



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Great Slave)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, January 31, 2017****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. O'Reilly, Mr. Testart, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

ELDER BE'SHA BLONDIN: I wanted to thank you for all being here and to all the Ministers. I would like to maybe say some few words before I do the opening prayer. I am really grateful that the young people are here because we are talking about their future and how we look at the future for the young people. It is very, very important. Everything we do from here on, we have to make sure that we work together, put our minds, our emotions, our spirits so that we can be able to have an understanding of each other and how we work for the future of our people.

I also would like you to also look at having a lot of respect for each other because the future depends on you. A lot of people are watching every single day of how you are looking after them. As we look in the communities, our people really need to look at more things for them so that they can be able to have a lot of healthiness in their life. We also look at how we look after each other with our decision-making.

When you meet them and talk about the things that you need to, everybody is listening and watching. Make sure that you work together in harmony so that we can be able to help the people even much more that way. Also, when the people come and talk with you from the community level and from the regional level and also as the government people, make sure that you put your voices out there in a right and respectful way.

That, for us, is really, really important because we want to make sure for our future, there is going to be something very unique that the rest of the world doesn't have. We can make a lot of good changes for the future, but we need to do it together so that we can be one people voicing all their concerns in the right way. Help each other and help the people that are watching today and the ones that are watching us. Help them.

I also want to make sure that the prayers go to all the people that are working for all of you here. For the interpreters, I ask you to have respect for them

and speak clearly so that they can understand what you say and not to talk too fast so that they can be able to interpret to the people the proper way.

So I want to say merci cho to the chair and to everybody that's here working for you. Now merci cho, and I'm going to open up a prayer in my language. I also want to make sure that this whole House has been blessed and, everywhere you travel, that you be blessed on your journey and so that you can come home safely to your family, to your children, to your grandchildren. So I say merci cho to everybody that's here today.

---Drum Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Please be seated. Colleagues, on behalf of the Assembly I would like to thank Elder Be'sha Blondin for joining us today and leading us into prayer. Masi for that.

Before we begin today, I would like to take this opportunity to extend condolences to this House, our members and our staff, to all those affected by the recent tragedy in Quebec City. I was deeply saddened when I heard of this deplorable attack as I know we are all impacted. As a sign of our collective sorrow and loss, flags are being flown at half-mast at the Assembly, throughout the territory, and throughout the country.

Colleagues, our territory, like our country, draws strength from our people. Our diversity is our foundation. It is our identity as Canadians and Northerners. Our diversity is what unites us. It defines us. We will not let hatred divide us. In the face of hatred and division, we respond with solidarity and love for all the people who share our land. To our Muslim brothers and sisters across our great territory and country, we stand with you.

Colleagues, please stand and join me for a moment of silence and reflection.

---Moment of silence

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I'm pleased to welcome you back to the House to resume the second session of the 18th Legislative Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all the residents of the Northwest Territories a very happy new year. This is not only a time to reflect on

all that has influenced our shared history but also a time to look forward to what may be.

Through our choices and our actions, we all have the ability to influence our futures. The decisions we make during the session and sitting will impact the future we share as the people of the Northwest Territories. We must choose wisely and work diligently to help create a meaningful and prosperous future for our people and our land.

Colleagues, it is with regret that I inform the House of the passing of a former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. William "Binx" Remnant, who passed away January 5th. Mr. Remnant served as a clerk's assistant from 1963 to 1966 and, from 1966 to 1982, served as the first clerk of our Legislative Assembly. Following his time here, Mr. Remnant went on to serve as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for Manitoba for 17 years. For nearly two decades, Mr. Remnant served this institution with professionalism, integrity, and unsurpassed knowledge. His dedication and expertise was foundational in the development of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories as we know it today. So, on behalf of this Assembly, I extend our sincere sympathy to his family and also his friends.

Colleagues, I would like to acknowledge all the pages we will have with us throughout this session, this sitting. We have students from:

- Inualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour;
- East Three Secondary School in Inuvik;
- Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson;
- Alexis Arrowmaker School in Wekweeti;
- Colville Lake School in Colville Lake;
- Deh Gah School in Fort Providence;
- Charles Yohin School in Nahanni Butte;
- P. W. Kaeser High School in Fort Smith;
- K'alemi Dene School in Ndilo;
- Diamond Jenness High School and Ecole Boreale School in Hay River; and
- Ecole Sir John Franklin High School and Ecole St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife.

Welcome and thank you to all the pages that will be with us during this sitting. It is always a pleasure to share this Chamber with the future leaders of our territory.

Colleagues, our calling is not an easy one. Each day we make difficult decisions that will not only impact ourselves but all the people throughout the

North. We must work tirelessly to ensure that the decisions we make today build on the foundation for the territory we wish to see tomorrow.

As we turn our minds to the hard work ahead of us, I ask that you conduct yourselves with respect, respect for yourselves and for each other, respect for the House and our unique form of consensus style government, respect for your constituencies and all the people that we serve throughout the Northwest Territories.

Now I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of:

- Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2017-2018;
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017;
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017;
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018; and
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018

during the second session of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Gerald W. Kisoun Deputy Commissioner.

Masi, colleagues. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 112-18(2): SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome my colleagues back to the Legislative Assembly. As this sitting gets under way, I would like to update Members and the public on some recent activities that the government has undertaken to advance the mandate and priorities of the Legislative Assembly and service of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Shortly after the close of the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly, all Ministers went to Ottawa for a series of meetings with federal Ministers, parliamentary committees, and others. The purpose of this trip was to share the Federal Engagement Strategy and make a concerted push to build

awareness of three infrastructure priorities related to climate change. Our priorities, selected on the basis of current federal priorities and infrastructure funding programs, included Taltson Hydro Expansion, Renewable Solutions for Off-Grid Diesel Communities, and All-Weather Road Infrastructure for Adapting to Climate Impacts. Our discussions with the Prime Minister and others emphasized opportunities for reducing the cost of living for Northwest Territories residents and contributing to national climate change objectives by increasing the use of renewable energy.

I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that not long after this trip, we received positive news about two important infrastructure projects that Canada will be partnering with us on: The road to Canyon Creek and the Tlicho All-Season Road. Work on these two projects will provide jobs to Sahtu and Tlicho residents and work for local businesses. They will improve the quality of transportation infrastructure in these two regions and, in the case of Whati, provide year-round road access that will help lower the cost of living for its residents.

These projects will also help the Government of the Northwest Territories deliver on its mandate commitments to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway and make an all-weather road from Highway No. 3 to Whati. The Tlicho All-Season Road also responds to the commitment in our mandate to support mineral exploration and the mining sector by capturing opportunities to build transportation infrastructure that enables resources to get to market.

Climate change is a reality that Northerners see and feel every day, Mr. Speaker, and we must do our part to contribute to national and international efforts to address it. In December, I was proud to attend the First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa and join with the Prime Minister and Canada's Premiers in agreeing to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

The framework outlines critical actions that governments in Canada will take to grow the economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The framework also includes a commitment to help remote and northern communities reduce their reliance on diesel by connecting these communities to electricity grids and implementing renewable energy systems.

As part of implementing the pan-Canadian framework, the Northwest Territories and Canada have agreed to work together on studying the issue of putting a price on carbon. This will ensure the Northwest Territories is contributing towards national emission reduction targets, but which will not raise the cost of living for our residents or harm our economy. We expect that to be introduced and

to be informed by the work the Government of the Northwest Territories is currently doing, including public engagement and consultations with standing committees, to develop a Climate Change Strategic Framework and an Energy Strategy for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the recent decision by the federal government to declare a moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea underscores the need for a well-thought-out vision for ongoing growth and development in the three Northern territories.

While the Northwest Territories is prepared to do its part to combat climate change, we also need to make sure we take care of the people who live here. People in the Beaufort Delta have had the promise of prosperity through oil and gas development dangling in front of them for decades, and they are still waiting.

If we are going to ask them to pass up or delay one chance for significant economic growth, we need to offer something in return. The people who make the North their home need hope for the future, hope for good jobs and steady incomes.

Who speaks for the Arctic, Mr. Speaker? Many provinces and countries have an interest in the Arctic, but do they have our interests at heart? Increasingly, I believe that the North needs to speak up for itself. We cannot simply rely on the good intentions of others to look out for the needs of our people. If we want a future for our children and grandchildren, we need to be the ones who define it. Northern voices and northern governments have to be the leading voice in decisions about the North, and a pan-territorial sustainable development strategy will give us one.

I have spoken on this issue to the Prime Minister and have been talking to my colleagues from Nunavut and Yukon, most recently last week in Vancouver, about collaborating on the creation of a vision and strategy for sustainable growth and development in the North. I look forward to discussing the development of this strategy with Members and to getting your input into the vision, principles and plans to guide development in our territory.

As Members know, all Ministers and the chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment travelled to the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver last week. Representatives from the Government of the Northwest Territories regularly attend this conference, and similar conferences like the NWT Geoscience Forum and the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention, to promote mining and exploration in the Northwest

Territories, meet with industry representatives and discuss how to support responsible development of our mineral resources.

Our government continues to make diversifying the economy a priority, particularly in high-potential areas like manufacturing, agriculture, fishing and tourism. At the same time, we need to recognize that mining is and will continue to be the engine of our economy for the immediate future. Mining currently contributes 20 per cent of our direct GDP and provides jobs to over one out of every 10 people working in our territory. Since 1996, the diamond mines have spent \$19 billion on Northwest Territories businesses, including \$5 billion on Aboriginal owned businesses.

The economic activity associated with mining is a tremendous source of income to Northwest Territories residents and revenue for government programs and services that we cannot take for granted. Other sectors of the economy have the potential for growth, but will not equal the contributions of mining in the near term. If we want good jobs for Northerners and strong, stable revenues to pay for government programs and services, we need to continue to find ways to support this important industry.

A critical requirement for supporting economic development, as well as conservation activities, is creating certainty around access to land and plans for how it will be used. Settling outstanding land claims in the Deh Cho and South Slave is one of the most important steps we will be able to take and we look forward to receiving reports from the two ministerial special representatives appointed by myself and the Federal government to look into claims in those regions.

We also continue to make good progress on self-government negotiations with the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells and Tulita.

Creating land use plans for all regions of the Northwest Territories and improving our regulatory framework are two other important steps that will contribute to certainty for all users. To this end, the government continues to work towards a Deh Cho land use plan and is also preparing to bring forward several pieces of legislation related to land and natural resources management. This legislation is part of the "devolve and evolve" commitment that the last government made, and which this Assembly will continue to be responsible for.

Much of our first year in government, Mr. Speaker, was spent in establishing our mandate and our plans for fulfilling it. With that foundational work behind us, we will now be devoting substantial

attention to preparing and bringing forward legislation that will help us implement our mandate.

Looking after our people is another area we continue to make progress on, Mr. Speaker. Transformation of the health system continues, and we continue to work with communities to reduce the burden of chronic disease, including through the government's cancer strategy.

We also continue to take steps to ensure that our elders have the support they need, where they need it. That includes construction of a new 18-bed long-term care facility in Behchoko and a plan to put extended care beds into a purpose-designed unit in the redeveloped Stanton building. This plan will not only improve the service provided to people in extended care, but will allow us to reallocate significant capital dollars to immediately address the short-fall in long-term care beds.

Helping create a prosperous and sustainable future for the territory is a major responsibility for any government, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow, the Minister of Finance will deliver the annual budget, which will outline the government's plan for investing in the future of this territory and its people.

Budget making is always a balancing act, Mr. Speaker. There are always more needs than there is money to meet them, and then there are more wants on top of that. Finding a way to pay for the essentials and some of the nice-to-have wants without breaking the bank is a challenge, even at the best of times. It is even harder when times are tough and revenues are uncertain.

Over the past year, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has been out talking to the people of the Northwest Territories in our open houses and other meetings and hearing about what matters to them. We have listened to what the people have said about important issues like education, employment in small communities, public safety, looking after our elders and combatting homelessness. Those conversations have been reflected in the budget that the government will be proposing tomorrow.

Our budget will fund essential programs and services for Northwest Territories' residents, making new investments in the priorities of this Assembly and is financially affordable and sustainable. It is a prudent and responsible budget that reflects the fiscal and economic reality of the Northwest Territories right now. It proposes further adjustments to our spending and revenues to ensure we do not run up government debt to unsustainable levels or jeopardize the good credit rating our government has enjoyed for more than a decade, Mr. Speaker.

At the same time, we have taken a hard look at our original business plans and eliminated several

million dollars proposed in them. Our budget is the product of a consensus system, an ongoing formal dialogue between Cabinet and Legislative Assembly standing committees. We share committee's commitment to the priorities of this Assembly and have included many other recommendations in the budget that we are presenting. It may not be the exact budget to suit the individual views and preferences each of us have, but I hope the Legislative Assembly can collectively agree it is the right budget for all the people and communities of the Northwest Territories at this time.

Doing business differently by strengthening consensus was one of the priorities that we identified at the outset of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Strengthening consensus is ultimately something we all need to be responsible for. How we propose to do that may require some focused discussions amongst ourselves in Caucus. At the same time, Cabinet is certainly willing to look at ways that it can solicit more meaningful input from Members and involve them more actively in shaping government decisions.

The Joint Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Relations was one effort to encourage dialogue with Members on a topic that is important to all residents. I think there is room for similar committees on other matters of shared interest. In particular, I would like to propose that we establish a Joint Committee on Rural and Remote Communities where Members and Ministers could work together to ensure that the needs of those communities are not overlooked.

We may also want to consider the value of periodic joint meetings of Cabinet committees and standing committees that share interests, such as the Standing Committee on Social Development and the Community Wellness and Safety Committee of Cabinet. We could even hold these meetings in public, in keeping with our commitment to openness and transparency. If Members feel they need more meaningful input into budget development or a different kind of input, we could consider ways to accommodate that, including doing more of our shared budget work in public.

The consensus system and process has served this territory well for almost 50 years now. It is worth preserving and strengthening. It is a system that lets multiple voices and multiple interests come together to make decisions that are stronger because all sides are considered while the rigid decisions associated with party politics tend to be avoided. We have a diverse territory where one size does not fit all, Mr. Speaker. We need to make

sure we support that diversity in our discussions here.

It is a system that saw Members from both sides of the House become a strong and united voice that argued for the recognition of Aboriginal treaty rights in the Canadian Constitution. In a way, the decision of all 22 Members of the Legislative Assembly to travel to Ottawa in 1981 to ensure these rights were not removed from the Constitution set the precedent for later missions like NWT Days.

It is the system that helped decide and plan the division of the Northwest Territories in 1999, leading to the first major redrawing of the Canadian map in almost 100 years. It is the system that has steadily allowed the people of the Northwest Territories, through their elected representatives, take on increasing responsibility for the decisions that affect them, including education, healthcare, transportation, and the devolution of lands and resources in the last government.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, times are changing and people's expectations for their government are changing with them. Keeping up with those expectations is part of why we have made changing the way we do business a priority. Staying true to the spirit and intent of consensus is a challenge that all Members of the Legislative Assembly are responsible for, Mr. Speaker. Meeting that challenge does not always come easily, particularly when we are asked to give and take on issues that we care about personally. We will all face that challenge during the upcoming session, but I am convinced that if we all remain committed to doing what is best for the people of the Northwest Territories, we will find a path forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 113-18(2):
NOTICE OF BUDGET ADDRESS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will deliver the budget address on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON QUEBEC CITY MOSQUE ATTACK

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, along with some of my other colleagues, today I would like to address the tragedy that struck two nights ago at the mosque in Quebec City. I want to thank yourself and the Premier for putting out statements today. I want to say that my thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families of the Quebec tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that some members of the Yellowknife Muslim community have joined us in the Chamber today. I would like to extend them the warmest welcome to the Assembly. Even more, I would like to say to them, "we are your brothers and sisters. This is your community." I affirm that we will not stand by, we will not be silent when such crimes are committed against your families and your community. This is not only a crime against Muslims; this is a crime against all Canadians and the values that define us.

Clearly, these are troubling times. Sadly, violence, discrimination, and hatred, based on religion, race, and culture, are on the rise around the world.

The American election campaign included words, statements, and positions that many of us found unthinkable and inconceivable. Now, the new President's first days in office have followed suit with unimaginable actions. These words have now been turned into official policy. It seems likely they are unconstitutional. At minimum, they violate the American tradition of providing safe haven for people fleeing violence, persecution, and hardship.

Any doctrine infringing upon freedom is worrisome. One that focuses on a specific racial or religious group is more frightening and even less acceptable. In Canada, we would like to think it couldn't happen here. Regrettably we have our own sad history of suppressing nations. One only has to read the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to find numerous concrete examples.

Mr. Speaker, my grandpa on my mother's side and my father both immigrated to Canada. They came here in search of opportunity, prosperity, a chance to make a better life.

I am proud to say my riding is the home of Yellowknife's only mosque. The Muslim people I know are generous, compassionate, hard-working, and kind people. They are here in Canada, and in our capital city, seeking the same things my grandpa and father wanted, as do all Canadians.

That is opportunity, safety, health, and a good place to raise our children. Mr. Speaker, I seek anonymous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in response to this executive order, other American leaders, mayors, governors, police chiefs, and now the newly fired acting Attorney General have rejected the direction of these policies. To quote the former acting Attorney General, Sally Yates, "I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution. I have a solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right. At present, I am not convinced that the defense of the executive order is consistent with these responsibilities, nor am I convinced that the executive order is lawful."

Thankfully, our own Prime Minister has indicated that Canada's doors will always be open to people displaced by such policies. He said, "To those fleeing persecution, terror, and war, Canadians will welcome you regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength." These strong statements of unity from American and Canadian leaders are welcome, Mr. Speaker. The tragedy in Quebec City reminds us that we cannot rest. It's up to each and every person to stand up to bigotry and racism. Stand up to intolerance and hatred. I take these issues personally, Mr. Speaker, because of the obvious reasons, but also because we have all worked so hard toward making the world a better place for everyone to live in side by side. I don't want to see those efforts diminished because of fear and short-sightedness. Last night I joined many other Yellowknife residents along with our Muslim brothers and sisters at a vigil hosted at the mosque. Powerful words of compassion and love were spoken in support of the Muslim community and for those who are suffering from the recent attacks. I remain hopeful that love and compassion and all the good work many people are carrying out in support of our Muslim community will triumph and continue to make us strong. In fact, I know it will. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 18TH ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. We are now about a third of the way through our term. On December 15, when he became the Premier, he

said "This will be an Assembly of change and better government." This Member and the public are still waiting for the promised changes. To date, there have been a total of 14 bills, eight of which were appropriations. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this Cabinet has introduced an amazing total of six bills in one third of our term.

We may go down in history as the most legislatively lethargic Assembly in history. Those six bills, outside of appropriations, dealt with pithy matters including:

- A freeze on our salaries in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;
- changes to the Vital Statistics Act to allow birth certificates in Indigenous languages, a good thing;
- probably my favourite, the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act;
- adding a Yellowknife Airport Revolving Fund to the Revolving Funds Act;
- changes to the Children's Law Act to improve parental support, another good thing;
- updating the Marriage Act to bring us into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, this ambitious legislative agenda has not put our committees to work or delivered on the promises of devolution. In the 17th Assembly, 26 mirror bills were passed to implement the devolution agreement. Most of those bills had no public discussion or debate. The Premier of the day promised we would "evolve" and design "made-in-the-North" solutions. Guess how many of those devolution bills have been changed in almost three years? If you guessed zero, you are right.

Mr. Speaker, what is going on with Cabinet? Why are there no bills coming forward? I believe it is because all of our capacity for change has been directed to the cost reduction exercise to meet Cabinet's fiscal strategy of reducing programs and services to the residents of the NWT. Potential departmental amalgamations, six departments into three, which is also primarily driven by cuts, is also eating up inordinate amounts of time and energy.

Mr. Speaker, this has to stop so we can actually get on with the business of government -- making legislative changes to improve the lives of NWT residents, now and for future generations, so we can better manage our resources, reduce the cost of living, and invest in our mandate now. I will have questions for the Premier on Cabinet's legislative inertia and lethargy later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our country is coping with a terrible tragedy, the death of six men who were gunned down while worshipping at a mosque in Quebec City. We are a society in which targeted gun violence has struck again, as it did in 1989 at the Ecole Polytechnique when 14 women were massacred because they were women. The six men in Quebec were gunned down for being Muslim. Today we are adjusting to the fact that we are not the tolerant society we thought we were.

Mr. Speaker, these men were sons and brothers, husbands, and fathers. They were raising children, some of them just toddlers. One man owned a food store, another was a university prof, others worked for government. These men could have been our neighbours. They are you and me. I keep thinking of those men kneeling, feeling safe in their mosque, feeling comforted by the language of prayer and losing all of that in an instant. I understand that many Muslims don't feel safe because of what happened in Quebec and, before that, because of the chaos that President Trump has unleashed by banning Muslims from entering the United States. This attack is an act of hatred, the product of a domestic sub-culture of hatred. Intolerance promotes intolerance.

Last night we reassured our Muslim neighbours that their pain is our pain. Many of us stood in the Islamic Cultural Centre of Yellowknife and heard the end of their evening prayers. We were invited to share words of comfort and support. That was an important thing to do last night, but it can't be a one-off. We have to continue voicing our support for our Muslim neighbours and for leaders like Rami Kassem and Naziz Awan.

Many of us have contributed to efforts to bring immigrants and refugees to Yellowknife from Syria and other countries with large Muslim populations. We believe that most Canadians welcome and respect immigrants; after all, that's what most of us are. If these are indeed our values, we need to promote and protect them. We need to support government efforts to continue bringing people to Canada, to encourage and support diversity, and to steadfastly oppose actions motivated by hate. We also need to take a stand on discrimination. We need to name it and say it's not acceptable. We stand in solidarity with the Muslim community, here in Yellowknife and across the country, to mourn with them and assure them that we will do our part to ensure they are safe. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SAHTU CONSTITUENCY UPDATE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, colleagues, and I also would like to welcome our two pages, Tia Gully and Jordan Lafferty, from Colville Lake, and their chaperone, Barbara Blanco, also from Colville Lake. Welcome to the House, and as mentioned in the opening prayer, the youth of our community is fully supported by the Assembly with reference in the mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since our last adjournment in November of 2016, I have had the opportunity to visit each community in the Sahtu region. I spoke to a number of leaders and constituent individuals and listened to the challenges they are faced with, especially our youth. Our sincere condolences to all the families that lost their loved ones in the past year; our thoughts and prayers are with you.

I also would like to applaud Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Glen Abernethy, and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Alfred Moses, for taking the time to go to the community of Fort Good Hope on January 12th and present in person an inspirational presentation to the school, students, teachers, the leadership and the general public.

Mr. Speaker, knowing the fiscal challenges we are faced with, I look forward to working collaboratively with all departments and to the implementation of our diversified plan. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON QUEBEC CITY MOSQUE ATTACK

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Sunday, January 29th, six people were brutally murdered at the Sainte-Foy Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec City, gunned down in a cowardly attack motivated by fear and hatred. This attack has shaken our country and I join the voices of millions of Canadians who categorically condemn this act of terror. Canada must be a place that is safe for anyone to practice their own religion.

Mamadou Tanou Barry, Abdelkrim Hassane, Khalid Belkacemi, Aboubaker Thabti, Azzeddine Soufiane and Ibrahima Barry. These are the names of those who tragically lost their lives. I state their names now, Mr. Speaker, so that they are forever documented in the history of this Chamber and so that they are never forgotten. I would like to thank,

you, Mr. Speaker, and the other honourable Members who have spoken up in solidarity at the Muslim community both here in the Northwest Territories and across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times before, I am proud to be part of a multicultural society that is home to many peoples, faiths and traditions. The Northwest Territories is an extraordinary example of this diversity.

Yesterday, I was honoured to speak at Yellowknife's Islamic Cultural Centre, and join in a crowd of some 300 people who came out to support our Muslim friends and neighbours. This show of support from the community was repeated across the country. It's clear that this attack was not isolated to Muslims or a mosque in Quebec; rather, it was an attack on us all, and our core values as Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, there are those in Canada and beyond who would rather embrace ignorance and intolerance instead of love and compassion, and it is shocking despite how far we have come as an inclusive and tolerant society that, for some, these negative attitudes remain stubbornly entrenched.

Mr. Speaker, Northerners stand with the victims and their families and with all Canadians. As long as we stand together, those who attack our values as Canadians will never succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation would have concluded its housing survey of Northerners. Thankfully, it was extended by one month. This survey is meant to help the corporation gather information about what residents want and need in their public and market housing, as well as from government housing programs. In fact, we've heard a lot about this survey.

Back on October 19th, the Minister advised Members that the survey would be put out to every single user of housing services, followed by a cost-based analysis of what residents recommended. Then, on October 27th, we heard that the Housing Corporation would undertake a full review of all its policies starting this month in January once all survey responses had been collected.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that this survey was not nearly as publicized or well-used as it should have

been. We've heard that the results of this survey will set the course of the corporation's planning programs and spending for the rest of the 18th Assembly, but we haven't heard how the Corporation made sure to reach as many residents as possible, or of its policy foundation for planning.

Mr. Speaker, following the direction of a handful of survey respondents is not good planning. Not to mention, Mr. Speaker, that when I shared information from this survey, I found that many of my constituents had not seen it before, or didn't know where to find the hard copy. Also, the survey wasn't only meant for public housing tenants. It is also open to tenants of market rentals, and to homeowners, as well as those without stable housing, whether they are staying with friends, or relatives, or in the shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude by statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. It not clear to me just how the survey would capture the views of these different groups. Mr. Speaker, what about residents who don't have internet access, or who aren't tech savvy. A survey available online or at the LHO isn't accessible to many of our elders, Mr. Speaker. It makes sense to go door-to-door instead. Face-to-face contact is necessary to ensure strong turnout and valid representation. This might be pricey upfront, Mr. Speaker, but it is better than making big investments on weak data. Some of the survey questions also made me uncomfortable, Mr. Speaker. One asked, "What kind of training could help public housing tenants move toward living independently without government help?" I understand what the survey is getting at, but questions like that sound like "us versus them," not engaging tenants themselves.

Over the past several months, Members' questions about Housing Corporation' policies and projects have often been answered with talk of this survey, waiting on this survey, waiting for the results. Mr. Speaker, I am looking for strong and decisive leadership from the Minister to bring positive changes to the Housing Corporation for the years to come. I'll have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE QUALITY IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we last gathered here together in this house, residents of the Deh Cho have come to me with questions and concerns. They are worried about the quality of healthcare they can access in their home communities. Mr. Speaker, in particular, I'm aware of cases where a person after repeated visits to the health centre for a checkup on their health concerns was given Tylenol and told to go home.

In Yellowknife, Inuvik, or Hay River, you might be able to go to another doctor for a second opinion, or to the emerg at the hospital if you are frightened, and needed medical help, but options like that are not always available outside the regional centres.

On August 1st of last year, the Territories' eight regional health authorities were unified. We moved to the single NWT Health and Social Services Authority. Members of the public were told that these changes would help the Department of Health and Social Services break down systemic barriers. We also heard that moving to a single health authority would maximize use of human resources, make our healthcare system more responsive to patients' needs, and enhance the quality of healthcare in every region. Six months later, some might say, we are still in the early stages. Mr. Speaker, some healthcare needs can't wait for the bugs to work out. The people in my riding are looking for a reassurance from the Minister that system transformation will result in positive practical changes on the ground in our small communities. When a person goes to a see a doctor, they want to be understood. They want to be respected, and they want to be helped.

Later today, I will have questions for the Minister. I hope to work with him to help our residents better engage with the healthcare system. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of issues at the forefront right now that I could talk about, but I'm going to start with an issue that I need to keep at the forefront, commercial fishing.

Since 2014, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has been talking about a strategy to revitalize the commercial fishing industry. This is exactly the type of work that ITI should be

undertaking. They're not trying to create an industry from nothing. We have a resource. There are markets for that resource, and we have entrepreneurs to drive the industry.

There are many positive signs that the industry is, and will continue to grow. So far this season, commercial fishermen have brought in 1.2 million pounds, double the catch from only three years ago, and there's a course in the works to train the next generation of commercial fishermen.

While there are undoubtedly positives, there's still work to be done, especially when it comes to addressing our infrastructure deficit. We are no further ahead with either refurbishing the existing fish plant, or constructing a new processing plant. This is an essential element to the government's strategy. Decades ago, the territory entered into a deal with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation which reports to the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, so that our fishermen would be guaranteed resources and a buyer for their fish. However, Freshwater has failed to live up to their end of the bargain, and that our certified fish processing plant falls below CFIA standards and turn into a receiving station, all for the sake of Freshwater's bottom line.

I mentioned that the fishermen have doubled their catch in the past three years, however, there's a limit to how much this number can grow unless we have more access points on the lake, and redraw the lines of existing quota zones. These are both the responsibility of DFO as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, what all this means is that we've gone from having four active packing plants, a modern processing facility, and five landing sites 25 years ago; to one receiving plant, one landing site, and an out-of-date zoning system. This government will be happy to know, I'm not looking for money to fix these issues other than the \$1.4 million they've already committed. I'm looking for political support. The Fishermen's Federation engaged DFO on a consistent basis, but they've hit a wall. They're told by bureaucrats, in order to allocate the funds needed, and make the changes needed to grow our fishing industry, word must come down from the top.

I know that the Minister of ITI has discussed the fishery with the Minister of DFO, but whatever came from that meeting did not trickle down. We need continuous political pressure and follow-up so that we can support the fishermen who have been doing everything they can to rebuild an industry that was once the pride of Hay River, and I know can one day become the pride of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join my colleagues, leaders from across Canada and around the world, and ordinary people everywhere in speaking out against the terrible events that took place in Quebec City on Sunday.

For centuries, the people of the Northwest Territories have had to rely on each other. We know that we are stronger when we stand together than when we stand alone. Respect, tolerance, and diversity are the essential part of the northern character. In fact, that ability to be warm and welcoming is an essential part of what it means to be a Northerner. People from all over the world and every faith have decided to make the Northwest Territories their home, and we are glad and honoured to have them. Exclusion is not and has never been the northern way, nor do I believe is it the Canadian way.

Mr. Speaker, this terrible act of violence carried out in a place of worship strikes at the very heart of what makes us Canadian. The Canada I love does not believe in exclusion. It does not believe in hate. As Canadians, we must continue to speak out against it and we must raise our voices and say, "Not in our Canada, not in our Northwest Territories." During these troubling times, it is important that we reaffirm our commitment to the values of acceptance, compassion, and openness that define us. We need to reach out to all of those that may fear for their safety following Sunday's attack and make sure that they know that they are welcome here, that the Northwest Territories is their home, too.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for speaking out today. I also want to thank the organizers of the vigil held last night at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Yellowknife. I was pleased to see so many people coming together to support our Muslim brothers and sisters in this difficult time. It confirms my belief that the people of Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories are fundamentally open and welcoming to others, no matter where they come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO AVA LIZOTTE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [translation] today the little girl, Doris

and Daniel McQueen's little girl, Doris' granddaughter, Ava Lizotte, was remembered in a tribute December 9, 2016. It was just a few months ago that she was playing soccer [translation ends], running dogs with her dad, teasing her brother, kissing her mom goodbye before she went on a trip. Then she was gone.

The death of one so young, bright, and talented as Ava placed a heavy cloak of sadness on the families of Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. Her full name was Ava Margaret Doris Lizotte. Her parents loved her name, meaning life and vitality, and decided to bless their child with this name. She was also named after her great grandmothers: on her mother's side, Margaret Bishop from Balcarres, Saskatchewan; and, on her father's side, Doris McQueen from Rocher River, Northwest Territories.

Ava was born August 6, 2005 and the joy of her parents, Courteney and Trevor Lizotte of Yellowknife, NWT. At the time, Courteney was a teacher at Klemi Dene School in Ndilo and Trevor a correctional officer at Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Ava joined her older sister Sadie in a growing Lizotte family. The third child was born in 2009, a little boy, this time named Logan Lizotte, born May 18th. Trevor was so proud to have a son to join his sisters, Ava and Sadie, in completing the Lizotte family.

Ava lived an active life in Yellowknife, NWT, going to school first at NJ Macpherson Elementary, then Range Lake North School. This year, 2016-2017, was Ava's first year in the intensive French course with her 31 classmates making up two classes. She was a smart, savvy young girl, enhancing her education by learning a second language. As well, Ava excelled in arts and crafts, having a very assertive and unique style.

Dog mushing was in Ava's blood, carried down from her great grandfather, Danny McQueen, and her father, Trevor. Ava participated in shorter-distance races held during the Canadian Championship Dog Derby at carnival in Yellowknife. Her big northern family was proud of her when she zoomed over the finish line, taking first place in the four-dog class. Nothing could beat this little champion.

Ava was invincible, fearless, and a force to be reckoned with until one day she began complaining to her dad that she had a sore leg. She stayed home from school for two days, at which time her dad brought her to Stanton emergency ward. No sooner said than done, Ava was medevaced to Edmonton where she was treated by a team of expert pediatricians at the University of Alberta Stollery Children's Hospital. Sadly, she was diagnosed with a rare blood infection and died several days later. She was only 11 years old.

Please join me in this tribute to Ava Margaret Doris Lizotte, honouring her young life through continued story-telling, sharing memories that she has left us with. This beautiful little girl from Yellowknife is now a little angel, but she will be forever remembered. God bless Ava and her family and friends. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our prayers and thoughts to the family, as well. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO JOE PUNCH

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it saddens me to inform this House that Joe Punch passed away on December 7, 2016, at the long-term care unit in Fort Simpson. As most people who are aware of Mr. Punch, he was a father, husband, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and a friend to all that knew him.

I had the pleasure to get to meet Joe on my first trip to Sambaa K'e in the fall of 1992. Upon landing at the airport, Joe met the plane, and we had a good conversation as we walked towards the community office. From that moment, I realized he was a great storyteller and a historian of the area. Each trip into the Sambaa K'e would not be beneficial without getting to meet him and having some great conversation about life with him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Punch was born around the Fort Providence area on January 17, 1926. He lived around the Mink Lake area until he was four years old, at which time he went to residential school. He attended school until 1940 and then went on to work on steamboats for an oil company and the Bay. In 1946, he moved to Sambaa K'e, where three elders took him under their wing and taught him how to live off the land. He would often be heard saying it was hard work but very beneficial for him and his future family. They took the time to pass on their knowledge, skills, teaching, and the love of the land, which Joe passed on to his family and youth in the community.

In 1956, the band of Sambaa K'e and Acho Dene elected Joe as their chief. This was Joe's first step into governance. He was a strong believer in Dene law and an advocate for self-government. Joe was passionate about the environment and the education of the youth and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, Joe was well known across the North. People had the opportunity to meet him at various meetings and assemblies, which led to them to have a new friend. Throughout the years, Joe has written newsletters for the native press, a community reporter, and an interpreter. People

looked forward to reading his articles or listening to him on the radio or in person.

Mr. Speaker, Joe was recognized for his volunteer work, once by the community and once by the Government of the Northwest Territories volunteer program that was sponsored by Municipal and Community Affairs. As well, in 2013, he received the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

He was predeceased by his wife, parents, two brothers, one sister, three sons, one daughter, and one grandson. Joe will be sadly missed. My condolences go out to his family, friends, and the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences go out to the family, as well. Members' statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 321-18(2): STRATEGIC ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Vanthuyne on October 14, 2016, regarding strategic economic investments, specifically the Canadian Federation of Independent Business report and how we are working to improve our score as well as reduce redundancy and improve the frontline services to small businesses.

The 2017 Red Tape Report Card published by the CFIB gives the Northwest Territories a grade "F," stating the next steps for the Government of the Northwest Territories should be to make it a priority to tackle meaningful red tape reduction.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has ongoing efforts in place to reduce the volume and impact of red tape for the NWT businesses. ITI continues to commit significant efforts to providing the BizPal program in the NWT and in 2016 welcomes the City of Yellowknife into the Program. The BizPal program is a multi-partnered online service that provides prospective business owners and entrepreneurs with one-stop access to permit licence information across Canada.

ITI remains committed to a one-window approach to service delivery and has provided significant funds to regional and community offices to assist businesses with red tape and other concerns.

ITI has invested significant efforts to reduce application paperwork. For example, the Support of Entrepreneurs and Economic Development policy applications are reduced to only two pages. Similar

efforts have been made through ITI's other programs, and presently the framework is under way to make ITI program applications available online and electronically fileable.

I have recently sent a letter to the CFIB asking to meet with them to discuss how we can work together to make further improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to oral questions. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 371-18(2): HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATORY SYSTEM

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. O'Reilly on October 20, 2016, regarding the hydraulic fracturing regulatory system.

I have worked with my colleagues in the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Lands, given their different roles in ensuring securities are in place for resource development projects. We have also engaged with the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations.

I would first like to highlight that there is a polluter-pay system to ensure that government is not left paying for clean-ups. The polluter-pay principle is fundamental to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and the Oil and Gas Operations Act, which does not place any limits for liability of any oil and gas operator for any damages it might cause.

As you know, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, or MVRMA, is federal legislation. It established a co-management system that provides for transparency through public registries, and a process that requires security deposits for land use permits and water licenses to be held by government to cover clean-up if a company were to become insolvent.

Post-devolution, the Department of Lands has established a new division dedicated to ensuring securities are in place to protect the public purse. Oil and gas operators are required to post securities under the terms of their land use permits and water licenses.

Outside the Mackenzie Valley, the co-management system developed for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is governed by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. This system also provides for public participation, transparency, and financial accountability by operators.

Your questions were largely focused on abandoned wells, which relate to the authorities of the Government of the Northwest Territories Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations, or OROGO.

The regulator is a regulatory authority under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and therefore part of an integrated resource co-management system established by the Mackenzie Valley. OROGO is an active partner in resource co-management as a preliminary screener and through cooperative arrangements with the MVRMA Boards.

Citizens of the Northwest Territories expect transparency in the oil and gas regulatory system. Section 91 of the Petroleum Resources Act currently puts significant limits on the regulator's ability to disclose information about oil and gas operations in the NWT. Therefore, in 2016, the regulator issued an information disclosure guideline, which requires all applicants to complete an information disclosure consent form, outlining what information they agree to make public and what information they wish to keep confidential.

Since these guidelines were issued, OROGO has received five applications for well approvals and these applications, along with information requested from OROGO, responses from the applicant, and the final decision, are all available to the public on OROGO's public registry.

Under the Oil and Gas Operations Act, operators must obtain an authorization for each activity they wish to undertake and must provide the regulator with proof of financial responsibility in order to receive the authorization. Operators are responsible for cleaning up any spills or debris that occur as a result of operations, including as a result of incidents. Proof of financial responsibility is intended to allow the Regulator to pay for damages caused by incidents, whether or not they were the fault of the operator, up to certain prescribed limits. This could include paying costs incurred by the GNWT for cleaning up spills or debris, if necessary.

The funds accepted as proof of financial responsibility do not limit the total amount for which the operator may be found liable. They are not intended for general site remediation or reclamation, as these matters are the responsibility of other regulatory bodies, such as the land and water boards, and are over and above the amounts collected by these bodies.

Lastly, on the matter of wells that leak after being abandoned, permanently plugged, accordingly to the regulatory requirements, the Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations require that wells be left in a condition that prevents leakage. Consistent with the polluter-pay principle,

abandoned wells are the responsibility of the company that performed the abandonment, or any successor to that company.

I trust this provides you with assurance that the polluter-pay principle is already a well-established part of the regulation of oil and gas activities in the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is also looking to improve upon this system. In the mandate of this Legislative Assembly, ITI has committed to developing and proposing amendments to both the Petroleum Resources Act and the Oil and Gas Operations Act. We are currently in the planning phases of this work, and later this year we anticipate public consultation on amending those acts. We anticipate that you and your constituents and citizens from across the NWT will participate in that process to support our work to improve our already robust regulatory system to further tailor it to the unique northern landscape. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife South.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to recognize my wife and life-long partner and number one constituent, Melody McLeod. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Christina Popa. She is the executive assistant to the vice president of Public Service Alliance of Canada. I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Rami Kassem, who has several businesses in my constituency. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Brad Mapes, former mayor of Fort Smith, who is a chaperone this week for two of our pages, Caleb Brake and Joseph Leguerrier.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by welcoming Diana Bui, who is my constituency assistant. It is her first time in the House. I would also like to recognize Erin Curry, who is one of our constituents from Range Lake. Good friend of mine, Alisa Praamsma,

her husband, Jack Bourassa. Although not constituents, very good friends I consider close to my heart. Although Rami is gone, I really want to recognize Rami Kassem as well, who is a constituent in my riding. I want to offer my heartfelt sympathy. I am hoping that somehow they will see that love will outshine hate, and not all of us represent what happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to recognize Jack Bourassa from the Public Service Alliance of Canada, as well as Alisa Praamsma. They always make their way here. She's the executive director of the Native Women's Association. They always make their way here to the Legislative Assembly on the important days. I also want to recognize and I'm not sure that they're still here in the gallery, but Shaleen Woodward is a Yellowknife North resident and is the acting deputy minister of DAAIR. I also want to recognize Martin Goldney, who is a Yellowknife North resident, the deputy minister of Justice.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in gallery. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 471-18(2): HOUSING ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Housing. I'd like to ask the Minister, can the Minister offer any early observations from the survey data? For instance, how many people responded and how would that range across target groups? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of late last week, we had 1,017 surveys received, which is quite a significant number; however, early in the week we had realized that, when I asked for a breakdown of all of the communities and the amounts of surveys, I realized that some communities still hadn't received a significant number of surveys. We had agreed, and this will be the first time I'm announcing it, that we actually will be extending the survey for one more month because it is more important to try to get the idea, the solutions, from community people than it is for me to meet a deadline of January 27,

so we will be extending it for one month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: As I mentioned in my statement, many of the people in the communities don't know where to access this information for the survey. So while the survey is running, how and where could people access this information?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: We felt that we did a comprehensive advertising of getting the survey out. We had put it in newspapers, we had put radio advertisements out, we had talked to the local housing organizations and the government service officers, but evidently we still had some work to do. So with the announcing of bringing the survey for one more month, we will be doing more of a strategic radio campaign that we promote it two/three times a week at least. We're going to be looking for times that we know that community people are listening to the radios. We will be promoting it again trying to push our local housing organizations and our government service officers within the communities that were low in numbers that they actually provide more of an outreach support to getting the surveys.

MR. BLAKE: That's a great idea. I think it's very important, especially in Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, and Aklavik, where the numbers are very low, the numbers that I've seen. You know, we have local radio stations here in the community. You know, I highly recommend the LHOs to go on the air and promote the survey. Also, as I mentioned in my statement, Mr. Speaker, it's very important for our elders, many of them are getting up there in age. We have a high population of elders in my riding. So would the Minister be willing to hire someone to go door-to-door, especially for the elders, Mr. Speaker? If not only for the elders, to ensure that we get their information, what's working and what's not working for them.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I, too, care about elders within our communities, and I also want to get as many replies to the survey as possible; however, for us to hire someone specifically to go door-to-door in communities to solicit the survey answers would be a financially huge cost and, in all honesty, I'd rather put that money that I have with housing towards homes for people versus collecting the data. So I will put a more concentrated effort into the radio campaign. I will let people know that it doesn't only have to be the survey. They can send me an email, they can write a letter, whatever way they can get feedback in. I will ensure that our local housing organizations, our government service officers remind them to get out there to specifically try to get as many seniors as possible. I would also like to ask, like the wonderful lady who said our prayer, to work together with our MLAs. I have been posting it on my Facebook and I am hoping that the

MLAs will also help promote the survey through their Facebook or other means that they have possible to get as much opinions as we can.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't agree with the Minister on that one. You know, it's a small price to pay to get a high turnout rate for, especially, a survey of this importance, Mr. Speaker. You know, I'm very disappointed to get that response, but I knew it was coming. Once the survey is completed, what is the Housing Corporation's next steps towards its full policy review and development of a new strategic plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The next steps once we compile the survey results, all of the surveys are entered into what's called the Survey Monkey. Some of the input that has come has been through letters through emails, not all have come through surveys, so we have people actually that are manually entering that data into the Survey Monkey. It will be broken up. The Survey Monkey is able to break things up by communities as the MLAs see when we produced the numbers. It's been able to break things up by if it's a government worker, if it's someone in housing, if it's public housing, if someone in home ownership. We're able to be very specific.

When we get the results, we're looking for solutions. We will be sorting out the policy changes based on, in all honesty, three piles. One pile, easy policies that can be changed without a lot of thought but just makes sense; a second pile that might take a little bit more work; and a longer term pile that might take legislative changes or a potential interdepartmental work, and it'll be put foot to the ground and feet running and we will be pumping them out as soon as possible. Once we get the proposed changes in, I would ask to work with the Members to be able to provide the results before it's finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 172-18(2):
STATUS OF REGIONAL YOUTH AND
VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a previous session I asked the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs about the youth position in the Nahendeh and when it was going to be filled. I was told it would be filled in January. I was assuming it was this January. Well, Mr. Speaker, the time has come and today nothing has happened in my riding. It's been over

15 months, so, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please advise the status of the youth positions across north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The status of youth positions within the Northwest Territories: currently we only have three vacant positions. All the other positions are filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I'd like to thank the Minister for her answer. I already knew there was three, one in Yellowknife, one in North Slave and one in Inuvik region, but there's three other positions that have not been filled and for the most part it's been 15 months. So it's been over a year for some of these, two of them I know of for sure. Can the Minister provide a rationale on why this department has not filled these positions to this date?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I thought it was Housing for a second. Yes, so we can talk about it. At the beginning, the three positions that the MLA is referring to, we are still working on it, and the reason is because within the Sutcliffe Report there were some recommendations on job descriptions. We also felt it was important, so we consulted with stakeholders in the areas, the applicable stakeholders and the staff to develop more comprehensive job descriptions. Because we are looking at being able to utilize our skills in a more appropriate way, so we're hoping that we can actually have positions that have a little bit of overlap and we can use specialization, at the same time providing them with the skills so that they can transfer into positions more easily.

At this point the job descriptions are completed. They are with the Department of Human Resources, and they need to determine the pay level that these positions will be at. So as soon as we receive them back from the Department of Human Resources, we will be putting them out for competition.

MR. THOMPSON: I'd like to thank the Minister for her answer. It's unfortunate it's taken 15 months to do a job description that hasn't even been classified yet on what the pay is going to be.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding the department is changing these job descriptions, of both the youth and the sport and recreation position, and combining it to one sort of, kind of, a job description collectively. So what is the rationale behind this change?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated earlier, there are a couple of reasons that we're looking at

the change. We are looking to be able to utilize the skills and the strengths within our employees in a better fashion so that we can share services. We're also looking to promote a greater range of candidates so that they can apply for positions. We were looking at things such as education, barriers that actually impact people within the Northwest Territories. We're looking at trying to get youth involved in these programs, to promote people within the Northwest Territories to have access to these competitions, to these jobs, and so we were very cognizant when we were developing the job descriptions in looking for ways that we can actually promote more northern youth to be able to access these and that we can use the transfer of skills throughout the programs.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for her answer. I worked in the field for 23 years. I understand the importance of the crossover. We did a lot of crossover, so I understand that and I understand the importance of it. I still struggle with why you're changing job descriptions from a youth officer and a sport and recreation one and making it combined to one.

I guess my next question is: Why is the government looking at it? Is this going to be a potential cut? Because now we're going to have two people in the region doing the same, similar, job, same job description, is this something that they're looking at for future cuts? I understand the importance of crossovers, but having two jobs with different job descriptions allows that to happen still. So is this a potential future cut, or is this a better decision for them to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was no intention during the development of this process that we would be looking at cutting these positions. We value them, as well. A future cut, I can say that within my term as the Minister of MACA I will not terminate these positions. However, I cannot state further than my position. So, there was no intention. I can't give a guarantee forever, but, as long as I am the Minister, that is not my intention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 473-18(2)
18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Premier.

Earlier today I spoke of the legislative inertia of Cabinet. We are about a third of the way through

our term, and only six bills, of limited consequences, have come forward. Can the Premier explain what is going on with the ambitious Cabinet legislative agenda? Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I'd like to redirect this question to the Government House Leader, Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to recognize that legislation for the sake of legislation should not be a priority of this Assembly. It certainly isn't a priority of the government. We're actually more interested in making sure that we're bringing forward high-quality legislation that best serves the people of the Northwest Territories and reflects our mandate.

As the Government House Leader, Mr. Speaker, my role is to help shepherd legislation through this Assembly, and, in that role, I had an opportunity to meet with committee early in the life of this Assembly, where I did share a list of potential legislative initiatives for the 18th Legislative Assembly. At that time, I made clear and I'd like to make clear again that this is a planning tool, Mr. Speaker. This is not a defined set or final list of legislation that will be moving forward. This Assembly, as with all previous Assemblies, additional initiatives will be identified and added to the list during the course of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet is not experiencing inertia. There is a significant amount of work to be done. The Member has specifically referenced different legislation, particularly around the devolve and evolve. I can tell the Member right now that the Department of ENR will be moving forward with five LPs on significant pieces of legislation. The Member does know and is aware our legislative process includes coming to committee with a legislative proposal, which is a very thorough document or is a very thorough document in the case of large legislation. We'll be looking for their feedback. Once we get their feedback, we'll be moving forward with drafting instructions and moving forward with the legislation that the Member would like to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I had hoped to hear from the Premier as the leader of Cabinet on this, but I'm happy to hear from the House Leader. I would have preferred the Premier.

I'm just not talking about a planning document, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the mandate that this House agreed to at the beginning of our term, and, in that mandate document, there's a number of legislative and regulatory changes that were

outlined, one new Act, 13 amended laws, and at least two new regulations. None of these have come forward to date.

Can the Premier -- I guess I'm going to hear now from the House Leader -- tell us how the public should judge performance on this part of the mandate?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The mandate is an incredibly long document with a lot of specific detail, and as a Cabinet, and an Assembly I hope, we continue to be committed to that mandate and are moving forward with those different pieces of work.

Some of these pieces of legislation and some of the work the Member has described is quite large, and, in the first year of the Assembly, we continue to make progress, but we never -- I don't believe -- made a commitment to completing all of this work in the first year of this Assembly. I think that would be impractical.

I can tell the Member today, I can tell all the Members today, we continue to move forward on the mandate items, we continue to develop LPs there are meaningful and will address the challenges and issues people of the Northwest Territories are facing. We look forward to working with committee on those LPs and then bringing forward meaningful and well-drafted legislation in the life of this government.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Government House Leader, but we're almost three years into devolution and our government has not changed one word of the mirror legislation that was passed with virtually no public input.

Can the Government House Leader or the Premier tell this House and the residents of the Northwest Territories when we can expect to have any legislative changes to reflect the promises that were made around devolve and then evolve?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member continues to refer to the devolution process where we had a number of bills that came forward. That process required us to mirror the legislation that existed, and there was a commitment to move forward from that point to devolve and then evolve. As I've already indicated, we have five LPs coming to committee during this sitting from the Department of ENR which are all devolution-related bills. Massive pieces of work, significant input and work required by the departments to get that work done. Once the LPs are approved by committee, we'll set forth drafting instructions at which point the department and Justice will be developing comprehensive legislation that meets the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I said it once and I'll say it again, legislation for the sake of legislation is not going to meet the needs of the people. We need to make sure that we're providing high-quality legislation, well-researched, well-focused, and meeting the needs of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the Government House Leader, but I've been waiting for about a third of my term now for some of this important legislation to come forward. Really, waiting to see these legislative proposals that are going to come forward from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

I think what's happening here, Mr. Speaker, is that our government is spending an inordinate amount of time on cost reductions to meet Cabinet's fiscal reductions, slashing public services to fund ill-defined infrastructure projects including department amalgamations that are driven by cost reductions.

Can the Government House Leader confirm that we no longer have the capacity to bring forward legislative changes because of those reductions and amalgamations that were not part of the approved mandate of the 18th Assembly? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that that's purely an opinion of the Member. The departments are working hard to move forward legislation. They understand that a significant amount of work has been done. I've had an opportunity to talk to staff within my department, as well as staff within another department, who are committed to getting this work done. The reductions or corrections that have been done in this public service are done with significant discussion, analysis, to make sure that it does not adversely impact the work that needs to be done by this government.

I respect the Member's opinion. I disagree with the Member's opinion. The work is getting done. We have the staff to get it done. We will get it done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 474-18(2):
AME ROUNDUP 2017 MINING CONFERENCE

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Last week, he, his Cabinet colleagues, and various officials attended the

annual Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver at an estimated cost of \$75,000. Unsurprisingly, my constituents have been in touch with me about both the cost and the benefits of this trip. The media quoted the Minister saying: "I am confident that we will be returning to the North with the solutions that will define the next generation of exploration and mining in the NWT."

Could the Minister please elaborate on the solutions he returned with? Mahsi.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mineral roundup, as I said last week when we were down there, is an important mission for this government in the Northwest Territories. We went down there and engaged with a number of stakeholders, from prospectors, to mining companies, to juniors, to finance companies, and got input on a number of things around the table, many of which my colleagues on my side have helped me discuss with these people in industry. We need to figure out a way to bring new mining people to the Northwest Territories to create new mining opportunities for the residents of the Northwest Territories, bringing jobs and business opportunities to fill the gaps that will be coming with the closure of the present diamond mines in the Northwest Territories. With these conversations that we've had with industries, and among the stakeholders and other government officials, we were trying to find solutions, to find a way to bring more mining investment to the Northwest Territories to benefit Northerners and businesses. That's what we did, and we've got a number of feedback from all people in industries. It was a great conference, and I believe a great investment on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Keeping in mind that a meeting is not an outcome, but a means to an end, could the Minister please elaborate on the solutions that he returned to Yellowknife with?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, we had a number of meetings with different stakeholders on how we can improve the mining situation in the Northwest Territories. If we want to get into specifics, the solutions, I could stand here and probably talk about stuff all day from mining -- from staking in the industry in the Northwest Territories, to go online, to the regulatory process, to better geoscience information available, to junior mining companies, to socio-economic agreements, and how do we deal with Aboriginal governments moving forward, to land claims. As I said, our regulatory process, and how can we make that better moving forward, once we get things

straightened out with the federal government. Those are a number of topics that we discussed, and a lot of input from stakeholders, as I said, and I've got a lot of great information on how we're going to try to move this file forward.

MS. GREEN: As we all know, mining tradeshows are numerous. Not just the roundup, but the Geoscience Forum, and coming soon, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. Has the Minister's department done a cost-benefit analysis of attending tradeshows, and if he has, can he share the results?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The one thing that I can say is roundup this year was definitely -- it was cheaper than previous roundups that we have attended. As far as doing a cost-benefit analysis of our attendance versus bringing mining to the Northwest Territories, this is a long process for juniors to become a viable mine in the Northwest Territories. One in 1,000 actually becomes a mine, if you look at the stats in the industry. We will be working towards trying to bring those things forward. It will be when we see some development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I take it, then, that there is no cost-benefit analysis of this, but rather a feeling that this is a good thing. Another possible use for this money which would be a good thing is to increase the Mining Incentive Program. That actually puts money directly into the pockets of the miners. Is there any thought to doing a cost-benefit analysis, especially since there are more tradeshows coming up, of putting the money into the Mining Incentive Program rather than into a junket? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Mining Incentive Program is one of the things we heard around the table, as I said, along with a number of other things that I've previously mentioned. I will not commit to doing a cost-benefit analysis, just because I know going down there, meeting with industry, meeting with the Mining Advisory Board, the Chamber of Mines, the input that we get from a number of stakeholders, be it industry, like I said, or governments, or financial institutions, moving this file forward is to get down there and be in front of these stakeholders that want to look in the Northwest Territories, give them a clear picture of what we're doing, how we're trying to move things to make it more -- unlock our potential for these mines to open up in the Northwest Territories, and I believe it's good value for money with what we spent. The conversations were very valuable to myself and my colleagues on this side of the House, and I believe that Mr.

Vanthuyne who was also there participating with us, this is the biggest part of our industry in the Northwest Territories. It's 20 per cent of our GDP. We've got to continue to work with these players, so how do we bring the next wave of mines to the NWT so we can all prosper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 475-18(2):
HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN SMALL
COMMUNITIES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke on the health transformation initiatives that became an effort that the Department of Health have worked on for some time. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. For those listening at home, can the Minister describe some of the real changes that will be brought about in small communities by the move to a single health authority? For example, how will a visit to the health centre be different for the average patient? Mahsi.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's a very complex question because every case and every situation that comes into a health centre will be different dependent on the different conditions that a citizen or a resident may be presenting with. In the Member's statement, I think he actually answered a number of the questions for himself, I mean, things that are reality. We know this is going to improve healthcare in the Northwest Territories.

We are working on a strategic plan, or rather, the authority, with input from the regional wellness councils, is developing a strategic plan that is going to set the direction for the provision of services. That includes a voice from the people in the small communities on how to tailor programs to meet the needs of individuals.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as has been said over and over again, the patient experience will improve as a result of removing some of the barriers that they experience today. Information will be able to be shared within a circle of care between authorities where it has been really difficult to do that in the past. We have had individuals who have had multiple needles when now they will be able to get away with one, which personally, I prefer, and I think everybody who is getting a needle would prefer.

Mr. Speaker, the authority, the single authority, has developed the framework to conduct an investigation of their implementation, which will be done in 2018, and they will have another report outlining the outcomes that they are seeing, which will be done in 2019. This is going to help us inform future direction and continue to evolve as we go on. But the system is about better healthcare, better future, better results for residents across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: The Minister seemed to suggest that I have answered my own questions. The question verges on the complexities of the healthcare system and also highlights the differences. In my understanding, the initiative towards the health transformation is to alleviate those differences and try to come to some commonality in terms of bringing better service to communities. This change was brought about by the recently established Territorial Health Authority. What is the protocol for constituents who want to raise a concern with the healthcare service they have received?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I think this is an incredibly important question. In order to improve healthcare in the Northwest Territories, it is going to take all of us working together. One of the challenges we have had in the past, where we had multiple authorities often competing for resources, is we had a difficulty with quality control. We would hire a quality control individual at an authority, and if that person left, then we had no quality control in that authority. As a single authority, we have more individuals involved in quality control who can provide backfill when a certain individual or an individual leaves a region.

What I would like the Member to do, as all Members, I would like the Member and myself, everybody in this House, to encourage our residents when they are having challenges in the healthcare system to engage the quality control system, share their stories so that they can be investigated and we can learn from them. We can make real meaningful improvements in the health and social services system here. I believe I have shared those quality control numbers with my colleagues. If I haven't, I will commit to doing so again, so that we can work together to encourage our residents to engage quality control to help make real improvements moving forward.

MR. NADLI: The final question is: what is the role of the regional wellness councils? The Minister seems to highlight that, you know, more the system to really try to improve the system, but at the same time ensuring that residents have access to good quality healthcare. We also have Regional Wellness Councils. What is the role of the leadership council in such a situation?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The regional wellness councils are regional representatives who are responsible for helping bring the voice of the people to the authority. First, to help make programs specific within individual regions, but also through the chair of the individual Regional Wellness Councils to bring that voice to the territorial authority to make sure that every region, every community's voice is heard at a territorial level.

I have had an opportunity to meet many if not all of the members of the regional wellness councils. We have unfortunately had a little bit of turnover already. We are looking to go find a couple of members where a couple have resigned. They have all been trained. I have encouraged them through the territorial council to talk to their residents, to get the feedback, to be a voice, to be somebody people can go to and talk to, in addition to the quality assurance staff, to make sure that the voices are heard.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems very clear that the Minister is committed to improving the services of the healthcare system, the wellbeing of the residents of the NWT. He seems to emphasize that we are going to have a better product.

However, my final question is: if we are really focusing on the idea of quality control, has that position been filled for the regions to ensure that there is such a unit or a position out there that they will ensure that residents with healthcare concerns can raise it with this position or this unit to ensure that, indeed, we have good quality healthcare systems? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the positions exist. We have filled positions. We have had people resign. We have had turnover. Some are more stable than others. We are committed to filling the positions. We continue to move forward to fill those positions when incumbents do leave. Our goal is to have those positions full at all times. They are not currently all full. We are recruiting where they are vacant.

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

QUESTION 476-18(2):
IMPROVING APPRENTICESHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the mandate commitments is this government will take steps to close the skills gaps

using the Skills 4 Success strategic framework, by working with Aurora College, a renewed strategic plan refocusing support for post-secondary institutions in the NWT, improving outcomes from our community learning centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services. I want to take a look at this specific mandate commitment, Mr. Speaker, and ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment how the government is strengthening the apprenticeship program. This is a big concern for my constituents in my riding. They want more apprenticeship opportunities. I would like to ask the Minister, what are we doing to strengthen the apprenticeship program? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we are working on developing a strategic plan that we have worked with many industry partners, businesses, to get the input. We do know there are challenges out there in terms of practices. We have also heard this when we were at the mineral roundup working with certain industry. We worked with Aboriginal groups as well. The Aboriginal governments that came down to mineral roundup also brought this up. We are working on a strategy right now that we are hoping to have brought before the House sometime this year. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: Certainly, the Minister is correct that this is an area that needs a lot of work. I spoke to a business owner in my riding of Kam Lake who said he is ready to hire if only there are people for the jobs. I think it is imperative we get Northerners going. Can the Minister provide some more specifics on where this plan is? Have we started it? Are we going to see it early this year? Late this year? It doesn't sound like we have a very firm timeline for the development of this. I would like to get a little bit more detail if he could.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The Member wants a firm date. We should have it released by April.

MR. TESTART: As this strategic plan is going to be coming into effect with the coming budget as well, is there money in the budget to help implement the strategy and support the apprenticeship program?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We currently have a lot of partnerships moving forward where we continue to fund. We have labour market agreements where we work with municipal communities. We also work with businesses. We have a small communities employment program that works with communities to help address some of these needs that are needed. For apprentices and the program to move forward, right now we can't put any dollar figures to

it when we don't have a strategy, and that strategy is going to come out in April.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are some dollars that are required by the strategy, is the Minister able to indicate whether the government will have fiscal flexibility to invest in apprenticeships in the Northwest Territories as per our mandate commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you. As I mentioned, we do have a lot of partnerships. The strategy is going to reflect what we are hearing from the businesses, industry, and the dollars that we have already allocated to the labour market areas is going to be same thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 477-18(2):
HOUSING ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation some questions that kind of came to mind when Mr. Blake was asking questions about the survey. I would like to ask the Minister if they had considered going door-to-door if the survey online is not proving to bring some results. I was wondering if the Minister would consider doing a survey, maybe not to every household in the NWT but to maybe small communities and so on? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As stated before, the results coming in for the survey are actually pretty positive. We're at over a thousand already, which is significant considering we have about 2,400 public housing units and about 400 market housing units, so a thousand out of 2,800 homes is pretty high, recognizing some of that is government.

As stated previously, I will not hire someone specifically to go door-to-door. I think there are better usages of the funds. We are doing a very comprehensive, strategic radio campaign, and, at the smaller communities, where they have very low results, we will be putting pressure on our local housing organizations and really trying to get the government service officers out and trying to reach as many people as possible. I will emphasize to them to try to reach the seniors in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: A thousand surveys out of 2,800 is pretty good, but a thousand surveys out of 14,000 may not be as good. So, we're talking about, we're surveying, individuals that live in private homes, as well, and people that rent off other companies, and I wasn't -- I didn't know that this survey was restricted to public housing and market housing people only.

In any event, my question stands. I'd like to know if the Minister would consider local hires for doing surveys in the smaller communities, going door-to-door and trying to -- if the survey is the survey that we're going to go, then I think they're going to need help. My understanding is that GSOs are in a position to help. However, in three of my four communities I have no GSO, so, with that, I'm wondering if the Minister would reconsider, for the idea of getting probably the quality results from the survey, if she would reconsider hiring individuals in the small communities?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The MLA is correct that the survey is actually open to whoever wishes to fill in the survey. The majority of results are coming from people that are accessing housing programs. Again, that is compiled through Survey Monkey. I have stated that I will not hire someone for every community -- it would be a huge amount of money -- but I can look at any community that does not have either a local housing organization or a government service officer in that community, if there are any communities, then I will consider hiring someone for that community, but, any communities that have either a local housing organization or a government service officer, we will be asking those people to provide, to do, an intensive work for us.

MR. BEAULIEU: I guess the idea of the survey, to review the policy, to improve policy, do some program planning, there must be some policies now that the Minister has really seen as outdated policies or this whole review and surveys wouldn't be occurring, so are there any policies which we would consider to be low-hanging-fruit policies that the Minister can look at immediately and make changes to show this House that she's serious about making changes to the policies?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Actually, at this point, now, we're just getting things in place. We had expected that the survey would be finished on January 27th. I was approached by an MLA in asking if I would consider extending it, like I had said. Again, this is the first time this is public knowledge or being put out there, that we have agreed to extend it for one month because it is important to get the results.

So, we're in the process of restructuring our whole office to make sure that we have enough people

within the policy department to provide the analysis that we need, so we're doing that right now. We also are already starting to take off the information from the surveys that we've gotten. We will be producing at the -- we were hoping by the end of this session, but, since we're extending it for a month, we will hopefully in April have a document called, "What We Heard," and then, at the next session, we will be actually tabling it in the House so that it is public information.

Low-hanging fruit, like I said, there are three ways to do that. We have simple things, things that don't impact other departments or don't impact legally or previous tenants. Those things we will be looking at quite quickly, but, out of respect for the process, out of respect for when I became a Minister and promised to consult with people, to promise to use accreditation standards, we are in the process of getting things ready. We will not make major changes until the month is finished, in order to respect the input that will come from the people of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at one point the NWT Housing Corporation did a comprehensive survey across the Northwest Territories in 1992, where they surveyed every household in the Northwest Territories. We're not asking for that. The Housing Corporation has been doing surveys for a long time, using statistical analysis on doing several households, but they do actually go to the households.

So, I would like to ask the Minister -- she had mentioned a few times that the cost was huge -- if the Minister could provide that cost of doing, not a complete comprehensive survey, but something that's been pretty standard in the past. What would that cost so that we could have an opportunity to analyze that cost compared to what we think the results that will bring? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the request from the MLA requesting that I extend it because of the low numbers within the community just came to me the other day. I felt that I am working with them, working in consensus government, to try to meet the needs of the Members, and, in all honesty, for the best programs for the residents of the Northwest Territories.

I did not sit down and do a cost analysis. However, the survey itself can take between -- it depends how much time you want to put into it. It can take between 15 minutes to three hours. Some organizations have taken many days to do it, so, for us to sit down and look at 33 communities or even

taking out the market communities, it is a huge amount of communities, a huge amount of potential time, and I am not a hundred per cent confident that that would be the best interest of the taxpayers' monies.

So, again, what we will do is a strategic radio campaign, and we will be working with our LHOs and GSOs to try to get them out there in the communities that have low results, to try to get as many surveys as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 478-18(2):
FISH PROCESSING PLANT FOR HAY RIVER

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I spoke about the infrastructure deficit when it comes to commercial fisheries in Hay River, so I have some questions for the Minister of ITI.

As far as I understand, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is responsible for maintaining their commercial fishing infrastructure in the territory. Somehow, we let them shirk their responsibilities, and the fishermen are the ones who ultimately suffered. Now we're left with a packing plant that needs about \$2 million in upgrades to bring it up to code. I'd like an update on the status of the negotiations with Freshwater and when we can expect work to begin on our processing plant in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, because we are both from the fishing community of Hay River, how important to get this file moving is. The department is working closely with Freshwater on trying to move this file along. As of the latest briefing that I've got, they were still in discussions with Freshwater Marketing Corporation on getting an MOU and business plan together, and like I say, on my latest briefing, I believe they're going to try to bring something forward here within the next week or so for us to consider. So that's where that's at.

MR. SIMPSON: It's good to hear that we're moving and it should be in within a week. If a deal can't be struck with Freshwater -- given their track record, I'm not sure one can be, but I'm still hopeful -- will the GNWT take the initiative and dip into that \$1.4 million they've had set aside and build a fish processing plant in Hay River?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The important thing about the \$1.4 million that's been carried over from

last fiscal year to this fiscal year is for the Department of ITI to use that as leverage for the funding that we are putting forward to CanNor to give us the best potential to help build the plant in Hay River. That being said, the Member actually had two questions there, if we weren't able to make a deal with Freshwater on that moving forward, what could we potentially do with that money. Well, that would have to be a discussion along with myself and our colleagues in this House if we want to shift the priorities of the use of that money. Right now it's designated to use to leverage CanNor towards a position of potential completion of a fishing plant in Hay River.

MR. SIMPSON: I also mentioned that the Great Slave Lake has been neglected by DFO when it comes to the investment in harbors. You look at any lake in the south that's utilized by the commercial fishing industry, especially one of comparable size, you'll see just how bad our deficit is. This lack of access points combined with the outdated quota zones means that fish around the Great Slave Lake have to travel much farther than competitors in the south, it means their wages and the cost for equipment is much higher. It puts them at an immediate disadvantage. Because of the low-level engagement to address these issues, as in the Fishermen's Federation talking to bureaucrats at DFO hasn't been working, I'd like to know how the Minister is engaging the Department of Fisheries and Oceans so that we can move forward with this revitalization strategy in terms of harbor investment and rezoning?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I guess previously when I was on the Metis Government Council we have a seat at the board of GSLAC, and GSLAC is a governing board that puts advisory suggestions along with DFO on how we're going to use the lake, and this is one of the areas of discussions how we can re-divide up the lake and make better access points to be considered for the fisherman to access and make a little better living and be able to raise their quota on the lake. These discussions are ongoing. They recently had a meeting as early as last month, and there's discussions still going on. I can state in this House when we were in Ottawa and I met with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that this was a point that was brought up at a political level when we were there and we will continue to try to move this forward.

MR. SIMPSON: As MLA for Hay River North, I regularly attend GSLAC meetings, I meet privately with the NWT Fishermen's Federation president, I attend the NWT Fishermen's Federation meetings, I talk to fishermen in Hay River, and I know that these issues they brought to GSLAC. The issues with zoning aren't being addressed. When I went to my first GSLAC meeting, they brought up issues. We went to the second one, there were the same

issues with absolutely no movement. If anything, there was a denial of doing anything. I've also hear, from the federation that when they talk to the bureaucrats they tell them, we need word coming down from the top to make these changes. We have a little bit of a constituency budget here, not much; it mostly goes to salary and running an office, but I would like to use that constituency budget if the Minister would help me set up a meeting with the Minister of DFO, I'll take him, I'll take the NWT Fisheries Federation president and myself and we'll go down there and we will meet with the Minister so we can start making progress on this.

If the Minister insists on flying business class, maybe I can just send him and the president. How does the Minister respond to that?

---Laughter

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I thank the Member for his eagerness, but there is a process that we have in place here, and we're engaging Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp., we're engaged with the federal government at our level, we have our colleagues on the other side of the House through committee. There's a number of things that we need to do, and I think if time permitting let this process work its way through the system here for the next little bit. As I said, we're getting very close to coming to an agreement with Freshwater, with an MOU and a business plan that we start moving on. As he stated, we are both from Hay River and this is an important file to us and we need to keep it moving. I ask the Member for a little more patience and we will consider what we're doing moving forward.

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

QUESTION 479-(18)2:
STATUS OF OUTSTANDING LAND CLAIM
NEGOTIATIONS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier today, and they are with regard to land claims. Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that finalizing and implementing land and self-government agreements is a high priority for the 18th Assembly, and as the Premier is aware and the rest of Cabinet, myself we heard repeatedly from a number of key stakeholders while we were at Vancouver roundup the importance of settling our land claims in the North to build certainty and not only just for resource development but also for reasons around conservation and preservation as well. So it's important for everybody on a number of levels. So my question is, can the Premier provide this House and Northerners an update on the status

of land claims with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, and Metis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to report that negotiations at all three tables with the Dehcho, Akaitcho and NWT Metis Nation are ongoing and by all accounts the negotiations are proceeding and we're making progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Earlier in the year we are aware that the federal government had some federal appointees, ministerial special representations that came to the territory to do some assessment on behalf of the federal government. Can the Premier provide us a little update on what the status of those assessments are and can we expect those reports to be coming soon?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The ministerial special representatives that were appointed by myself and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs for Canada have been working very hard in both the Deh Cho, MSR had met with all of the leadership and has gone to every community and I think has also had a final round of meetings. Similarly with the MSR for the South Slave has undertaken all of those discussions, and I fully expect that final reports will be brought forward within the next couple of weeks, certainly before the end of February and also I understand some initial drafts have been shared with some technical experts for some input as well. So I'm looking forward to receiving the reports of the ministerial special representatives.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I thank the Premier for his response and certainly looking forward to those reports in the next couple weeks. Mr. Speaker, what then on a path going forward would be the next steps after we receive the reports? How will the Premier be informing this government and Aboriginal leaders going forward after receiving the reports?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The way we see it working out is that federal Minister Bennett and myself will accept the reports and we'll meet and determine a path forward. On our part, I certainly expect that we will work with the Joint Cabinet and Standing Committee on Aboriginal Relations and that we would, at the appropriate time, share that document and discuss it and, certainly, on a similar basis with the Aboriginal governments. They've all written and asked for copies of the report, so we'll determine a path forward with the federal Minister and we'll discuss it, and, at the appropriate time, we'll share it with all of the Aboriginal governments.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Premier for his reply. My final question is: does the Premier believe that, of course in collaboration with First Nations, that within the life of the 18th Assembly we still have the opportunity to finalize these agreements and bring them to implementation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At some point early on in the life of this government I made the point that we were hoping to settle all the land claims in the life of the 18th Assembly, and, certainly, my expectation is that we will make very good progress.

I strongly believe that the report of the ministerial special representatives will advance progress significantly. We had very good meetings with the grand chief of the Dehcho First Nation at roundup in Vancouver. We are both very optimistic, and we're all prepared to work very hard to move this file forward significantly. We've had discussions with the Akaitcho, and we think there are opportunities to move forward and, certainly, the head of the Metis Nation, there has been very strong movement, so I expect these reports will advance the files significantly, to the extent that we will be fairly certain of an outcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 9, written questions. Member for Frame Lake.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 15-18(2):
GNWT PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSOCIATION
FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION BC ROUNDUP,
JANUARY 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Masi, Mr. Speaker. I have two written questions.

The first one: GNWT participation in the Association for Mineral Exploration BC roundup, January 2017. My questions are for the Premier. The full Cabinet and a contingent of support staff travelled to Vancouver during the week of January 23, 2017 to attend to Association for Mineral Exploration BC Roundup.

Can the Premier provide a list of all NWT Ministers and staff who travelled to Vancouver for the meetings and,

1. total cost of travel including transportation, showing air travel by executive versus

economy class; accommodations; expenses; and associated allowances;

2. any related contract costs for the trip, particularly costs of conference registration, exhibitor staffing, any fees for consulting services outside of those provided by public servants, any funding by the GNWT Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment of the costs of other NWT representatives attending;
3. a description of hospitality events, including costs and numbers and names of persons attending; and,
4. procedures in place to track and report on accomplishments resulting from trip activities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Frame Lake.

WRITTEN QUESTION 16-18(2):
CABINET'S NOVEMBER 2016 TRIP TO OTTAWA

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second written question is Cabinet's November trip to Ottawa. My questions are for the Premier. Members of Cabinet and their support staff travelled to Ottawa during the week of November 21, 2017 for intergovernmental meetings and parliamentary presentations.

Can the Premier provide a list of all GNWT Ministers and staff who travelled to Ottawa for the meetings and,

1. total costs of travel, including transportation showing air travel by executive versus economy class, accommodation expense and associated allowances;
2. any related contract costs for the trip, particularly costs of lobbyist support, including contracted services, organizational research, presentation preparation and writing services;
3. a description of hospitality events, including the costs and numbers and names of persons attending; and,
4. procedures in place to track and report on accomplishments resulting from trip activities.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 12-18(2):
STATUS OF VACANCIES ON CO-MANAGEMENT
BOARDS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. O'Reilly on November 3, 2016, to the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, regarding the status of vacancies on co-management boards.

There are 14 co-management boards in the Northwest Territories with a combined total of 106 board positions. Of the 106 positions, 24 positions are currently vacant. Mr. Speaker, some of these positions have been vacant from as little as one month to as long as six and a half years. Of the 24 vacant positions, 14 have been vacant for less than one year, four have been vacant for more than one year but less than two years, two have been vacant for more than two years but less than five years, and four have been vacant for a period greater than five years.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has no outstanding nominations for these co-management boards. Of the 24 vacancies, Canada is the nomination authority for 11 positions and the various Aboriginal governments are the nomination authorities for 12 positions. The nomination authority for the remaining one vacancy is from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Mr. Speaker, each of the 14 co-management boards currently has sufficient membership to maintain a quorum.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 13-18(2):
FILLING VACANCIES ON CO-MANAGEMENT
BOARDS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly on November 3, 2016, to the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, regarding filling vacancies on co-management boards. The Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented several limitations to monitor upcoming vacancies and potential quorum issues for each of the 14 co-management boards in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Executive continues to send board vacancy reports to departments on a semi-annual basis. The report informs departments of all board vacancies and identifies potential quorum issues.

In order to make it consistent with the principles of open government, on November 30, 2016, the Department of Executive launched a revamped Public Board Appointment website. Using newer

technology, the website now shows current and upcoming vacancies; the most recent appointments made, and improved reporting capabilities. The revised website is also accessible by any smartphone and the general public can continue to submit an expression of interest for a board position at any time using the Public Board Appointment website. All expressions of interest remain on file for two years and can be drawn upon when a vacancy occurs.

In addition, the Departments of Lands and Environment and Natural Resources actively monitor the Public Board Appointment website and will initiate the appointment or nomination process upwards of nine to twelve months prior to the board member's term expiring, or as soon as possible when an unexpected vacancy occurs.

Recently, the Departments of Lands and Environment and Natural Resources combined efforts to advertise in NewsNorth and L'Acquilon seeking expressions of interest from the general public to serve on various boards in the Mackenzie Valley and Inuvialuit regions. Advertisements ran twice in each newspaper in late October and early November.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to an effective regulatory system in the Northwest Territories. The GNWT is only one party in the overall system of board appointments in the Mackenzie Valley and Inuvialuit Settlement Region. While the GNWT endeavours to make timely appointments or nominations, the completion of board appointments depend on several factors: timely nominations from claimant group organizations; the process required to undertake federal security checks; and the time needed by the federal Minister or Governor in Council to finalize appointments.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of improving the appointment process is one that I have raised on several occasions with both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs within the context of transitioning authorities under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) to the NWT. Canada and the GNWT agreed to review the provisions related to MVRMA in the Devolution Agreement. The agreement specified that this review would commence following the 5th anniversary of the transfer. The message that I have been delivering to Canada is that our government supports getting on with this work much sooner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 14-18(2):
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT SECURITY
DEPOSITS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. O'Reilly on November 3, 2016, to the Honourable Louis Sebert, Minister of Lands, regarding Commissioner's Land Act security deposits.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a list of commercial and industrial leases issued for Commissioner's Land since February 15, 2011, including the amount and form of security posted. One lease was exempted from the requirement to post security under section 3.1(3) of the Commissioner's Land Act as the calculated security does not exceed one thousand dollars. In addition, security is not required for one of the listed leases because the application for that lease was accepted prior to the February 2011 coming-into-force date of the security provisions of the Commissioner's Land Act.

The amount of security required for commercial or industrial leases of Commissioner's Land is calculated using a workshop which appears on the Commercial/Industrial Lease Application Form. This calculation applies set restoration rates to the total area of land to be developed, the number and type of structures to be placed on the land, the amount of land used for the storage of fuel and the presence or absence of spill mitigation features. Additional multipliers are applied based on the lessee's previous performance and the potential for elevated environmental risk.

Commissioner's land securities are received by the regional lands officer or headquarters staff, reviewed and taken to the Department of Finance as soon as they are deemed acceptable. Securities are tracked at headquarters. A lease's security calculation is reviewed every five years to account for inflation and to ensure the amount of security held is still appropriate given the use of the land. There have been no instances where securities for commercial or industrial leases issued since February 15, 2011 have been returned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 239-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
72-18(2): SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES
WITH GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES CONTRACTING POLICIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 240-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
319-18(2): PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES

TABLED DOCUMENT 241-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
349-18(2): NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY LIMITED EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN
AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 242-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
423-18(2): PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
TRADITIONAL ECONOMY

TABLED DOCUMENT 243-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
455-18(2): INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE
GUARDIANS PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following five documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 72-18(2): Supporting Small Businesses with Government of the Northwest Territories Contracting Policies;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 319-18(2): Promotion and Protection of Traditional Lifestyles;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 349-18(2): Northern Transportation Company Limited Employee Pension Plan and Severance Payments;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 423-18(2): Programs to Support Traditional Economy;" and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 455-18(2): Indigenous Natural Resource Guardians Program."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Transportation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 244-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
255-18(2): STATUS OF MACKENZIE VALLEY
HIGHWAY BUSINESS CASE

TABLED DOCUMENT 245-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
386-18(2): SMALL COMMUNITY RESTRICTED
DRIVERS' LICENSES

TABLED DOCUMENT 246-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
419-18(2): SAHTU WINTER ROAD
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 247-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
430-18(2): CANOL TRAIL REMEDIATION
PROJECT

TABLED DOCUMENT 248-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
432-18(2): BRUSH CUTTING ALONG THE
DEMPSTER HIGHWAY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following five documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 255-18(2): Status of Mackenzie Valley Highway Business Case;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 386-18(2): Small Community Restricted Drivers' Licenses;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 419-18(2): Sahtu Winter Road Construction and Maintenance;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 430-18(2): Canol Trail Remediation Project;" and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 432-18(2): Brush Cutting along the Dempster Highway."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 249-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
365-18(2): TUKTOYAKTUK SHORELINE
EROSION MITIGATION PROJECT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: That's me. My brain is gone. Excuse me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following document entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 365-18(2): Tuktoyaktuk Shoreline Erosion Mitigation Project." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 250-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
373-18(2): NURSING SERVICES IN
TSIIGEHTCHIC

TABLED DOCUMENT 251-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
382-18(2): NEW HEALTH GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE

TABLED DOCUMENT 252-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
439-18(2): MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY AND
NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 253-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
443-18(2): STAFF RECRUITMENT FOR NEW
SAHTU REGIONAL HEALTH FACILITY

TABLED DOCUMENT 254-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
448-18(2): IMPLEMENTATION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE
RESPONSES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 255-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
454-18(2): ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN

TABLED DOCUMENT 256-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
465-18(2): EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS
COVERAGE FOR PROGRESSIVE AND
TRI-FOCAL LENSES

TABLED DOCUMENT 257-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION
467-18(2): DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
DISABILITIES ACTION PLAN

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following seven documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 373-18(2): Nursing Services in Tsiigehtchic;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 382-18(2): New Health Governance Structure;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 439-18(2): Medical Travel Policy and Non-Medical Escorts;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 443-18(2): Staff Recruitment for New Sahtu Regional Health Facility;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 448-18(2): Implementation of Recommendations to Improve Responses to Sexual Violence;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 454-18(2): Anti-Poverty Campaign;" "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 465-18(2): Extended Health Benefits Coverage for Progressive and Tri-Focal Lenses;" and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 467-18(2): Development of New Disabilities Action Plan."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Justice.

TABLED DOCUMENT 258-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 436-
18(2): INMATE TRANSFER FOR COURT
APPEARANCES

TABLED DOCUMENT 259-18(2):
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LEASES OF
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ISSUED SINCE
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 436-18(2): Inmate Transfer for Court Appearances," and further to my Return to Written Question 14-18(2), a document entitled, "Commercial and Industrial Leases of Commissioner's Land Issued Since February 15, 2011." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 260-18(2):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 4-18(2): FUNDING
FOR EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE
WORKSHOPS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to petition provided by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in response to a petition tabled by the Member for Nahendeh on October 20, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. 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, February 1, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements

8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Replies to Budget Address (Day 1 of 7)
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
15. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
16. Tabling of Documents
17. Notices of Motion
18. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
19. Motions
20. First Reading of Bills
21. Second Reading of Bills
22. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
23. Report of Committee of the Whole
24. Third Reading of Bills
25. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

