities and Planning to attend and also this is a meeting of the Aboriginal governments that have signed onto devolution, and I have responded in this House in the past, we have put forward a suggestion that other MLAs could be invited to attend as observers, and the Aboriginal governments have indicated they would prefer to keep the membership participation of the table to two representatives from each Aboriginal government that has signed on.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the talks need to have limited numbers of people, but we're talking about the shape of our future governmental relationships between this government of the Northwest Territories and the Aboriginal governments, and it seems to me that this is an issue that everybody in this House has an interest in and a stake in.

So I'd like to go back to my point about how the Minister can involve us if not through prior consultation about meeting project topics, then in what other ways he can involve us in shaping these relationships?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We meet with the Aboriginal governments once a year and we have a secretariat, and I'm not sure exactly how the Member would like to see the government involved but you know we have our regular briefings with the standing committees and we can certainly offer to provide a briefing to have that discussion.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the offer of the briefing and I will talk to my colleagues about how to make that operational. I think the thing is that the ways things exist now is that we're kind of left out of the picture except for the one Member on this side who attends those meetings on our behalf that we don't have an active say in what topics are discussed and what positions are taken, and I believe that we should have a role in that because what the NWT looks like in the future is of concern to all of us. So my question again is whether the Minister in addition to offering a briefing can consider other ways to involve Regular MLAs in shaping the future relationships with Aboriginal and regional organizations?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm quite prepared to raise it with the Aboriginal government leaders, and in the past the Aboriginal governments have offered to come and meet with the committees and that offer was never accepted, but we certainly can raise it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 389-18(2):
ADMINISTRATION OF SPORT AND
RECREATION FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to follow-up with the Minister of MACA on some of the comments and their answers this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, the Minister spoke about having a face-to-face with Sport North Federation. Can the Minister please provide a brief summary on how that meeting went and the next steps moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, a meeting was held with Sport North probably, and I may be wrong, was probably about two weeks ago, although my dates might be a little bit foggy, it was just recently though. Sport North did come in because they were concerned about the process with the Sutcliffe Report. They were concerned about where they fit within the bigger pictures, in honesty. So we talked at quite length about the funding arrangements. We agreed at the end of the meeting that the funding would stay within the Government of the Northwest Territories, but that we would work with Sport North and all of the sport and recreation organizations to actually develop plans to see where they would go in the future, what they would present within their three-year plan that they'll be bringing forward to us for December, and how we see their role within the bigger sports, recreation and physical activity strategy for the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for her answer. It is my understanding that the territorial sport organizations passed a similar motion not in the springtime, in the fall time, that Sport North would still remain their funding agent; that the funding would go through them. Can the Minister please advise if she's received this motion and the status of it?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: We did discuss the aspect of Sport North previous holding and delegating out the funding that was received through the lotteries. During our meeting though they did come to the understanding that wouldn't be possible, that the GNWT would be holding the funding. But we did talk about various ways that the territorial sports organizations could apply for funding. Sport North was saying some of their representatives, not all of them, did want to go utilize them to go through and to apply for the funding. So we were open to that and we're allowing that to happen.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for her answer. So, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please provide us with what the department is doing with the other TSOs that are not utilizing this Sport North Federation to prepare for the short-term and long-term plans as we move forward? December, I believe that's the deadline. So I thank the Minister for that knowledge.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: So the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has made a commitment to work with all of the territorial sports organizations to assist them in filling out the applications for the territorial funding. We do have a standardized application form, and any organization that needs assistance with filling out that form is being told that we are more than happy to work with them, to sit with them, and to help them figure out how to work through the form. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I'm very happy to hear that the department is willing to work with the territorial organizations so that they're successful in applying for the funding. So can the Minister please provide us an update of what the department is doing for the next six months or year in regards to this program, or maybe in the next little while? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, the department is really busy at this point to try to make all the changes necessary to bring the lottery monies into the Government of the Northwest Territories. So basically, the next steps include the development of a legislative proposal that sets out the legislative changes required to implement the recommendations of the report, which will be followed by the introduction of amended legislation. After that, we're going to be looking at the development of the NWT physical recreation and sports sectoral policy to guide where we're going within the sports organization for the whole NWT. Based on that sectoral-wide policy, we'll be developing an NWT strategy to meet the policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Time for questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Yellowknife North.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 7:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE REVOLVING FUNDS ACT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 7, an Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act. Bill 7, sponsored by the Minister of Transportation, sets out the legislative framework for a revolving fund to be established at the Yellowknife Airport. Revenues generated at the airport could best be used to fund its operations, maintenance and capital costs. Bill 7 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on June 27, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment for review.

Today, I am advising this House of committee's wish to extend our review of Bill 7 and intention to report back to the House at the earliest possible opportunity during February 2017.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a situation where information crucial to understanding the changes enabled by the legislation was not available with sufficient time for the committee to complete its review with the original 120-day review period. This process typically includes internal committee review, stakeholder engagement, public hearings, and carefully considered responses before reporting to the House with recommendations on the bill.

Given the level of public interest and the nature of changes proposed for the airport, it is necessary to understand the operation and administration of the revolving fund and for the committee to conduct due diligence in its review of Bill 7. We believe that stakeholders and the travelling public deserve the opportunity to be heard as changes to the administration of the airport go forward.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Rule 75(1)(c) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I move, and seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the review period for Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be extended for a further 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Member, the seconder is not in the House at this point.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, and seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. O'Reilly, that the review period for Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act,

be extended for a further 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife North. To the motion.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have opening comments, I may later have closing comments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Establishing a revolving fund for the Yellowknife Airport is a critical step in the NWT's plans for improving how the airport is funded and managed. The Yellowknife Airport could be making money for itself if we ran it more like a business. That money could be put towards improvements in all kinds of areas. We're talking like things like parking, shorter security lines, more businesses in the terminal and in the holding area. With the way we're running the airport right now, Mr. Speaker, it's costing the government \$4 million a year, and we still can't make these improvements.

Establishing a Yellowknife Airport Revolving Fund and running it more like a business would let the airport keep the revenue it collects and spend it directly on the operations and on capital improvements. Having the Yellowknife Airport fund itself through a revolving fund would also free up \$4 million which the Government of Northwest Territories is currently spending that could be spent on other priorities in this Assembly. We think the proposal is a win-win, Mr. Speaker and have been engaged with the public and the business community to hear what they have to think. DOT has met with the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Northern Air Transportation Association, NWT Tourism, City of Yellowknife, Aboriginal governments, and northern businesses that have expressed an interest in the initiative.

We hope we would get this legislation passed this session, Mr. Speaker, so we could start collecting this revenue and get on with some of the improvements we want to take and make at this airport as soon as possible. This motion throws off our schedule a little bit. It means we will miss out on collecting some of the money. But we get that committee wants to make more time to consult with the public on the proposed changes. We respect committee's wish to take the time to talk to the public and further review the bill. Cabinet will be abstaining from this motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Masi, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed that our colleagues across the floor have indicated they are going to abstain on this motion. There was some reference in the Minister's reply or statement about missing revenues and so on. This is an important motion in terms of making sure that our standing committees have the ability to do the work that is required of them for them to carry out their due diligence roles.

I could go on about years of inertia across the way in terms of not making these changes a lot earlier. As early as possible on this side of the House, when we were made aware of this, even before it was a legislative proposal, during the business plan reviews, Regular Members raised some concerns and issues around this, communicated them to the Minister as early as May 12th, even before there was a legislative proposal that had come forward.

When the legislative proposal finally did come forward at the end of the last session, as early as June 6th, the standing committee had communicated with the Minister our desire to have further information on the business plan for the Yellowknife Airport moving forward. Mr. Speaker, that information took four months to get to the standing committee.

If we are going to talk about lost revenues, then we need to talk about the delays from our Cabinet colleagues in trying to move this forward. I am disappointed to hear that the Minister raised these issues around collecting revenues. I am not going to accept any blame for that, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the other side needs to move along getting information to this side of the House much more speedily. I am disappointed to hear the Minister make these remarks. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and the Environment has been clear since it first considered the legislative proposal that it would not be possible to conduct meaningful review of the Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act in absence of a business plan outlining the government's model, fee structure, and proposed administrative framework of the Yellowknife Airport that would be enabled by the legislation. The Department of Transportation was unable to provide this integral piece of information until nearly two thirds of committee's review period had lapsed. The delay directly resulted in committee not having sufficient time to meaningfully review the proposal, contact stakeholders, schedule public hearings, and report

to the House within the original review period. Mr. Speaker, this is precisely the role of committee in review of any legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee does not wish to delay or obstruct the work of the department. In fact, we commend them for the efforts that they have put forward to date. In fact, the committee has gone as far as to encourage the department to continue its work and to consider advancing the proposed changes to fees within the timeline within the draft business plan. The committee is seeking an extension today to allow it to conduct a meaningful public review, to conduct its due diligence, and to do its job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Question has been called. Motion carried.

---Carried

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 170-18(2):
THE NWT AND CANADA: PARTNERS FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "The NWT and Canada: Partners for a Sustainable Future." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 171-18(2):
NWT COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAM
2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "NWT Community Futures Program 2014-15 Annual Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 172-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 307-
18(2) AND ORAL QUESTION 315-18(2) FORT
SIMPSON HEALTH CENTRE PLANNING STUDY

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 307-18(2) and Oral Question 315-18(2) Fort Simpson Health Centre Planning Study." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 173-18(2):
REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF
CANADA TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2016: SUPPORT TO
COMMUNITIES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - MUNICIPAL
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I wish to table the "Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly - 2016: Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories - Municipal and Community Affairs." Masi.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Tabled document 143-18(2) and Tabled Document 163-18(2), with Member for Mackenzie Delta in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, colleagues. I call Committee of the Whole to order. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee, a motion to report the progress is in order. Motion is carried. Committee will now rise and report the progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Mackenzie Delta, may I have the report?

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. Motion carried.

---Carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
 2. Ministers' Statements
 3. Members' Statements
 4. Returns to Oral Questions
 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
 6. Acknowledgements
 7. Oral Questions
 8. Written Questions
 9. Returns to Written Questions
 10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
 11. Petitions
 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 14. Tabling of Documents
 15. Notices of Motion
 16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 17. Motions
 - Motion 26-18(2), Junior Kindergarten (Ms. Green)
 18. First Reading of Bills
 19. Second Reading of Bills
 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018
 - Tabled Document 163-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 for the Department of Public Works and Services and Department of Transportation
 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House adjourns until Wednesday, October 26, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:02 p.m.