



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Monfwi)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, October 18, 2017****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 4-18(3):
FAMILY VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, this week is Family Violence Awareness Week in the Northwest Territories. The theme this year is "Healthy Relationships, Healthy Communication." There are events occurring across the Northwest Territories between October 16th and October 22nd to bring attention to family violence and promote healthier ways for people to deal with conflict.

Family violence is a complex issue, and it must be addressed. The truth is that family violence occurs at epidemic rates in the Northwest Territories. According to a Statistics Canada profile released in January 2015, the rate of family violence in the Northwest Territories is nine times the national average. This is horrifying, it is saddening, and it must stop. Although our rate of family violence is unacceptable, we are doing some work to address it. I want to acknowledge the work of the Coalition Against Family Violence in organizing this special week every year since 2001. The coalition is a territorial interagency group chaired by the Northwest Territories Status of Women Council. Its goals are to increase awareness, reduce the incidence of family violence, and respond to family violence and the needs of those affected by it in the Northwest Territories. The coalition has often provided us with innovative approaches, advice, and input for programs and services, and I thank them for that.

The Government of the Northwest Territories provides programs and services to address family violence through the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice. We

are providing support, but we can, and we must, do more.

Mr. Speaker, every Member in this Chamber is a role model within their individual ridings. I am asking that each Member strive to address family violence by making it a topic of discussion when meeting with constituents, bringing the issue forward to municipal and Aboriginal governments and other community leaders to see how they can help, speaking out against family violence in your social media campaigns, and making a conscious effort to dispel gender-based comments, jokes, and expectations. It's time for healthy communication. It is time to speak out. It is time to say family violence is not okay, and we will not tolerate it any longer.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a part to play in promoting healthy relationships and healthy communications. This week is a great time to start. It's not always about marches and letters, Mr. Speaker. Here in Yellowknife on October 21st, Family Violence Awareness Week features a family fun day at Northern United Place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Families are invited to spend quality time learning about healthy communication with free activities such as face painting, a three-legged race, and a reading corner.

There are other events taking place throughout the Northwest Territories. The full list is available on the Northwest Territories Status of Women Council website, www.statusofwomen.nt.ca. I encourage everyone to attend a local Family Violence Awareness Week event and to have a discussion about family violence with your colleagues, your friends, and your family members. Let's make our communities, homes, and families places where everyone is valued, respected, safe, and free from abuse and violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 5-18(3):
CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE
ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, now more than ever culture, heritage, and language are at the forefront of our thinking, in the Northwest Territories

and in Canada. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action; continued commitment to training and information on the history and legacy of residential schools; the Council for Ministers of Education Canada's Indigenous education agenda; and jurisdictions across Canada incorporating Indigenous history and issues into their curricula all speak to a renewed focus on Indigenous cultures and heritage at the national level. I will be bringing that lens to my term as the Chair of the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Culture and Heritage.

For the Government of the Northwest Territories, the 10-year Culture and Heritage Framework sets up a strong vision to support, promote, and include northern cultures and heritage in all of our work. The framework aligns existing culture and heritage activities of all territorial government departments around shared goals and priorities. It encompasses traditional Indigenous cultures, as identified within the Traditional Knowledge Policy, contemporary expressions of Indigenous cultures, and the cultures and heritage of Northwest Territories residents of all backgrounds.

In accordance with our mandate commitments, we have developed an interim action plan for the Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework. This plan sets out Education, Culture and Employment's actions and lays the groundwork for the development of a new four-year action plan with the input from all Government of the Northwest Territories' departments. Mr. Speaker, at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, we celebrate and support culturally based tourism which helps preserve and promote traditional knowledge. Our exhibits feature the art, traditions, culture, and history of the Northwest Territories, and more than 50,000 visitors learned about the Northwest Territories' rich cultural heritage in 2016.

The recent opening of "We Took Care of Them," an exhibit on Aboriginal special constables in the Northwest Territories, illustrates the centre's key role in the stewardship of northern heritage and history. Our staff worked in partnership with community members, the Department of Justice, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to develop this exhibit over a period of three years. In the spirit of reconciliation, "We Took Care of Them" documents, shares and honours the stories of the Indigenous men and women who helped the Royal Canadian Mounted Police survive in the Northwest Territories. This exhibit has gained national interest.

Mr. Speaker, this past spring we achieved our mandate commitment to work with the Government of Canada towards a strengthened, multi-year Canada-Northwest Territories Co-operation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages. I

am pleased to report that we received the most significant amount of funding that we have ever received to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in the North. The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided nearly \$20 million over four years, which will allow us to develop key initiatives and strengthen our partnerships.

We have also fulfilled our mandate commitment to work with stakeholders to update the 2010 NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility. I announced earlier in the summer that the 2017 NWT Indigenous Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility will soon have a robust action plan. Some of the highlights include increasing funding for Indigenous governments' regional language plans and greater support for the regional language coordinators.

We will be appointing a new territorial linguist to assist Indigenous governments in their work, investing further in the interpreter program, offering professional development, increasing funding to community radio stations for Indigenous language programming, and providing support to Indigenous language communities to deliver language and culture programming.

In the junior kindergarten to grade 12 education system, we are piloting a new Indigenous languages curriculum called Our Languages. In those schools with successful core Indigenous language programs, students will hear and use Indigenous languages during their school routines and in interactions with staff and other students. Additionally, Canadian Heritage increased the funding for French-language service delivery and provided \$22.5 million over the next four years. We have made significant strides with our francophone partners in delivering services across government in French.

We are continuing to fulfill our mandate commitment to work collaboratively with the Northwest Territories francophone community to support French-language education. Working with our partners in the junior kindergarten to grade 12 education system, we broke ground this past summer on a gymnasium at Ecole Allain St. Cyr, due for completion in the fall of 2018. Today marked the annual Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle. As you are aware, this is an annual award ceremony celebrating those individuals and organizations that have promoted, helped preserve, and contributed to the culture and heritage across the North. The award recipients have joined us here in the gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, across the territory, Northerners understand the importance of collaboration toward common goals. In the Government of the Northwest

Territories Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework, our government envisions a strong, adaptive, and forward-thinking territory, whose people are healthy and capable, rooted in their heritage and vibrant in their diverse cultural practices. I am proud of the work the department has achieved with our partners in the fields of culture, heritage, and languages to meet our commitments to the Legislative Assembly and to the people of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 6-18(3):
MANUFACTURING STRATEGY**

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, our territory is blessed with a resilient, ingenious manufacturing community. Manufacturing is a small but important industry that has high potential for the Northwest Territories and is an important part of our government's commitment to diversify our economy to give our residents more opportunity for success. Manufacturing contributes tens of millions of dollars annually and contributes nearly 150 jobs to our economy each year. The expansion and growth of our manufacturing sector often offers a means to diversify the economy and encourage greater economic development and investment.

Our government committed in the mandate to expanding our manufacturing sector, identify potential areas of growth, promote and market products manufactured in the NWT, and aid in professional and technological advancement of the industry. Mr. Speaker, this work began last week with the announcement of the public and stakeholder engagement that will inform our strategy and development. We have released a discussion paper and launched engagement on all fronts, including in-person sessions in our regional centres, online discussion forums, and will accept input via e-mail, telephone and mail.

Our first community visits were held this week in Inuvik and Norman Wells. We were happy to hear from the residents about their visions and ideas around manufacturing in the Beaufort Delta and the Sahtu. In coming weeks, we will also be visiting Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Hay River, our territory's manufacturing hub. In addition to soliciting input from the public, we will be reaching out to the manufacturers themselves, the industries that they service, other departments of government, and Regular Members to ensure a collaborative vision is created that will benefit a growing sector. All of the perspectives we receive will be compiled with the help of subject-matter experts to define the strategy that strikes a realistic

and achievable balance between what we need to do, want to do, and can do.

Mr. Speaker, we are investigating and researching the market factors that determine what needs to be done. Our dialogues and public engagement sessions and industry meetings will identify stakeholder wishes. Facility tours and industry meetings will demonstrate what is and can be done. The strategy we develop will need to include ways to expand the manufacturing base, identify potential growth areas, promote and market locally manufactured products, and support the professional and technological advancement of manufacturing in the NWT. The drafting of the strategy is the first step, but it is an important one. I look forward to updating Members of this House as our work moves forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 7-18(3):
DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO LAND TENURE**

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, having a clear, consistent, and predictable approach to how the Government of the Northwest Territories manages the land it is responsible for is important to all land users and stakeholders in the territory. It is also important that the people we serve understand how land in the NWT is administered and that we continually evaluate opportunities and issues associated with various types of land tenure.

Mr. Speaker, to help address one of these issues, that of equity leases, the Department of Lands revised the Land Pricing Policy, which had not seen substantial amendments since it was originally established in 1997. One of the changes made to the policy was the removal of the equity lease provision on Commissioner's land. With these changes, which came into effect in June, the government is no longer offering equity leases.

Equity leases served a purpose at the time, but over the course of 30 years their provisions have been interpreted differently amongst approximately 240 leaseholders, and have created implementation challenges for the Department of Lands. Now, under a new era of land management in our territory, we are working on new approaches that better fit modern, societal, and institutional land needs. In support of these changes, I have directed the Department of Lands to conduct a review of all equity leases across the Northwest Territories, and to examine potential paths forward. These options may include the possibility of offering fee simple title to existing equity leaseholders, where appropriate, pending the conclusion of this review and consultation process.

I want to make sure that individuals with existing equity leases which may be coming to maturity know that they can continue to use their land under the present terms and conditions of their leases. Staff with the department will be officially communicating this approach to individual leaseholders in the near future.

In support of the many commitments linked to land management in our mandate, the department is also developing an inventory of available land for agricultural purposes on territorial lands to support the Agricultural Strategy led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Processes and procedures are being created related to land tenure so that applications for agricultural purposes can be considered a commercial/industrial activity under the general lease application process.

Mr. Speaker, the work that we are doing to develop land tenure approaches will create a more solid land management system for residents, businesses, and industry. As we take on multiple initiatives to advance this goal, we will strive to make sure that our practices and approaches are clear, fair, and understood by all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 7, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE FROM NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX INMATES

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I received a package of 69 letters written by inmates at the North Slave Correctional Complex. The letters were sent to me for distribution to other Members and the Minister of Justice. The letters were accompanied by an eight-page open letter to the Justice Minister, and I want to reflect on that letter today. The letter writer states a fact that's indisputable: the courts and jails see the same individuals over and over again, yet "most inmates yearn for a better life and desperately want to be clean and sober." The writer goes on to say, "We have firsthand knowledge of how ineffectual this prison system is; it's just a warehouse for people to bide their time, so when inmates are released, they have learned virtually nothing."

Mr. Speaker, according to information from the department, inmates are offered a suite of programs that address underlying issues in their lives, such as the use of violence and substance abuse, as well as educational opportunities. The letter writer reports changes in recent months,

including the loss of the recreation officer position and the "dismantling of the arts and crafts room." He also says that people wait months for their first consultation with a psychiatrist. If true, when combined with their lack of access to the large yard for more than a year, it's clear that inmates have a lot of unproductive time on their hands. Because this input has been received across a wide front to many Members, and because the catalogue of issues is both broad and detailed, I'll be looking for a comprehensive response from the Minister, more comprehensive than the response he provided in his statement to the House yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I will be seeking to understand why the feedback and complaints processes in place, including the inmate council referred to by the Minister, were not engaged to respond to these concerns, and whether these processes need to be adapted to respond to inmate grievances in a more meaningful way. I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government's decision to legalize recreational marijuana use in 2018 comes with a lot of questions. I'm happy to see the residents of the NWT voicing their concerns through the GNWT's Cannabis Engagement Survey, which has received high volumes of participation. This form of individual consultation is very productive in finding what people want. With this survey delivered to residents directly, it provides a great platform for residents to openly and honestly voice their opinions and concerns surrounding the legalization of cannabis.

I would like to see outreach from the Department of Justice to leaders of the communities so that they can get together to have their own discussions. Band leaders and community elders are always concerned with new policy and how it will impact the members of their communities and the future generations.

I am looking forward to the future public meetings in the communities so that leadership and residents are assured adequate consultation occurred before legislation on recreational marijuana is passed. I will reiterate that the online survey and other websites have a great starting point, but that should not be the only action taken. My constituents in remote communities with limited Internet access and knowledge also require adequate consultation, and we must accommodate to their settings. Mr. Speaker, it is also essential that the Department of

Health and Social Services along with the Department of Education provide strategies to inform the public of the health risks related to marijuana use. These need to be in the form of community assemblies, with information packages available.

This legislation is new Canada-wide, and even in some of the most successful cities there needs to be education on the use of recreational cannabis. Therefore, for our remote communities proper action plans on education and awareness are critical. Mr. Speaker, in a video from CBC News Manitoba the company Delta-9 Biotech was highlighted as a local first licensed pot producer and now medical marijuana distributor. This company provides 1,800 customers across Canada. This results in the lack of need of out-of-province production. It also provides a number of local employment opportunities. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. A separate news story from Global News reported an increase in the economy for the town of Smith Falls, Ontario. This increase is thanks to Tweed Incorporated, a medical cannabis producer that started production in an out-of-commission Hershey chocolate factory. So far this company has employed 300 individuals and had posted for 70 more jobs.

Mr. Speaker, these new stories highlight how the legislation of recreational cannabis will create new industry, meaning new jobs and economy growth. It also highlights that we do not need to import this product and that it should be grown locally and distributed. Reports suggest that by the time cannabis is legal it will take growers two to three years before being able to supply the demands. I'll have questions for the Minister later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONCERNS OF NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX INMATES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, inmates at the North Slave Correctional Complex are calling out for help. They have put their concerns on paper and distributed them to the media and Members of the Assembly, as well as to the Minister of Justice.

The inmates' complaints include the cancelling of recreational programs; the withdrawal of academic

upgrading programs; the absence of cultural programs; and no access to the outdoor yard for over a year. Inmates say they're not being rehabilitated, they are being warehoused. I appreciate that the Minister recognized the unprecedented nature of this problem and addressed the Assembly yesterday. However, Mr. Speaker, the Minister's statement, when reviewed alongside the reports in the, in fact leaves more questions than answers.

The Minister says that there is a "well-established process" for inmates to air concerns and grievances. Yet the inmates choose not to use the inmate advisory committee. Mr. Speaker, if it is a well-established process, inmates would not go around it. The Minister says, "We have not reduced programs available at the NSCC," but the deputy minister confirms that the GED high school equivalency program is no longer available, and he is not sure why. The recreation officer position has been eliminated and responsibilities redistributed among existing staff, and the outside yard, as I indicated, has been closed for 14 months.

So inmates write, "We have no programs, no recreation officer. All we do is sit in the pod and do nothing." Another says, "I want to learn my tradition and practice my tradition, but do not have access to drumming or smudging." Problems with the correctional system are not new, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General identified exactly these problems in 2015. While the Minister claims most of these problems have been addressed, the letter campaign would seem to question that.

Mr. Speaker, our correctional centres are not supposed to be warehouses. Yes, we need facilities where offenders can pay their debt to society, but we also need to offer them a chance to learn from their mistakes, to receive guidance and support, to develop skills to deal with personal issues and traumas, and to emerge as more capable, better-adjusted members of society. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. VANTHUYNE: When so many inmates raise their voices about a lack of service, something is seriously wrong, Mr. Speaker.

In spite of the Minister's words to assure us this is being managed, it seems clear: we are failing the people who need an effective correctional system. We are failing their futures, their families, and their communities. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Justice at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONCERNS OF NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL
COMPLEX INMATES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I, too, received letters from my constituents who are incarcerated at the North Slave Correctional Complex. The inmates are asking for things like a place to do arts and crafts. They are asking to have a trainer hired who is skilled, to prevent injuries while they are working out indoors.

Mr. Speaker, the inmates need traditional Aboriginal activities to help them with their healing. They are there because they had issues, and they would like an opportunity to work on those issues. They need educational programs to give them a chance to integrate back into society and become public, productive members of society. Mr. Speaker, my inmate constituents want a chance for self-improvement. However, during the last few months, many programs and opportunities were taken away. In addition, Mr. Speaker, they are asking for more case workers and more training targeted to trades, and even being allowed to go outside.

Mr. Speaker, one inmate even indicated that many Indigenous inmates are lactose intolerant and is asking for alternatives to milk for program supplements. Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2016, I made a Member's statement about the cost to society of housing inmates. I believe at that point it was already over \$250 per day, per inmate. Eighty-five to 90 per cent of the inmates are in there because of alcohol- and drug-related charges. I spoke about the disproportionate number of Indigenous inmates and how we need to provide programs to support them and return them to mainstream society. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATOR FOR NORMAN WELLS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recent news: the town council of Norman Wells was replaced with an independent administrator under the direction of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, works with local community governments. Decentralization of resources provides community governments with the authority to achieve their goals and objectives.

Mr. Speaker, developing transparency, order to our community, noncompliance with the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, these principles will lead to my conclusion later. I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HONOURING TREATY RIGHTS
THROUGH DIRECT FUNDING OF FIRST
NATIONS

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago I spoke in this House about the importance of honouring the spirit and intent of Treaties 8 and 11 by bringing the Dehcho process to a successful conclusion. Until we have settled negotiations on our lands, I think I will continue to have an unsettled feeling in my heart. It is a feeling that I have carried with me, and my people with carried as well, for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, most of the First Nations people in the NWT are descendants of the leaders who negotiated Treaties 8 and 11 in 1899 and 1921. These treaties were entered into in a spirit of friendship and cooperation and on the ideal of nation-to-nation, and it is important that this spirit be honoured today in the modern relationships between our respective governments, whether federal, territorial, or Aboriginal.

I am concerned that the people of the Dehcho are missing out on the benefits of modern treaty arrangements so long as their rights to Dene lands are unresolved. Earlier this month, Parliament's finance committee held consultations in Yellowknife. They heard from the national chief of the Dene nation, Mr. Bill Erasmus, that funding for Dene people should be provided directly to Aboriginal governments rather than being funnelled through the GNWT. This follows on the heels of announcement made this summer by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett that the federal government is planning to make changes in its funding model to First Nations, which has not been updated in decades. These changes will allow First Nations governments to carry over unused monies from one year to the next and will offer more funding stability for larger, multi-year infrastructure and community development projects.

Mr. Speaker, those Aboriginal governments in the NWT, we have settled lands, resources, and self-government agreements are poised to move into the future and to control their own finances and their own destinies. I urge the GNWT with all that I have to ensure that my Dehcho people and our Akaitcho friends are not left behind while the GNWT continues to devolve and evolve.

It is important that the protections provided to treaty rights and Aboriginal title under Section 35 of the Constitution Act are respected. This is important for the well-being of our people and communities, for reconciliation, for the future prosperity of all Dene people in the NWT. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONCERNS OF NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL
COMPLEX INMATES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to light through an unprecedented letter-writing campaign by the inmates of the North Slave Correctional Complex that things are very wrong with our correctional system. A number of my honourable colleagues have spoken about this already today, and I think it is important we shed light on this because it is an area of public interest. The foundation of our justice system has always been based on rehabilitation and giving Northerners a second chance after they take responsibility for their actions. However, inmates are now telling us it is becoming harder and harder to successfully rehabilitate themselves. We have heard reports of program cuts that have removed opportunities for basic education, recreation, and healing programs.

To make matters worse, I have recently been provided with new information that reveals a similar situation for our correctional service. Officer training, equipment, and staff budgets have been cut. Officers are being forced to work exhausting shifts without relief, required to provide recreational support without proper training, and the programs offered to inmates are being rushed to boost participation numbers. Overcrowding remains an issue, and morale among staff is low.

Mr. Speaker, our peace officers are the front line of our justice system. We owe it to them to ensure they are safe, supported, and respected in their roles, just as we must ensure inmates are allowed to seek the help they need to become productive members of society. We cannot continue on supporting a system that is not properly resourced, where budgetary constraints seem to be the driving force. I will have questions for the Minister of Justice to see if fiscal considerations are withdrawing support and services for inmates and support for our correction officers. We owe it to them to give them the support they need to do a very demanding job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL SECTOR
REVIEW

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On October 11, ITI released a study. I consulted Andrew Bauer with the Natural Resource Governance Institute. Mr. Bauer conducted a review of the NWT mineral sector under a contract from GNWT and how we should best manage mining in the interest of good governance.

The study was based on a review publicly available and internal GNWT documents and interviews with some NWT and Aboriginal government representatives and the mining industry. Noticeably absent were non-governmental organizations. Sixteen areas of governance and regulation were evaluated against internationally recognized criteria. The outcome of the evaluation was dismal for our government. In six of the 16 areas evaluated, existing practices do not meet international standards or significant gains could be made by adopting alternative policies. In only two of the 16 areas do our existing practices meet international standards.

A few highlights from the study, Mr. Speaker:

- Rio Tinto paid zero royalties on Diavik diamond production in 2015;
- ITI's Client Service and Community Relations Unit was viewed as "biased toward industry";
- There are potentially many missed opportunities when negotiating socio-economic agreements;
- Corporate income taxes paid by the industry are described as "paltry";
- The NWT "has one of the world's most charitable fiscal regimes for the mining sector" that captures only 20 to 30 per cent of economic rent while South Africa collects 30 to 35 per cent, Peru 45 to 60 per cent, and Western Australia 50 to 80 per cent; and
- Diamond mining has the lowest labour multiplier of any industry or sector in the Northwest Territories.

It is not clear when the study was completed as the title page is missing, but there is a June 19, 2017 interview with Mr. Bauer on the study. This raises the question of why it wasn't released any sooner to assist in the public engagement on the Mineral Resources Act. What other studies or reviews has ITI done on the subject and not released yet? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues. The discussion paper released at the outset of the Mineral Resources Act process presents virtually no best practices or lessons learned from other jurisdictions, no analysis, and no recommendations for changes. The late release of Mr. Bauer's study throws into doubt how ITI can have a meaningful and informed Mineral Resources Act delivered in 2018. There are many questions for our Mining Minister and I will start later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FERRY SERVICE IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of this sitting, our last of the 2017, I am looking to the winter ahead of us. For residents of the Mackenzie Delta, that means a winter without ferry services. I have spoken to the Minister about this before. We have been told that Inuvik won't run short of fuel, that frequent closures on the Dempster made ferry operations too pricey, and that lighter equipment will help the Department of Infrastructure accelerate ice road construction, but the reality of our concerns about the cost of living, travel between communities, heavy commercial traffic, and potential fuel shortages haven't gone away.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway is going to open also on November 15th. Many Members here will be here to mark the occasion. Well, Mr. Speaker, it would be more than a little ironic if NWT residents and prospective tourists couldn't access this momentous day because of a lack of marine and ice road options barred their way. I will be monitoring ferry use for the rest of the season and keeping an eye on the private and commercial traffic that makes use of the ice road. If the Department of Infrastructure intends to proceed on its course, then it must also be prepared to see the effects its cost savings have on the people on the ground.

As I have said before, in a time where the government wants to be seen investing in infrastructure, in community connections, where the government wants to grow tourism, and where the government says it wants to help small communities, a decision like this sends the wrong message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT CORRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 2015 the Auditor General of Canada released a report on corrections in the NWT. It stated that both the North Slave Correctional Complex and the Ford Smith Correctional Centre suffer from serious deficiencies in case management, which limits efforts to rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for release back to the community. This was again highlighted by a recent letter writing campaign. About half of the men in custody at NSCC wrote to their MLAs and described the lack of programs and activities available to them which would assist them to steer their lives in a better direction.

Some people might say that, "Well, if you are convicted of a crime, you deal with the consequences, end of story." I would respond to that by first noting that most inmates at NSCC haven't been convicted. They are actually awaiting trial in remand. Second, sitting around for days, weeks, or months on end doesn't address the factors that caused the person to wind up in jail, and that is precisely what we need to do. We need to help inmates get their lives on track and ensure they don't return to jail.

It costs over \$100,000 to house an inmate for one year in the NWT. Imagine if the government developed, funded, and delivered programs that helped even a handful of residents from reoffending each year; and better yet, what if those programs helped people gain skills that allow them to gain meaningful employment? That is an investment in our people that would pay significant financial and social dividends. I think we all know, Mr. Speaker, that the primary reason we have so many residents in jail is because of the high rate of substance abuse in the Northwest Territories and its underlying factors. That is why I was encouraged by the recent visit to the Guthrie House in Nanaimo by the Minister of Justice and his departmental staff. Guthrie House is a therapeutic community located on the grounds of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre.

The therapeutic community model considers substance abuse as a symptom of much broader problems in a residential setting and uses holistic treatment approaches that have an impact on every aspect of a resident's life. The main goal is to change established patterns of negative thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that lead to substance abuse and criminal behaviours. Mr. Speaker, this type of program, adapted to our unique situation, is exactly what we need in the Northwest Territories. I will have questions for the Minister of Justice about what he learned during his visit to Guthrie House

and suggestions about where we could locate this type of facility in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT SUSTAINABILITY OF ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke to the Members of the Canadian Parliamentary Association about sustainability in Arctic communities. As we look ahead to the months and years to come and in the Northwest Territories, from the opening from the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway next month to worrying and accelerating erosion along our Arctic coastline, sustainability, Mr. Speaker, real, practical sustainability, is also part of the conversation we need to be having here in the Legislative Assembly.

My message to the Canadian Parliamentary Association is the same today. It is core to my beliefs and to my life as an Indigenous person and as a public servant. It is that ensuring healthy, sustainable Indigenous communities must begin with self-determination and sovereignty. Indigenous people have historically suffered from the twin burdens of colonization and dispossession, these contriving to keep us from living full, free lives and from pursuing our full potential. Our traditional territory sustained us for millennia, yet today, under modern governance, many of us are housing and food insecure, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General of Canada's report on climate change in the Northwest Territories will be tabled today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that will prompt not only some hard questions, but some serious actions from this government on what it will take for this government to lead our territory and each of our 33 communities to a viable, sustainable future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. I am pleased to recognize that we have with us Mr. Neil Frank Ferrer, Consul General of the Philippines. Welcome to the NWT. Masi for being here with us. Also, of course, our very own Carmen Moore, Chief of Protocol. Thanks for being with us. I cannot forget Mr. Anthony J. Whitford, who is with us here at the table, the man of many roles; former Commissioner, former Speaker, former Minister, former Member, former

Sergeant-at-Arms, honorary Clerk at the Table, and Member of the Order of NWT. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Anthony J. Whitford to the House this afternoon. Masi for being with us.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today we held the Ministers' Culture and Heritage Circle Ceremony in the Great Hall, and joining us in the gallery are some of our reward recipients. I would just like to recognize our youth recipient Mr. Dang-Dang Gruben, our individual recipient Ms. Kiera-Dawn Kolson, our elder recipient, Ms. Catherine Bell Sanguiez, our group winners the JBT Dance Group out of Fort Smith, and our Minister's choice Dene Nahjo. Members, please join me in recognizing and thanking our award recipients and their families for their contributions, commitment, and leadership to culture and leadership in your own communities and throughout the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a number of constituents from my riding, Aggie Hardisty from Jean Marie, Catherine Belle-Sanguiez from Jean Marie/Trout River Fort Simpson, as well as April Bell, who is now a corporal. Congratulations on your promotion. As well, Dang-Dang Gruben who is one of my youth ambassadors I used to work with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some folks here as well. I would like to first recognize our interpreters from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh: Mr. Tommy Unka in the Denesuline language; Mary Rose Sundberg, Wiilideh; and also I would like to recognize the two pages from Lutselk'e, River Marlowe and Ashton Catholique, and their chaperone, Hanna Catholique; and James Marlowe, I believe is also in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two constituents of the Great Slave riding, Brendan Kolson as well as Kiera-Dawn Kolson, one of the award recipients today. Welcome to the gallery.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce my constituents Kyla Kakwi-Scott and Amos Scott and congratulate them on their award. Thank you.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like you, I want to recognize a man of many hats, also a resident of the Yellowknife North riding, Mr. Tony Whitford, and hopefully he never becomes a former resident of the riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my friend Corporal April Bell of the RCMP. Thank you for your service, Corporal. Also my constituent Deneze Nakehk'o, who has done great work with Dene Nahjo. Thank you.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Dang-Dang Gruben. Mr. Speaker, I have travelled all over this world, and I see a young man like Dang-Dang travelling around this country drum dancing for Inuvik, and showing a good example to youth, not just in our region, but across Canada actually. I would just like to commend Dang-Dang today, and travel while you still can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we have missed anyone in the gallery, thanks for joining us here today. It is always great to have an audience as part of the proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 12-18(3):
CONCERNS OF NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL
COMPLEX INMATES

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice regarding the recent influx of complaints from the NSCC inmates. As I mentioned earlier, an open letter accompanying a total of 69 letters containing general and specific complaints has been received by the Minister and many of us.

To start with, can the Minister explain what processes and mechanisms are in place to receive and resolve complaints at NSCC? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that monthly meetings are held with the Inmate Advisory Committee at NSCC, the IAC, to discuss inmate concerns and other issues or requests. I understand that there was a recent meeting, and at that meeting there was no insight received by the staff, at least, to the concerns presented in these letters, but there are provisions for the inmates to meet and air their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that response. It seems that the complaint mechanisms involve having the inmates talk to the very people who they may, in fact, have complaints about. Is there any third-party complaint process where inmates can go to someone who is not directly involved and make their concerns known?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I am not certain, Mr. Speaker, of any formal process. Clearly, if there were human rights violations or serious problems of that type, concern could be made to human rights. Legal counsel could be contacted and they could make their concerns known to me.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister has given any thought to having some kind of a third-party complaints process. It just seems to me that, if the usual route is for the complaints to go right back to the warden, it is not likely to result in a resolution. Short of going through the legal route through the human rights process, would he consider another third-party method of assessing complaints?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I had not really considered this idea. Perhaps it does have some merit. I had been under the impression that the Inmate Advisory Committee, IAC, meetings were working well, where there was a full and open discussion regarding issues. Yes, we can certainly consider that idea. I don't think currently we would have a process in place, but I would be willing to look at it.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's willingness to look at how these complaints are dealt with and how they might be dealt with more effectively. My final question has to do with programming. We understand the recreation position has been cut, that the arts and crafts room has been closed, and outdoor access is limited by the issues related to fencing. What kind

of recreational programming is in place for inmates? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I understand that two recreation officer positions are being converted into correction officer positions. This allows for greater interaction with the correction officers and inmate in a different and more relaxed environment. Corrections officers from each of the pods provide supervision at recreation activities as part of their regular duties. I understand that that would include as follows: each pod has access to a gymnasium daily; inmates have access to the visiting room/multipurpose room outside of the pods on a daily basis; and inmates continue to have access to exercise equipment, basketball, volleyball, and floor hockey. The manner in which the programs are delivered may have changed, but the programs are still available. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 13-18(3):
LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I was talking about legalization of marijuana and some of the issues and the consultation process. I have to congratulate the department on the work they have been doing. However, I know we have gone into nine communities, but has the department looked into going into some of the smaller communities? I mean, I know Fort Liard was on the list, but smaller communities like Wrigley, Sambaa K'e, and that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that, of course, we have just completed a successful public engagement program in which we received 1,160 responses and 200 people participated in our community engagement meetings. In the communities that my staff visited, two representatives of small communities were included; Tsiigehtchic, where alcohol is prohibited, and Fort Liard, which has alcohol restrictions in place. A number of communities were visited by the staff. I think it represented a good cross-section of the communities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. Two communities out of 27, I don't think that is a good representation. Will the Minister look at talking to these small communities? Even though maybe they are not going to go and consult with them, maybe they can write a letter to these smaller communities and ask them to get some feedback in there. We are talking about some of the very small,

small communities, and this will have a huge impact on them.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As I mentioned, we received 1,160 responses to our online survey. Anybody from across the Northwest Territories or, in fact, from outside the Territories, if they wished, could participate. In addition, we did write to Aboriginal organizations seeking their input. We only have a limited amount of time, as we all know, as the federal legislation will be in force starting July 1st next year. We visited a cross-section of communities, admittedly not every community. Between the visits to the community and the many submissions made online, I think we did receive a good cross-section of opinion from our territory.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess he is missing the point. Some of these communities don't have access to the internet system and that. That is a concern for me. I am hoping that he will get his department to at least write to these communities and ask them for some input. On to my next question: has the department consulted NWT businesses already selling medical marijuana or cannabis to NWT? If not, why?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: If there are producers in the NWT, they are outside the legal supply chain. The only exception is that individuals with a prescription can grow cannabis for themselves and also for one other designated person also with a prescription. During the public engagement period, we sent 120 letters out to a range of stakeholders throughout the NWT, inviting them to respond, that included the Chamber of Commerce and the Medical Association.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the medical cannabis, not the homegrown stuff that may or may not be out there. Mr. Speaker, has the department looked at the thought of developing a homegrown organization to grow cannabis in the Northwest Territories? We have some of the best soil in the country and availability. We can get the seeds from somewhere else. Has the Minister looked at this as an option for people in there? I know in my riding we have some great land that we can use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you for the interesting question. Essentially, the production of marijuana is a federal issue. Those who wish to manufacture marijuana will have to be licensed by the federal government. They would have to

approach the federal government. Presumably, they would have to make an application showing how they could ensure the safety of the product and so on. That could happen. I understand that even fairly small organizations might be able to avail themselves of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 14-18(3):
CONCERNS OF NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL
COMPLEX INMATES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Justice some questions on these inmate concerns and also correctional concerns for the facility. On October 12th, the Minister sent the honourable Members of this House an e-mail that indicated the inmate concerns were inaccurate. A week later, the deputy minister of the Department of Justice went into the press and confirmed that some of these concerns were, in fact, accurate. I want to ask the Minister about GED Program. He has both told us that the Adult Education Program is present and inmates can access it. His department has contradicted that and say it is not currently available. Will the Minister set the record straight and tell us if education opportunities are available at the facility for inmates? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Further research on this issue has revealed that the department continues to offer the GED to any NWT resident who wishes to take the program, wishes to study and take the examination. It is a set of standardized tests that, when passed, provides certification that the test taker has Canadian-level academic skills at the grade 9 to 10 level. It continues to be an academic option that is available to inmates at NSCC. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: I would like to thank the Minister for setting the record straight. It can be very confusing when we have two different narratives emerging out there when we are trying to help people with their issues. Mr. Speaker, the Minister also said no programs or staff positions have been cut in his e-mail, yet we have heard that recreation positions have been cut and that recreation is not currently being offered. Can the Minister set the record straight on that? Have there been cuts to recreation programs and positions in the Department of Justice?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As mentioned previously, two recreation officer positions are being converted to correction officer positions. I don't think there will

be any change in the availability of the recreation programs to the inmates.

MR. TESTART: I am still a bit confused about this. Who is currently providing recreation to the inmates, and what kind of training have they received, if any?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As I understand it, corrections officers are providing this service, and they have gone through the necessary training.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I have heard through sources is that is not, in fact, true, that no additional training has been offered and, in fact, that the training manager position that was created to assist in the Auditor General's recommendations that increased training be offered to the correctional service has been cut, as well. I would like to ask the Minister: how many training officers are currently in the correctional service and what training programs are they offering to our correctional officers? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain of the number of training officers, but I do know that there has not been any cut in training overall. While we're always looking into programs, there is no financial cutback that has reduced the amount of training or programs at the facility. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 15-18(3):
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
PROGRAMMING

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up to my Member's statement, I, too, have questions for the Minister of Justice on the correction facilities.

Since my Member's statement on February 24, 2016, where I inquired about programs for corrections and the Minister at that time laid out the amount of programs that were available to the inmates at North Slave Correctional Complex, I'd like to ask the Minister: what programs have been added since that date, February 24, 2016, to date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I can advise that since 2016 the SAM, the Substance Abuse Management program, has been delivered in the various correctional facilities. Six deliveries of the SAM program have been delivered at the North

Slave Correctional Complex and a seventh delivery was scheduled to begin in September 2017. There is also a similar program or identical program being offered at South Mackenzie, and two full deliveries have been completed in Fort Smith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, again, my understanding is that recidivism is still a big issue at North Slave, or all the correctional facilities in the NWT for that matter. I'd like to ask if the Department of Justice tracks the inmates to see if recidivism is still a big issue in those facilities. Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, of course the inmates' past histories will be known by the staff at the correctional facilities, and it is clear from what I know from my past that recidivism is a tremendous problem in all of our facilities, not only here, but throughout the country, so the issue is: are we providing the necessary programs to reduce recidivism?

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, there are some new programs that we are offering. We are hoping to reduce recidivism because there will not be much success in our overall system if the same people keep coming back. We are aware of the problem and we are attempting to address it.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, we see in our letters that we received, all of us in here, including the Members from the Executive Council, receiving letters from correction inmates. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would meet with the inmates in these various corrections facilities. Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No, I wasn't contemplating meeting personally with the inmates, although I have met with many of them before in my previous life. I think what's important is that the inmates and the Members of this House know that we are treating this matter very, very seriously. I have directed the department to respond to each of these letters without delay, and, in fact, the warden has already started to have direct conversations with the inmates who have raised the concerns set out in their letters.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that upwards of 90 per cent of the inmates are Indigenous, but I think maybe the number has been going down. That that percentage has been going down over the years, but that is my understanding that it's very high. I'd like to ask the Minister if the department, and specifically corrections, follows some sort of affirmative action type of policy. Not necessarily the

affirmative action that we have and that we're using for recruitment of public service people, but some sort of program which will give inmates the representation at corrections. Some people who work with them from their cultures and their own tradition and so on, to see if that type of program is in place to maybe assist in a way so that the individual inmates are not returning to the correction facilities all the time. Thank you

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The department is aware of the fuller representation of Aboriginal people amongst our inmates. Aboriginal counsellors are employed at both North Slave and the South Mackenzie Correctional Centres, so we are attempting to have culturally based programs that will hopefully assist the inmates to get back on the right path and avoid reappearing in our facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 16-18(3):
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
CONCERNS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice as well today with regard to the conditions at the North Slave Correctional Complex. Mr. Speaker, we know that the main yard at the centre has been closed for over a year now since the escape back in August of 2016. Can the Minister speak to the cultural programs that inmates receive since the yard has been closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping that area that the Member opposite spoke of can be soon reopened. We originally went out to contractors to provide some more security. Unfortunately, the bids came in at an amount way above the amount expected. We do, however, expect to have that rectified by the end of the year.

The facility does have three traditional areas for the delivery of programs to inmates; one located inside the facility and the other two outdoors within the secure perimeter. These areas are used for smudging, one-on-one counselling, and sharing circles. At present, unfortunately, the two outside yards are not accessible due to repairs; however, once the repairs are completed these outside areas will once again be utilized for traditional activities led by a traditional counsellor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I want to take a moment to maybe move off inmate concerns and, as my

colleague from Kam Lake raised earlier, some aspect around concerns with corrections and potentially corrections staff. So I want to go down the line of questioning relevant to first of all are we adequately staffed.

Can the Minister describe maybe the minimum staffing numbers at the centre and confirm that there are enough, in fact, full-time staff assigned to each shift to meet the requirement?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I don't have the numbers of staff or their shifts in front of me, but I am given to understand that there is adequate staffing at the facility.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Then I would like to ask the Minister, we know that obviously corrections is a very high-risk, and high-stress environment is probably a better term. Can the Minister explain what training corrections officers receive on an ongoing basis to equip them to deal with the challenges of this job?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak to the individual programs that corrections officers might take, but I believe that they are up to a Canadian standard. Clearly, ongoing training is required. I understand that there has been no cut in the training program.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then maybe what I will ask the Minister instead is: can the Minister then describe how training and skill levels are monitored? Not what training is being provided, but can he describe how training and skill levels are being monitored to ensure that each shift is staffed with an adequately trained corrections staff?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I am certain that the senior staff at the facility does monitor these things and does review the training and the training needed for all of the staff at the correctional facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 17-18(3):
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATOR FOR NORMAN WELLS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned in my statement on the principles of oversight and public interest and accountability, I support the actions taken by the Minister of MACA in placing an independent administrator to run the town of Norman Wells. My first question is: what is

the process going forward for the town of Norman Wells? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to start by saying that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs really does honour our municipal and our Aboriginal governments, and we do the best we can to provide support to them. Sometimes it does come to a place, though, that we have to look at providing either additional support or actually taking over council. It was with regret that we actually stepped in and went into administration with the council. How we are moving forward, over the next couple of weeks I am going to be appointing a long-term administrator for the town. This person, there are quite a few bylaws and policies that they need to review and revise, policies around procurement, around code of conduct, around just how the governance of the council works, so that will be their main priority at this point.

The problem with this town council is that they have an election coming up in October 2018, which is a year away, so, once the temporary administrator goes in and deals with the policies and bylaws that we need to amend or put in place, then we will have to make an assessment on whether we do an interim council or if we actually hold off until the legislative requirement for an election in October of 2018.

MR. MCNEELY: I thank the Minister for that reply. People really want to know what is happening, what is the moving-forward plan. Communication is a vital instrument. Once the administrator is appointed, will the public be made aware through, say, a public meeting? Will there be a public meeting to show the schedule of events and timeframe with the general taxpayer public community?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: We do want to engage the public, the community members of Norman Wells, as much as possible within this process, so, yes, as soon as the decision was made and we relayed it to the municipal council that we were going into administration, we did hold a public meeting. We will continue to hold public meetings ongoing to keep the public aware, also to get their feedback into how we should be proceeding. So, yes, we will do as much public consultation as possible throughout this term.

MR. MCNEELY: I thank the Minister for making that comment for the listeners out there in the community. My next question is: leading up to the events and the process leading to that conclusion on the decision, there was a municipal inspection

report done. Is that report going to be made available to the public residents?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The municipal inspection report was actually done on my direction as the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. That report in its entirety will be held in confidentiality, although we do have a summary of the report that is available on the Municipal and Community Affairs website if Members are interested in accessing that.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is: will the Minister make my office aware of the schedule of events and public meetings and so on so, if I am available in the community, I can attend also?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, it is absolutely critical that we keep the MLA for the riding as informed as possible. He is the person who is on the ground. He is the person who will be getting the complaints and the questions from the public, so I will commit to keeping him as informed as possible throughout this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. With us is the chief of Detah, Edward Sangris. Welcome to our Assembly. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 18-18(3):
MACKENZIE DELTA TRANSPORTATION
CONCERNS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, the Minister previously mentioned that new, lighter equipment was on its way to the communities to support accelerated ice road construction. Can the Minister provide a status update, including where the equipment is going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get the details on where all the equipment is, I believe it is a new purchase, some of this stuff, and to which communities it will be allocated. I will get that to the Member.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister also previously stated that the number of propane trucks travelling the region had declined since 2013. Can the Minister provide some more detail on those numbers, including their source?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I will get the department to pull that information together and supply it to the Member.

MR. BLAKE: It would be nice to have some answers here, but I will try again: how will the Department of Infrastructure monitor the impacts of its decision to end the shoulder season ferry services on the communities that have historically relied on those ferries?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I would not say it is historically. This has only been going on for a few years. We work very closely with all the energy companies and the food companies in the region to make sure the supplies are in in a timely manner and updating them on the closure coming this fall year on the ferry services, and we will continue to work closely with industry and the residents in the area on the ferry closure.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the closing of the ferry services during the winter was sort of to cut down on the budgeting here, and we are in the last two years of our mandate and our term. There is supposed to be a lot of spending going on, so will the Minister explain why he is still going ahead with his reduction plan?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: If I remember correctly, this was passed in the House as part of our budget of last year. The Member is well aware that the winter ferry operations were put into place to help sustain the energy crisis that was possible with the Ikhil well. It's been proven now that this is not the case. Suppliers of energy, particularly propane, have been put into place to mitigate any possible shortage of this. We will continue on with what we promised to do in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 19-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL SECTOR
REVIEW REPORT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister responsible for mining. My statement described a recently released study that reviewed the NWT sector and compared it against international standards. The GNWT Commission Study says that we mostly failed or there is room for significant improvements. Can the Minister tell us when this study was completed and why it was released well after any of the public engagement meetings on the Mineral Resources Act? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Bauer was hired as a consultant to assist ITI with pre-scoping interviews and benchmarking exercise for the Mineral Resource Act. That was done prior to us coming out with the Mineral Resource Act. Based on what we have heard from public engagement, the department decided to release its report. I think what it does is provide background information to add a more detailed discussion, was the request, and that's why we have put this report out there.

The nice thing about this report is it gives us a critical view of the current situation around the Mineral Resource Act in the Northwest Territories. One thing that I must say is that the report is based on his viewpoint, but I think it gives us a clear view of what can be changed and what should be changed in a Mineral Resource Act moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that, but I didn't actually get an answer about when it was completed. It is just very curious that they would hold on to this study until after all of the public engagement meetings were finished. As the government's discussion paper on the Mineral Resources Act is actually devoid of any presentation of alternatives, options, analysis, or even recommendations for change, it is very curious how this study on NWT mineral sector was released so late in the public engagement process.

Can the Minister tell us what studies or reviews his department has prepared for the Mineral Resources Act, and if those will be released as part of the public engagement processes?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The only other things that we have going on around the Mineral Resource Act is a comprehensive research on policy, jurisdictional scans, and best practices. That will assist in the development of the Mineral Resource Act moving forward.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. This other work that is being done, why is it not being released now so that we can actually have a meaningful and engaged public discussion about this? Holding onto this until after the public engagement meetings are already done, that just doesn't seem to make any sense. It is very important to properly research alternatives and options, present them to the public for an informed and meaningful input in order to get the new Mineral Resources Act right.

Is the Minister prepared to release more of the department's internal work and extend the

consultation on the new Mineral Resources Act to get it right and include the public?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I will have to have a check with the department on what we can all release here that is public information. I don't think we would have a problem with, you know, we are doing a jurisdictional scan of best practices across the country. That is open to everybody, but I am sure we have it all gathered up. We can share that with all people in the Northwest Territories.

The Mineral Resource Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation, I think, going forward in this Legislative Assembly, as it drives the biggest part of our economy, and we want to make sure we get it right. We have been out to all of the regional centres to hear what they have had to say. We have a comprehensive online survey that everyone can participate in the Northwest Territories. Those of us in the House who haven't had a look at it, I suggest that you go to the website and have a look at it. It is a very good process to put in to have what you have to say about it. We will continue to do that to try to make this the best Mineral Resource Act for the residents of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks to the Minister for that. Well, we will agree that it is important to get it right, but without having any information out there, how can we have a meaningful and informed debate around this and for the public to meaningfully engage in it?

There is obviously a lot of work that needs to be done to improve our "paltry corporate income taxes" from the mining sector and our world's "most charitable fiscal regime" for the mining sector. Those are quotes from the Bauer study. There are no options, modeling, or analysis on this important issue and any of the materials put forward to date by the department. When does the Minister intend to make such information public? How will the public be engaged and how can he possibly meet the ambitious schedule of having a new Mineral Resources Act for this House in 2018? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There have been several questions there, so I will allow the Minister to answer all of them or one of them. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the Member's question. He is concerned about consultation and how we are reaching out. As we said, we are going out there. We are going to put out a document on

what we have heard. I think we are actually going to do the key elements paper outlining the policy potential changes that could be out there. We are also probably going to go out, I imagine, for a second round of input. There is going to be a lot of time for people to have their say in this. Like I said, we need to get this right, and it is one of the more important ones that we need to do in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 20-18(3):
GUTHRIE HOUSE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have questions for the Minister of Justice about corrections. I always say that we need to strive to be world-class in the territory, and the Minister's interest in the Guthrie House offers an opportunity to do just that. Guthrie House is based on a shift in traditional thinking, a shift from seeing correctional centres as a place to house inmates and instead seeing them as a place where we can help these inmates address their issues and ensure that they don't return to the prison system. I would like to first ask the Minister if he could just please describe to us what Guthrie House is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Guthrie House is a therapeutic community located on the grounds of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre in Nanaimo, British Columbia. That is a medium-security custody facility. It is a provincial institution, so I assume that it deals with inmates doing less than two years. Guthrie House is separate from the main jail, so the prisoners, who are called residents, actually, should they be accepted into the program, stay within that portion of the institution. They don't mix with the other prisoners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I will add that it is not a jail where people go and do programs. The whole system is a program. It builds up people's confidence and helps them deal with the issues that led them there. It is more of a way of life than a simple program. What prompted the Minister's visit to Guthrie House?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The various issues that have been raised this afternoon by the Member. We have grave concerns about recidivism, and it is also well known that many of the inmates in our facility have some substance abuse issues. The type of person who is admitted to the program at Guthrie House has to be highly motivated, but they are medium- to high-risk offenders with documented substance abuse issues in the moderate to severe range. As the Member opposite

mentioned, it is quite separate from the main facility and is filled. I had the opportunity to meet with senior staff there. Several staff came with me from the Northwest Territories. We were very impressed by the very high motivation by those in the program.

MR. SIMPSON: I know we can find a lot of motivated people here as well. No one likes staying in remand at NSCC; it is not a pleasant place for anyone to be. Given that, does it appear that this is a viable model to use in the territory even if we have to adapt it somewhat?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: We think so, Mr. Speaker. We formed a committee with departmental officials to explore this option further. The committee will look into the program model and consider how it could be adapted to fit the context of the Northwest Territories, including changes to infrastructure, changes, or supports. According to all reports, the amount of recidivism of residents who complete this program is far less than the normal population, so we certainly do want to look at this program and see how we might be able to adapt it to the Northwest Territories, where clearly something is needed.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recommend that everyone look into Guthrie House. I think it offers a lot of possibilities for our territory. The Minister mentioned that there has been a committee struck. How far along is the committee in its work? When can we expect some more solid answers from the Minister?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: We are at the steering committee stage, but I have directed that this study, this examination of the program, must be a priority for the department. Certainly, we were all impressed, very much impressed, by both the staff and the high motivation of the residents in the institution. If it leads, as it seems to do, to lessening recidivism, we should look at it very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 21-18(3):
FUNDING OF FIRST NATIONS IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are in follow-up to the statement that I made. Treaties for the most part in the NWT and in Canada are bilateral in nature, involving two parties, Aboriginal governments and the Government of Canada. From a First Nations perspective, treaties take on the features of being

peace and friendship or cooperation agreements. At times, through governments' measuring and ensuring that the level of accountability and transparency does prevail over those regimes, sometimes it takes on the face of being paternalistic. My question is to the Premier: does the GNWT engage in any discussions with the federal government about changing the way First Nations are funded in the NWT? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has not formally engaged with Canada about changing the way First Nations are funded in the Northwest Territories, nor about how such changes would be reflected in the negotiations taking place under the Dehcho process. However, I can state that Canada, through its federal working group of Ministers on the review of laws and policies related to Indigenous people, did release 10 principles that Canada will be using to guide the relationships with Indigenous governments, and one of the principles talks about review of the fiscal arrangements with First Nations.

MR. NADLI: I would like to thank the Premier for his reply. Recently, a Parliamentary committee from the federal level was here in Yellowknife and had run consultations in preparation for the federal budget that we expect in the new year. Has the GNWT undertaken any analysis or discussions with Canada about financing for designated authority communities funded by the federal government? Will future arrangements continue the practice of treating these communities differently than other First Nations communities in the NWT?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have engaged the federal government to try to determine what their future vision is for their fiscal relationships with Aboriginal governments, and we have not been successful. I, myself, have written twice to the chair of the federal working group of Ministers on the review of laws and policies related to Indigenous people, offering to make a presentation about how we have an integrated system of health and education and to try to determine what their future plans are, but we have not undertaken any analysis with Canada about financing designated authorities funded by the federal government. I cannot speak for Canada. It has been very difficult to determine where they are going with future funding arrangements. The Government of the Northwest Territories currently contracts designated authority communities to provide municipal services in their communities, and currently we do not see changing that approach.

MR. NADLI: My question is: can the Premier clarify whether the GNWT sees these designated authority communities as Aboriginal governments?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories views any First Nations, Metis, or Inuit communities that have completed or are currently in or about to start Aboriginal land claim and/or self-government negotiations as an Aboriginal government.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the region that I am strongly, of course, affiliated with is the Deh Cho region, and they are an unsettled region. Would this government, through the Premier's eyes, view the Deh Cho as an Aboriginal government?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I have said that the Government of the Northwest Territories views any First Nation that is involved in Aboriginal land claims or in self-government negotiations as an Aboriginal government, so it falls under that definition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 22-18(3):
SUSTAINABLE ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about sustainable Arctic communities, and my questions are for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, we have just finished our Mid-Term Review and begun the third and final session of this Assembly. I would like to ask the Premier to describe his personal vision, as the leader of this government, for what a sustainable community means in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all my discussions, I view a sustainable community in the 21st century as a community where its residents are physically and mentally healthy; are actively participating in the community, territorial, and national economies and expect to do so for the foreseeable future. The natural environment is also healthy and provides the foundation for economic, social, and cultural well-being. A sustainable community in the Northwest Territories is a community that is resilient and adaptable to climate change. We would like to see all of our 33 communities be healthy communities.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Premier. Mr. Speaker, my second question is:

how will the Premier engage in the newly revised government mandate in making that vision a reality?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Our government will continue to work with Regular Members through the legislative business planning and budget processes to continue to make progress on the implementing of the mandate that has been approved by the 18th Legislative Assembly. I truly believe that, by fully implementing the mandate, this Legislative Assembly will have made significant progress by making all communities sustainable over the longer term.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, coastal erosion accelerated by climate change is threatening both human-inhabited and human-uninhabited territory in the Arctic. Mr. Speaker, how will the forthcoming Climate Change Strategic Framework recognize this reality and lead the government to take action on it?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have always said that the Northwest Territories has been the most affected by climate change. All you have to do is look at the Beaufort Sea, where for decades the Beaufort Sea was ice-free for five weeks a year and now it is ice-free for about 20 weeks a year. Consequently, it has very significant effects on coastal erosion. We are prepared to do our part in the Northwest Territories to combat climate change, and also we will be releasing new strategies so that our government's efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions will continue, and also we will work very hard to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Also, we will be working with the Government of Canada. We will be negotiating a bilateral agreement as provided for in the recent federal budget and through the draft climate change strategic framework and also the draft energy strategy that are complementary, and we will be releasing them shortly. We expect we will be able to make significant progress in dealing with these challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 23-18(3):
ENFORCEMENT OF CANNABIS-RELATED
OFFENSES

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I was talking to the Minister of Justice about the legalization of cannabis here. Can the Minister advise this House: has the federal government set the legal consumption limit for driving while under the influence of cannabis? If they haven't, when will this be coming forth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member opposite will know, not from personal experience, but from his experience as a JP, there currently is, under section 253, an offence of operating a motor vehicle when impaired by alcohol or a drug. What the federal government is attempting to do, as they have done with alcohol where you hear about the 0.08 limit, they are trying to impose a similar scientific limit on the amount of marijuana allowed to be in the system of someone operating a motor vehicle.

The proposed THC level for a summary offence is two nanograms per millilitre of blood, and for a hybrid offence, it is five nanograms. If it is a combination of alcohol and drugs, I think the alcohol limit would be 0.05, which is lower than the current legal limit, and the level is 2.5 nanograms. The 30-day public comment here for the proposed regulations is running until November 13, 2017, so I can't be very certain as to when this important piece of federal legislation will come into law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: Thanks to the Minister for his answer. While reading on this topic, I noticed there are a number of roadside screening devices out there. I am wondering: has the federal government informed us which device they will be using, and have we made necessary arrangements to order these?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I understand that there are several different devices that might meet the standards. Public Safety Canada did announce in early September that they would be providing funding up to \$161 million over five years for training front-line officers. It appears that there are several different devices that might or may be used, and the federal government clearly is prepared to foot the bill for pretty extensive training.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you to the Minister. An article from CBC Saskatoon about a study by Public Safety Canada tested two testing devices at seven detachments, including Yellowknife. Has the Minister or the department received this report, and has he been able to tell us what the results were with those two devices?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I can advise that I have not personally received or reviewed the report, but I do understand that it has been received by the department. I am also aware that there are some concerns that some of these devices may not work in extreme cold, but the RCMP are looking into this matter to make sure that when the devices are received and utilized, they do give a proper reading.

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

QUESTION 24-18(3):
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
CONCERNS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of Justice was answering some questions and mentioned that he was not sure how many training positions there are with the correctional service, but he was sure there were enough. I did some research between then and now. There are two positions; one at the facility, one at the headquarters. They are both staffed by the same person. I want to ask the Minister now if he thinks one person to coordinate, plan, and execute all the training for 350 probation and correction officers is sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, that does seem like a very heavy caseload. What I can do is undertake to look into this matter. I have not been aware that there are any problems. It is possible that one person could provide all these functions, but I acknowledge that would certainly be an exceptional person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I agree with the Minister. We have the best public servants in Canada, and certainly, they are up to the task. I just think it is unfortunate that this Minister is asking one individual to take so much on. I will take his commitment. There are a few other things I would like him to look into. Apparently at the facility itself, when recreation time is given, they will take one of the officers off the job to go and deal with direct duties, leaving one officer behind to handle 30-plus inmates. Is the Minister aware of issues like that that may be compromising the safety of officers who are doing their jobs at the facility and not being provided adequate backup and relief in potentially unsafe situations?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I was not aware of this specific issue. I am sure that management is ensuring that all correctional officers do have adequate backup and support. I will, however, look into it if the Member wishes.

MR. TESTART: The Member does wish it, and I will look forward to the Minister reporting back, or his department. Another concern I will share with the Minister today is that currently the emergency response team at the jail is not a dedicated unit. In other facilities, it is a dedicated unit. They receive two-week intensive training. They are equipped with a full range of security gear, including specialized non-lethal weaponry that allows them to control these situations. None of that is present at our facility. There is not a dedicated emergency response team. Will the Minister look into emergency response protocols and ensure that our

correctional officers are given the equipment they need to deal with those situations and also the training that they need to deal with those situations?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: There may not be a dedicated ERT team out at NSCC. There may be ERT-specific teams in larger institutions. I am not certain. I do know, however, that all correctional staff are given training on how to cool down difficult situations so that they can be safe as can be the inmates at the institutions.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we have the best public servants in the world and the best correctional officers in the world. They have great relationships with the inmates. It is when the situation goes wrong that you need to prepare for contingencies. I will leave that with the Minister and ask my final question: I have heard reports that officers are being sent home on the basis of the tension level of the building.

Essentially, managers are being told to eyeball the building and judge whether or not it is a tense night or tense evening or tense day and sending people home early to cut back on overtime hours paid to officers. Can the Minister look into the practice and make sure it isn't happening, make sure our staffing levels are compliant with security requirements, and make sure our officers are supported? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I am confident that staffing levels and training are more than adequate at our facility. I have actually understood that the number of violent or potentially violent incidents at the facility was actually in decline. I certainly will look into the issues raised by the Member opposite. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 19-18(3):
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019
(REVISED)

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Mandate of the

Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised)." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 20-18(3):
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "2016-2017 Annual Report on Official Languages." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 21-18(3):
2016-2017 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WATER
STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY: PROGRESS
REVIEW SUMMARY

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document entitled "2016-2017 Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy: Progress Review Summary." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 22-18(3):
AVENS ADULT DAY PROGRAM REVIEW – FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT TO JULY 19, 2017

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Avens Adult Day Program Review – Final Summary Report to July 19, 2017." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 23-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COMMUNITY
FUTURES PROGRAM 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 24-18(3):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT
CORPORATION 2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 25-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 887-
18(2): FEDERAL FUNDING FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled "Northwest Territories Community Futures Program 2015-2016 Annual Report," "Business Development and Investment Corporation 2016-2017 Annual

Report," and "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 887-18(2), Federal Funding for Infrastructure." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

TABLED DOCUMENT 26-18(3):
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF
JUSTICE FROM THE INMATES OF NORTH
SLAVE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document entitled "An Open Letter to the Minister of Justice NWT dated October 7, 2017, from the Inmates at the North Slave Correctional Centre." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 27-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL SECTOR
REVIEW AND BENCHMARKING

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to table the following document, "Northwest Territories Mineral Sector Review and Benchmarking," by Andrew Bauer Consultant. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 28-18(3):
REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF
CANADA TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2017:
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT – CLIMATE
CHANGE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to table the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly 2017 – Independent Auditors Report – Climate Change in the Northwest Territories.

Colleagues, I wish to draw your attention, obviously, to the presence of visitors in the gallery of Jerome Berthelette who is here with us today, and also Erin Jellinek of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. Welcome to our Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 5-18(3):
APOLOGY AND COMPENSATION TO THE
YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION
RELATING TO DAMAGES FROM THE GIANT
MINE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2017, I will move the following motion:

Whereas the Yellowknives Dene First Nation have used and occupied the lands and waters around Yellowknife Bay for thousands of years and continue to do so; and whereas the workings of the Giant Mine were located in their territory without consultation or permission from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation; and whereas the operation of Giant Mine contaminated the lands and waters surrounding the site, to the extent that some traditional activities, including hunting, fishing, and gathering by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation have been harmed, and potentially will never again be possible; and whereas the massive stockpiles of arsenic created by the mine threaten to cause a major environmental catastrophe that could prevent Yellowknives Dene First Nation usage of its traditional lands and waters; and whereas a treaty entitlement and land rights agreement has yet to be completed with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the impacts and damages created by Giant Mine are of an extraordinary and exceptional nature; and whereas on July 1, 2017 the Prime Minister of Canada publicly stated that "Indigenous Peoples in this country have faced oppression for centuries. As a society, we must acknowledge and apologize for past wrongs, and chart a path forward for the next 150 years"; and whereas the Giant Mine Oversight Board in its 2017 Establishment Report recommended that in the interest of reconciliation, "the decisions and actions of past governments...are acknowledged, and an apology is made for the impacts that these decisions and actions have had on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation";

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Frame Lake, that this Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to make a formal public apology for the damage done by the Giant Mine, and more specifically to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation; and further, that this Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to enter into negotiations with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to provide compensation for these damages and loss of use; and furthermore, that the Premier of the Northwest Territories convey this motion without delay to the Prime Minister of Canada with a letter requesting a reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MOTION 6-18(3):
ACTION ON THE ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MR. BLAKE: I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2017, I will move the following motion: Whereas the Porcupine caribou herd has sustained Gwich'in people for thousands of years; and whereas part of the critical calving habitat for the Porcupine herd is located within the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge that does not have permanent protection; and whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories has actively supported previous efforts towards permanent protection of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge; and whereas the current United States federal government is making public statements about lifting the protection for the Porcupine caribou herd through the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge;

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that this Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to make representations to the United States federal government opposing the removal of protection for the Porcupine caribou herd by allowing any industrial activities within the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge; and further that this Assembly call upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to actively support and assist Gwich'in governments and related organizations in their efforts to prevent the opening of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and to seek permanent protection of this critical habitat for the Porcupine caribou herd; and furthermore that the Premier of the NWT convey this motion without delay to the Prime Minister of Canada with a letter requesting a reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. Item 16, notices for motion for first reading of bills.

Colleagues, before we get into the next item, I am going to call for a short break. Masi.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, we left off from notices of motion for first reading of bills. The next item is item 17, motions. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Motions

MOTION 1-18(3):
REVOCATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE
HONOURABLE LOUIS SEBERT TO THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
DEFEATED

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 49 and have Motion 1-18(3) placed on the orders for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 49 to deal with a motion, the revocation of appointment of the Honourable Louis Sebert to the Executive Council. That is the motion before us.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS pursuant to section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner the appointment of Members of the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 61(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the persons appointed hold office during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Assembly, pursuant to these powers, has chosen the Honourable Louis Sebert to sit as a Member of the Executive Council;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Assembly formally revokes the pleasure of the Assembly from the appointment of the Honourable Louis Sebert as a Member of the Executive Council;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly recommends that a Member be chosen to be a Member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. I will allow the mover to speak on the motion. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I make the motion today to follow up on the Mid-Term Review that we had earlier. Mr. Speaker, the Mid-Term Review was set up so that the vote would be on each of the Executive Council. All of the Members of Executive Council were asked questions in the House. The Members' Rule Committee went through the process of how we are going to do the Mid-Term Review. Part of the Mid-Term Review was essentially an evaluation of each of the Ministers and by their performance from the time they were appointed to Ministers until the date of the Mid-Term Review. In addition to that, the Members of the House on this side of the House, the Regular Members, asked each of the Ministers the same amount of questions, or each of the Members on this side asked the same amount of questions to Executive Council, but the Executive

Council may have had different amounts of questions.

Based on that, the performance to date and the questions and answers that were received here in the House during the review, a secret ballot vote was held. The secret ballot said that one Member of the Executive Council did not have confidence of the House to continue as Executive Council. That was Mr. Sebert. Now, we are at a stage where we will now have a public vote to determine whether or not Mr. Sebert will remain on Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder of the vote. I will allow the Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the 18th Assembly made transparency and accountability a fundamental principle of our four-year term. Together, we developed the public accountability process in the form of a Mid-Term Review. This process was not perfect. It was designed to be fair, issue-based, and open to the public. The review was in place for close to a year. Although government Members were critical of this Mid-Term Review and in fact voted against establishing it, at no point did they refuse to participate in the process.

This motion today is the outcome of that Mid-Term Review process, which is why I am speaking to it. Unfortunately, on the day of the Mid-Term Review, every Member of Cabinet announced that they would refuse to honour an outcome of no confidence and voluntarily step down. The only recourse left to the Assembly was to bring a revocation motion forward, which is what we are debating today, Mr. Speaker.

I believed on that day, and this day still, that that was a bad faith move on the part of our elected Cabinet Ministers and Premier. They take no issue, Mr. Speaker, with how they are elected to Cabinet, and that process also falls on a secret ballot and a non-binding result. I think we can all agree, all honourable Members of this House can agree, that it would be inconceivable that a result in the Territorial Leadership Committee that elects a Minister would be not honoured when formal session begins and appointment motions are brought forward. That kind of consistency is built into processes like the Territorial Leadership Committee or like the Mid-Term Review and is fundamental to preserving the integrity of our democratic institutions here in the Northwest Territories.

It further goes to building trust in the public. If members of the public see a vote of non-confidence, a majority vote of non-confidence that is issued by this Assembly or one of its committees,

it is important that that vote be followed through with.

Mr. Speaker, I have always stood for inclusive, positive politics that ensure that Northerners are front and centre in the governance of priorities. I cannot support this process that plays fast and loose with our democratic institutions and offends the spirit and intent of processes like the Mid-Term Review. We owe it to our constituents and to the people of the Northwest Territories to preserve our integrity and to honour the vote that was the outcome of the Mid-Term Review. This isn't about personalities. It is not about politics. It is about principles. I have no problem taking a principled stance here today and supporting the outcome of a process that we all agree to as an Assembly of 19.

I can speak to great length about the shortcomings of the honourable Member of Thebacha in his role as Minister of Justice, Minister of Lands. I have already done that during the Mid-Term Review, and I don't think that ground needs to be re-tread here. For me, this is not about one Minister's performance; that question was settled in the Mid-Term Review. It was settled with a vote of non-confidence, and I urge all Members today to stand up and be counted and vote the way they have voted at the conclusion of the Mid-Term Review. That is what our constituents expect. It is what Northerners expect and it is what our democracy deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I must rise in this House today to speak about revoking the appointment of a Minister of our government. As MLAs, all of us made this pledge when we took office. I quote, "I will do my best to fulfill my duties to the Legislature, the public, my constituents, and my colleagues with integrity and honour."

We also pledged to earn, through our actions, the confidence of the people. We each made this solemn oath as Members and as it applies to our work here, whether as a Member or as a Minister. All 19 Members elected our Cabinet Ministers, who must also work hard to earn our ongoing confidence. Today we are considering our confidence in a single Minister, Mr. Sebert, but the motion before us stems not only from his decisions, but the decisions of the entire Cabinet.

During our Mid-Term Review, all Members, including Cabinet and the Speaker, had a secret ballot vote to express confidence in each Minister. Even so, every single Minister stated publicly that, if they received a vote of non-confidence, they would refuse to resign their position.

Mr. Sebert and the rest of Cabinet may be within their rights to ignore or disregard the results of the confidence vote, but that doesn't make it right. That course of action goes against the spirit and intent of the Mid-Term Review, a public review we adopted as an Assembly to increase the accountability of Cabinet and strengthen consensus government. Mr. Sebert's choice further eroded my confidence in his leadership ability, his dedication to public accountability, and, frankly, the future of consensus government.

Consensus government comes under fire all the time. That is why principled leadership, accountability, and transparency are so important for our Assembly. It is a crucial part of any Minister or Regular Member's performance. Critical aspects of this are in Mr. Sebert's hands as the Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. In his campaign speech for a ministerial job, he pledged his support for accountability. Mr. Speaker, above all, we have to have principled leadership, and yet during our Mid-Term Review, and I quote, "If Members opposite wish to remove us, they can do so in an open vote." Mr. Speaker, the Mid-Term Review process was designed for all Members, not just Regular Members. The reality is that Cabinet Ministers will not vote freely in an open vote on a revocation motion. The Speaker is unable to vote unless there is a tie.

Today, we are dealing with a revocation motion because the Minister refuses to be accountable except on his own terms. Those same terms are preferred by Cabinet. We are not here considering this motion as some frivolous revolt. We are here because of Cabinet's collective decision to ignore a vote of non-confidence. In no other form of democracy, consensus or otherwise, does a non-confidence vote suggest that I will continue to work with you towards improvement or that I will give you a second chance or that this was a friendly warning. No. No, Mr. Speaker. Non-confidence means as it suggests: I have lost my confidence in you.

For my part, I will vote today as I voted on October 5th. My vote was and will always be based on what I believe results in the best government for the people we represent. We were elected to make hard choices with integrity. The majority of Members of this Assembly made such a choice on October 5th by expressing non-confidence in one Minister. In my view, there are many reasons for that result, but I would like to outline just a few. When Mr. Sebert ran for his Cabinet position, he supported universal daycare and noted it would lead to a stronger economy, but during the recent review of our mandate, Minister Sebert supported the removal of that promise.

Mr. Sebert is also Minister of Justice, yet his performance on family violence issues is lacking. The continuation of A New Day Men's Healing Program was completely mishandled. An established program was wiped out as a result of broken partnerships with the provider, the Coalition Against Family Violence, and Members who raised this issue time and time again.

Failure to work with people in the field resulted in a new provider for A New Day, a provider that was hand-picked by the government without consultation or a chance for others to bid on a contract. On October 5th, Mr. Sebert said, "The changes made improved the program. The transition to the new service provider has been smooth." To be kind, I will suggest the Minister's handling of this whole affair has been anything but smooth. I have no confidence the Minister is working productively with the Coalition Against Family Violence.

Let's turn as we have today to the rehabilitation of those serving sentences in our correctional centres. Under Mr. Sebert's leadership, inmates have reached the boiling point and have begun to protest. "Unprecedented" is the word Mr. Sebert used to describe the situation. We have a flood of letters from 70 inmates complaining about lack of programming, removal of the recreation director, and lack of access to educational upgrading. Mr. Speaker, denying inmates the tools they need to change their lives flies in the face of everything we are trying to achieve as an Assembly.

The protest should have come as no surprise to the Minister. These very issues were raised by the Auditor General in his review of NWT corrections in 2015. The Auditor General pointed to inadequate delivery of rehabilitation programs and serious deficiencies in case management for inmates, and yet Mr. Sebert claims that 95 per cent of the Auditor General's recommendations have been carried out. Surely, if 95 per cent of the recommendations have been carried out, we would not have numerous letters from inmates reaching out for help.

As Justice Minister, one of Mr. Sebert's jobs is to ensure that necessary legislation is written, sent to committees for review, and then considered in this Assembly. So far, legislation appears to be seriously behind schedule. For example, to improve government services for people of the Northwest Territories, our mandate called for legislation to establish an independent ombudsman within two years. We have not seen it yet. Another issue of great concern to every resident and business in the Northwest Territories is power rates and the operation of the NWT Power Corporation. What has been achieved? For starters, rates in Yellowknife are still going up with no end in sight, while in Hay River their rates were promised to be lowered by up

to 30 per cent. That promise killed a 30-year relationship with Northland Utilities at a time when Northland Utilities was offering to explore ways to control rising electricity prices. Instead, there appeared to be a plan to take the private sector out of the electricity market.

In addition, governance of the Power Corporation took a step backward when the independent public representative board was dismissed and replaced by a bevy of deputy ministers. I find this particularly frustrating coming from the Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. We have since seen no improvement in the operation of the Power Corporation, which paid millions of dollars to buy diesel generators from a questionable American supplier. Years later, we are finally seeing three of the five generators arrive while incurring extra costs and having no indication when the remaining will, if ever, arrive. Again, Mr. Speaker, very discouraging, and none of this inspires my confidence.

So far, I have raised a few big issues and challenges that, in my view, the Minister has failed to address and meet. I wish I could say he is better at dealing with the small stuff. Instead, removal of a derelict barge that is now having an impact on the environment in a nature preserve on Yellowknife's waterfront seems to be beyond the reach of the Minister's influence. The situation with the owner is a legal one, and I understand that, but the matter of removing the barge should have been straightforward, Mr. Speaker. It should not have required a campaign by residents and questions in this House to trigger some action, yet here we are, still waiting for its removal.

Mr. Speaker, these are a few of my reasons for not supporting Mr. Sebert continuing as a Minister. I mean no disrespect to him. It is not at all personal. I recognize that all portfolios are a challenge and can be difficult to manage, and I thank him for his service despite the difficulties in delivering the goods. I should make it clear: if any other Cabinet Minister were facing a revocation motion, I would apply the same level of scrutiny to their performance.

This brings me back to the need to make difficult decisions, the need for sound, driven leadership and accountability. There is also the issue of our own integrity. At least 10 of 19 MLAs, maybe more, expressed non-confidence in this Minister by secret ballot. That is a very significant threshold, representing the majority of Members. If we are truly accountable and transparent to those who elected us, we should now be consistent in a public vote. For me, it is a matter of integrity. In the last election campaign, we all received the message from voters: they want open and accountable government. I campaigned on that, and I have

continued to work towards it. As far as I am concerned, we all promised the people of the Northwest Territories an accountable, open, and transparent government. The Mid-Term Review, including a secret ballot confidence vote, was a part of that promise. Now the decision of Cabinet to ignore the non-confidence vote reneges on that promise.

Mr. Speaker, when I go out in my riding next week and when I go to my constituents in the next election campaign, I will be able to say that I worked as hard as I could to support accountability and openness in this government. I will be able to say that I stayed true to my word. Mr. Speaker, we have to focus on getting the job done for the people of the Northwest Territories no matter how hard the job is. We have a tremendous load of work to do in the two years remaining in our term. If we are to succeed, we need every Minister to be held to the highest level of account. Those are my comments, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting in support of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by acknowledging that this is a distressful conversation for the Minister, and it is for me, as well. I want to reiterate what some of my colleagues have said: it did not have to be this way. Had the Cabinet taken the direction of the non-confidence motion, as is normally the case in Westminster systems of governance, then the Minister would have resigned. We have all made a commitment to do things differently in this Assembly -- that was the result of having 11 new Members -- with a special focus on accountability and transparency. Unfortunately, it has not amounted to much. Although there was support for the idea of doing a Mid-Term Review, there was a minority report on the process and Cabinet ultimately abstained from the vote, which brings us to where we are today.

I elected Mr. Sebert to his position with high hopes. I knew that he had a long history of public service and a law degree, and I thought he would make a terrific Justice Minister. I am very regretful today that I have to say that I was wrong about that. I have no desire to increase his humiliation by presenting a catalogue of complaints, but I am going to discuss the one that is really important to me, and that is the A New Day program.

As you know, as I never tire of talking about, and my colleagues as well, we have epidemic levels of family violence in the Northwest Territories, and they have been epidemic for years and years. We have been searching for ways to reduce that level,

and that includes work by both the government and by the NGOs.

The Coalition Against Family Violence worked with the Department of Justice to establish the "A New Day" program as a pilot project, and, after a rocky start because of the lack of NGO capacity, the program arrived at the Tree of Peace, where it was taken up with great gusto by very dedicated staff who wanted to see what the women who advocated for this program wanted to see, which was healing for their intimate partners, which was a way to reduce family violence by having men admit that what they were doing is wrong and finding ways to break the cycle.

The program was evaluated, as you know, and the evaluation was positive. The program was being offered according to the curriculum that was set out, but the Minister decided that the program needed to be revamped, and he offered a new contract in the spring of this year. Unsurprisingly, because it was only a nine-month contract, there were no takers. Then, a short while later, we learned that the John Howard Society had signed not a nine-month contract, but a four-year contract to provide this revamped program, an organization that had been on the ropes just weeks before with the loss of their long-time executive director and some of their board members.

The John Howard Society is now offering this program, and the Minister has reported on it. He has not reported in the kind of detail that we have asked for in the past, but he has said that it is all going smoothly, and at this point we have no contrary information. However, what the Minister did was to take a successful program and trash it. That is the reason I do not have confidence in him. That we are engaging in this exercise today is Cabinet's choice. Instead of taking direction from the Regular MLAs in the form of a vote of non-confidence, they have decided to flout it. What we have decided to do is that we need to act on principle that this vote of non-confidence was not just a piece of political drama. It means something. It means that we don't have confidence in the person doing this job and we need someone else to do it.

So here we are today, repeating the work of the Mid-Term Review that we conducted almost two weeks ago. That is because Cabinet has decided not to adhere to the spirit of the Mid-Term Review and instead to force us into the painful exercise.

Mr. Speaker, this Mid-Term Review has had both intended and unintended consequences. I had actually hoped that another Minister would lose his appointment, but that did not happen. The outcome of those who did and those who didn't lose their appointments says nothing good about consensus

government. It says that consensus government works for those in power and not for Regular MLAs. There is a division between us. It says that consensus doesn't provide for accountability. Our special form of government is not so special. I will be voting in support of the motion.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I have tried to heed your advice that you gave at the beginning of this session and tried to choose my words very carefully. That is why I have written out my statement today. I have two sets of points I wish to make: firstly, regarding what has led us to this point, namely, the Mid-Term Review; secondly, my position on the leadership and performance of Minister Sebert. I need to address the reason why we are here today considering the revocation of a Minister's appointment to Cabinet.

One of the first orders of business for us as new MLAs was to agree on the need for a Mid-Term Review. The task of developing a process was given to the Rules and Procedures Committee to develop. The committee worked very hard to come up with an evidence-based, depersonalized process that grappled with difficult issues, including Cabinet solidarity, whether to review performance individually and/or collectively, and a number of other matters. We based much of our recommended process on what has been successfully carried out in Nunavut, where there is also a so-called consensus-style government. When we were virtually at the end of developing our report, the Cabinet Member assigned to the committee indicated there would be a minority report. That was the first sign of trouble.

Cabinet has actively resisted any form of Mid-Term Review other than a motion of revocation. Their actions during the Mid-Term Review reinforce the notion of Cabinet solidarity. I had hoped that Cabinet would respect and honour the Mid-Term Review process that was passed in this House, but I was severely disappointed and frustrated. Cabinet has rarely, if ever, worked collaboratively with Regular MLAs or committees. That is why we needed a Mid-Term Review process, to control the executive-style, "take it or leave it" form of governance by Cabinet that has eroded the notion and practice of consensus government. One need look no further than the two previous budgets that drained a very significant amount of energy and resources that should have been devoted to further progress on our mandate. Rarely, if ever, have Ministers sought out my opinions, view, or expertise in developing programs, services, legislation, or regulations.

Yes, I have met with Ministers and have been able to resolve some constituent issues and an occasional policy matter, but Cabinet clearly pushes ahead with its own agenda and priorities. This may sound harsh, but it is how I see this government working or, more accurately, not working together. The Mid-Term Review was supposed to be the halfway checkpoint, but has largely failed and pushed some Regular MLAs to the motion before us today. Consensus government is broken. I honestly don't know how to fix it. There are obviously some lessons to be learned, but it is still too raw to have a meaningful discussion about the Mid-Term Review. This may need to wait until our transition reports to the next Assembly. We may need to make the vote totals public, better define what a vote of non-confidence means, make better use of other informal means of feedback and appraisal.

On October 4th, I laid out my approach to the Mid-Term Review in this House. I reviewed the campaign speeches made by each of the candidates who eventually became Ministers. I also reviewed the mandate letters relating to the portfolios assigned to each Minister. I used the performance criteria suggested by the Rules and Procedures Committee as follows: effective leadership; responsiveness to issues related to portfolio mandates; ethical conduct; honesty, integrity, impartiality; commitment to transparency and accountability; open, respectful, and considerate communication with fellow MLAs; ensure regular MLAs are informed of and given opportunity to provide meaningful input into important decisions in a timely and respectful manner; inclusiveness; earns the respect and support of NWT residents by engaging the public, municipal governments, business, NGOs, and the voluntary sector, seeking their input and advice; works to build and maintain respectful and effective government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments; works to build and maintain respectful and effective relations with the federal government; engagement encourages others to give full consideration to different, sometimes opposing points of view to inform decision making.

From my assessment of Cabinet as a whole, I reviewed the progress in our mandate. I developed questions from each of the Ministers based on this preliminary assessment. No Minister met with me or attempted to influence my assessment in any way that I am aware of. Although Minister Sebert received a vote of non-confidence, there were other Ministers in Cabinet who did not perform or offer leadership that made me vote confidence in them. There is nothing personal in how I carried out my performance appraisal of Ministers. This is about getting results for NWT residents and whether we

have the right team in place to do this for the remaining two years.

Unfortunately, Cabinet has put Regular MLAs in a difficult and uncomfortable position of having to discuss performance and leadership in this forum. I personally like Minister Sebert, and he is one of the few MLAs who has frequently visited my office, albeit to often chat about current affairs. I believe he brings valuable experience to this Assembly and has made a contribution. I regret that the events of the past few weeks have likely caused the Minister and his family distress, and I am sorry for that.

However, I must assess his progress objectively on mandate items and handling of several important files. I did not support the closure of the court library, and we remain the only jurisdiction in Canada without one. After almost two years, we still do not have the promised public resource centre. The decision on closure was clearly driven by Cabinet's fiscal strategy and did nothing to improve access to justice. Two other decisions to close the court registry in Inuvik and do away with Beaufort Delta legal aid clinic have also contributed to diminished access to justice. I acknowledge the improved legal aid clinics now being offered, but on balance, there has been reduced access to justice largely as a result of Cabinet's fiscal direction.

The handling of the A New Day Men's Healing Program was not done well and caused needless confusion, frustration, and apathy about our government's approach to this important issue. The final decision to award a five-year contract to one service provider without a public process was the final straw for me.

In the Lands Department, there has not been one word changed in any policy or legislation to prevent further public liabilities from resource development. We have an entire seven-person division in Lands, presumably devoted to security and project assessment policy, but I have not seen one output or any significant participation in initiatives such as the proposed Mineral Resources Act. I have been pressing this issue now for many years, even before I became an MLA, and I now see efforts to actually roll back some of the protection in current legislation. Significant new liabilities or expenditures have been incurred on our post-devolution watch, including Cantung, Mactung, and a major unresolved shortfall at Prairie Creek. This is a collective failure of our government on the promise of devolution, one that I take very seriously.

On the NWT Power Corporation, Regular MLAs have consistently pushed for greater transparency and accountability to little or no avail. The board was summarily removed, and the promised work to examine governance has not materialized. Furthermore, there is nothing in the draft energy

strategy to describe the role of the NWT Power Corporation. An energy strategy that does not address the electrical energy provider is almost incomprehensible. This corporation should be doing itself out of its job by building energy self-reliance in our communities and in individual households.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I cannot support the Minister continuing in his current role. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion because we just completed the Mid-Term Review. That Mid-Term Review, of course, resulted in a non-confident vote of the Honourable Mr. Louis Sebert. I felt let down because I did support Mr. Sebert's move to the portfolio of the ministry that he led for the past two years. Let down because of the A New Day Program most notably. It was a nationally recognized program across Canada for healing and wellness for men. I felt let down that that program basically became non-existent. It morphed into another initiative.

The other point that I wanted to make is every day I come here and I'm reminded of the words of an elder who spoke to me, and this could be his last words. What he said to me I still hold and he said, [English translation not provided]. What he meant is that work respectfully and work honestly. I think we have to remind ourselves every day that that's what we uphold; to work for the people of the NWT. For those reasons, I don't want to draw out a long dissertation in terms of the reason why I'm standing in support of this motion, but I stand in support of it. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret we're here today. In the whole beginning of the process I went and talked to each Minister and explained where I was going and how I was going there, and I'm going to vote the same way I voted with my X on there. My concern through this whole process is I believe in consensus government. I believe we need to be working together as a collective, and, unfortunately, we're here today and I don't see consensus working as well as we should be.

I have been very fortunate to have been raised up in the Northwest Territories and I've watched consensus government work and I firmly believe in it, and that's why I'm here, because I believe in consensus government, but unfortunately we are here today. I must apologize to our honourable

Member from Thebacha. Unfortunately, we're bringing it up here again in a public hearing. I was asked by the public what I was doing and how I was going to do it and I said I would speak here as I spoke to the individual Ministers there.

My concerns, I have four; one was the A New Day Program. It had an impact on people who are less fortunate; people who are trying to get better lives. All of a sudden the A New Day Program, which was working; if you talk to the people who were part of the process, the people who were offering the program, maybe it wasn't the way the government wanted to do it, but it was working. When we had the A New Day Program we talked about it, I asked for a six month to a year extension of the contract. No, we're going to do three months. Well, three months doesn't get you do anything; all it does is get you to finish off that term. So that was a concern. I sit there and I talk to the people, my constituents from the residence I live in, and they talk about the importance of healing. We're not seeing the healing, and that hurts me deeply. If we're not healing people, we're not doing the job right. I was really concerned with the process. We went from a nine-month to a five-year deal, which wasn't offered to other people, and if you're not offering it to other people you're not really doing what we're supposed to be doing here. Doing what's right for the people. I'm not saying John Howard is the wrong people to do it, I'm just saying the process was flawed.

I talked about equity leases for two years. It seemed that, if you knew some people, somewhere down the line you got better treatment than others. There were 240 equity leases out there. These are people, residents of the Northwest Territories, and we were not able to do anything for two years. It was brought to me by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in my riding and other ridings: what are you doing? Well, we can bring our concerns and concerns, but at no point in time was there leadership there.

Probably the hardest one, though, is leases. Ten per cent is a fair market value, or is fair. Well, I don't know what world people live in, but 10 per cent? If you've got \$40,000 that's \$4,000 you're paying. That's more than people's taxes in Yellowknife, in taxes out there. We worry about our elders or the less fortunate people out there. Where was the negotiation? Where was the looking at it? If you go 3 per cent, at least that's feasible and affordable, but the less fortunate people can't afford that, and if you can't afford that how can you access other programs? So if you can't get your lease in order you can't get housing programs because they're linked together. So if you're not linked together and you're not able to do this, you're hindering the less fortunate.

I represent six small communities. Leases are one of the biggest issues. I have issues with people trying to develop agriculture so they can make it more affordable to live in the North, but it becomes a huge hindrance and people aren't looking at that. Well, it's cheaper to build a tank farm than it was to build an agricultural greenhouse in my riding. I've had people bring this to me.

My last one, again, came down to the Power Corporation, removing the board. How were we informed? The Minister came in and told us. There was no consultation part of it. So we, as government, have to bear that. Today, where are we? Still higher cost of living. We have Members here who want to see the capital plan and the business; we want the public out there to see what's going on. No, they can't do that because it has to go to another agency.

At the end, I must say that I regret that I have to stand up here and speak out here about this, but I'm a very principled person. I say what I'm going to do; I'm going to do what I'm going to do. I put my X on there, and we had a non-confidence here. Some people put their Xs, more than nine, so it's 10, that's a majority. I know where I put my X and the Ministers knew where I put my X in regards to how I voted during the Mid-Term Review. At the end, I did have a conversation with the Minister. At the end of the day, whatever comes out of it, I still want to work with the Minister. Minister Sebert is a great person, but sometimes in leadership positions you've got to make hard decisions. You need to consult and, unfortunately, I did not feel that these issues were being dealt with, so again, I will be supporting this. Does it hurt me? Yes, because honestly 19 of us worked hard to get where we are today and we're doing it for the people of the Northwest Territories, and that's why I'm voting to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Hay River North.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I commented on this motion yesterday so I'll be very brief. Those wishing to read my previous remarks in full can do so in the October 17th Hansard. I've also commented extensively on the Mid-Term Review process which was the impetus for this motion, so I won't repeat it here, but it's available on my website.

The Mid-Term Review, of course, resulted in Mr. Sebert receiving a vote of non-confidence. Now, if our system of government was based on political parties, then a non-confidence vote would dictate the removal of the Minister and this motion would be largely academic. However, we are a consensus government, so it's erroneous to conflate the non-confidence vote with a revocation motion. The

Cabinet is not the ruling party and the Regular Members are not the opposition. We should not sit idly by for two years before we address Minister Sebert's performance in one seven-hour long exhibition; we should have used the tools of consensus government to make government work. Instead, we neglected those tools and blamed the consensus system for our woes. Further, we can't forget that history indicates that revocation motions deepen the tension between Cabinet and Regular Members and undermine future prospects for consensus. So will revoking Minister Sebert improve government? If a Regular Member takes over multiple departments two years into a mandate, will that improve government more than working with the Minister to improve his performance? I don't believe it will. I believe that working with the Minister and all of Cabinet who also bear some responsibility for the non-confidence vote is in the best interests of the residents of the Northwest Territories. I will not support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these past few years have been tough for everybody, a lot of learning curves, both on Cabinet's side and on the Regular Members. Mr. Speaker, I first met Lou when we got elected, like many Members here. I found that Lou led with integrity. He has some very tough portfolios. I believe he is the most fit to lead those portfolios. The portfolios are tough. Maybe sometimes this may lead to a reset in what we are doing and how Cabinet and how this government is formed in the next Assembly. Mr. Speaker, there may need to be more Cabinet Ministers so that we can do more with what we have, the dollars that we have, and sometimes timelines are very, very important.

Mr. Speaker, leadership is not about personality. It is about integrity, you know, and behaviour. Minister Sebert has faced a lot of criticism from his peers –

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to remind Members not to use first names and use surnames. Go ahead.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sebert has faced a lot of criticism from his peers and from other governments. Personally, the issues that I have worked with the Minister have been good working relationships and the department has responded to my issues. I am going to vote against the motion. Mr. Speaker, we need to stop exhausting taxpayers' dollars, move forward, and maybe press a reset button.

Mr. Speaker, another example from outside this government is look at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Commission; they are going through a lot of issues. In saying that, it is a very tough, you know, there are a lot of families who are hurt as well in that commission as well as in the territory, too. I have to commend the Minister for the work he is doing. You know, moving forward, we need to work with innovation and work together. The people of the Northwest Territories want us to work together and lead with innovation and inspire others. That is what we need to do, Mr. Speaker. I don't have much to say. Other Members have spoken a lot about the hardships and the issues, but I think we need to press a reset button, start over, and work together for a better two years. We have a huge mandate.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, we are exhausting taxpayers' dollars right now on this issue while we could be working on issues. Personally for the last week and a half I have had slow responses from departments due to this process. It affects people in my riding, and I am sure across the Northwest Territories, so Mr. Speaker, I support Mr. Sebert. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a note to this motion here; unfortunately, I will not be able to support this motion. I know there has been some talk here of consensus government, and you know, this being my second term, I have seen how well consensus government can work in the 17th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, mainly because we made use of fireside chats with the Premier whenever we had issues with any Minister, we sat them down and we discussed those issues. If they weren't willing to make changes, we Regular Members had the ability to change out that Minister. We were willing to, but because we were all working together, we made those changes. Sometimes what happened was a Cabinet shuffle and maybe that is what is in order.

Mr. Sebert is responsible for four portfolios, not to mention the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedure. Mr. Sebert is the Minister of Justice and Lands, which is very new to us. He took on a lot of responsibility from the federal government here. You know, it is a learning curve for that department, as well. We have to consider that. Sure, there are changes that could be made, but I think what we need to do is sit down, have a fireside chat once this process is over, and see what we could do to make the changes that are needed for residents of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I believe

strongly that consensus government is what we need here in the Northwest Territories and I hope that lasts a long time in this territory because it is very challenging living in small communities and any time I have ever had issues in my constituency that had to do with either Justice, Lands, or Power Corporation, Mr. Sebert acted on it within a short time, whether it was a week or a couple of days even. That is what I have to use for this motion here. I know there are a number of other concerns that Members have with Mr. Sebert, but a lot of that is out of his hands.

You know, to be accountable, that process, a good example is the A New Day Program. It had to go out to a tender process. Unfortunately, we have only one group that is interested in taking on this program. That has nothing to do with Mr. Sebert. I know he is responsible for that portfolio, but like I said, we are here to make changes and I think what we need to do once this process is done, whatever the outcome is, that we need to work together for the remaining two years of our term and ensure that residents have what they need here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I value everybody's decisions and comments here today and throughout the Mid-Term Review developments, terms are referenced to develop the guidance, and the whole issue of the Mid-Term Review. I said I supported that process as an instrument similar to that of the EDI. I have said a time again prudent management could be viewed in different ways. In this way, it would be the Mid-Term Review to show the outcome of the review so that your remaining term is more efficient than the first half, but we need to engage opinions from others that give us best value for guidance, and what better opinion than to develop a system of engagement from other surrounding co-workers.

I have arrived at the conclusion that choice is as we all said: choices are very hard. Choices are very hard and in particular in this form and in this organization and in this institution. In the private sector, it is similar, but it is handled much differently, but at the end of the day you must make a decision.

I will be voting against this motion for a number of reasons. I would respect my colleagues from either side of the House to respect my decision on how to give new definitions for the remaining term on efficiencies. A number of times, I have highlighted to the strategies, the action plans, the direction, where we are going. Our senior society said it best in the House last year, "In order to find where you're going, you must find out where you were". I

think we can comfortably say that when we look back at the last two years. In the principles of efficiencies, best value for benefits to the people who have put us in this seat, I think they deserve our utmost efforts to try to make a difference.

Some of my colleagues mentioned, I also, too, come from a small community. Born and raised in a small community, I faced many challenges, and it is most notably the high cost of living and limitations. Limitations are due to a lot of things in my particular riding. We do not have access to a year-round road, and the enjoyable side of the year-round road could be viewed in a number of ways. Just taking your children and family out for berry picking would be a sense of family stability and unitedness in an environment that the family really enjoys, quality time out on the land. We do not have that privilege.

When I encounter during my community visits, I hear a lot of concerns raised in the five communities that I represent, and they all are common. They do not have access. Going back to limitations brings depression. Depression could be drawn from the form of isolation. With isolation comes high cost of living. It is very saddening to see when you go to the Bay store. In most cases, the Northern Store has the Canada Post office, so you are sort of better to meet people in that centre to have engagements of discussions on the concerns they are faced with, and it is always, always, the high cost of living and isolation, depression, limitations. Opportunity, in some cases, in most cases, it is only a seasonal word. I think I have contributed enough, and I think we all should respectfully look to our colleagues, respect our decision, and I am looking forward to the remaining term and moving on to be more productive, constructive, and working altogether. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, all 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly were given a mandate by the people of the Northwest Territories to represent their best interests. We walk into this building every day to represent the people who look to us to take action on the issues that are important to them and to ensure that we move our territory forward for future generations to a better chance at success and for our communities to be healthier and more vibrant. It is a humbling responsibility and one I know we all take very seriously.

Mr. Speaker, consensus government is built on a foundation of working together. When Members unanimously adopted the first-ever mandate of the Northwest Territories in March 2016, we made approximately 200 commitments to the people of this territory. We all share responsibility for advancing those commitments during our four-year

term and, Mr. Speaker, we will do just that. It is important we all remember that our success as a government rests with us all. We all share in the responsibility of representing each and every person in the Northwest Territories, and ensuring we achieve the commitments we all agreed on.

Nearly halfway through, we have made progress in all areas of our mandate. We have completed 53 commitments, and another 145 are in progress. Only two of our 200 commitments are in the planning stage. Mr. Speaker, we can all take credit for the work that we have accomplished in the first two years of this government. I am pleased with our progress, confident in our record, and believe we can continue to work together to make the Northwest Territories a better place for all our residents.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2015, through a Territorial Leadership Committee, all 19 Members voted to select a Premier and Cabinet. In the first two years of our government, I am pleased with the work my Cabinet colleagues have done, and I am also pleased that Regular Members have worked to keep Cabinet accountable for their decisions. Consensus government requires this delicate balance. During the Mid-Term Review, I said that the whole of Cabinet is greater than the sum of its parts, Mr. Speaker. As a Cabinet, we challenge each other to perform to a high standard for the people of the Northwest Territories. We are able to put our political and philosophical differences aside to focus on what is best for the people, regardless of what we may believe personally.

I stand today to speak on behalf of Minister Sebert and the team of which he is a part. Minister Sebert is a strong advocate for his constituents and his community. He is also a strong supporter of the Aboriginal governments in his region. Together, Cabinet has made a commitment to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal governments, and make progress on outstanding land, resources, and self-government claims. Cabinet continues to meet bilaterally with the Northwest Territories Metis Nation, Salt River First Nation, and Akaitcho. We have also made new offers to both the Northwest Territories Metis and the Akaitcho. Minister Sebert has been part of the meetings and decision making, and continues to be a local supporter of these Aboriginal governments and Cabinet. If you look at Minister Sebert's progress on the commitments he is responsible for under the mandate, the Department of Justice and the Department of Lands account for 14 of the 53 completed commitments. There are another 22 mandate commitments under his portfolios that are all in progress. That is not a bad record for halfway through our term of government.

Mr. Speaker, Minister Sebert works hard to oversee the departments he is responsible for, and provides valuable insight and support to his Cabinet colleagues. He shows effective leadership, is responsive to issues related to his portfolios. He is committed to transparency and accountability, and ensures Regular Members are informed of and given opportunity to provide meaningful input into important government decisions.

In his two years in Cabinet, Minister Sebert has earned the support and respect of Northwest Territories residents by engaging the public, municipal governments, business, and non-governmental organizations for their input and advice. Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the characteristics that Regular Members were assessing as part of the Mid-Term Review as outlined in the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on the review of the establishment of a mid-term review process.

This doesn't mean, however, that we can't always find ways to do better. It is important that we continue to work hard, as there is always room for improvement, and I recognize that we cannot rest on our achievements, or lose focus on why we are here: the people. Each Member of Cabinet has brought valuable strengths to the collective whole, but one thing I can say with confidence is that each Member of Cabinet takes their job seriously and works hard for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion, Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Members. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this motion this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would be the first to admit that I could do a better job as Minister. As a new Minister and a new MLA like many of us, with no previous experience in this government, I have faced a steep learning curve, and there is still plenty of room for further learning and improvement.

I also want to make it clear that I have no interest in evading responsibility for my actions and my performance as a Minister. Democracy and accountability are inseparable, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we hold our jobs as MLAs as a public trust and we must always be ready to explain our decisions and actions to the people of the Northwest Territories. The people who elect us to exercise power on their behalf place enormous faith in each one of us. Collectively and individually we need to earn and maintain that trust by submitting our decisions and actions to the judgment of the people we serve openly and transparently.

I would like to take a moment, though, to reflect on the past two years and the events that have brought us to this place. When we were first elected to this House, Mr. Speaker, there was a strong sense among us that the people of the NWT wanted a change in how the government did business. Many of us, myself included, agreed that the people of the NWT deserved a government that was more open and transparent and ultimately more accountable to the residents of our territory.

Among our first orders of business was establishing shared priorities for our four-year term and then agreeing to a mandate that described how this Assembly would work together to achieve its priorities. This was a new step, an important step, towards accountability for the people and Government of the Northwest Territories and I wholly supported it. I also wholly supported the idea that we owe to the people of the Northwest Territories to be accountable for how we were going to implement our mandate.

I think I made that clear when I, along with other Members of Cabinet, voted on a motion proposed by the Premier on December 17, 2015, to establish a mid-term accountability review. As a consensus government, Cabinet does not own the successes of the government on its own. To the extent that we act and decide together, all Members on both sides of this House share in the government's success and bear responsibility for its failings.

As the joint owners of this government's mandate and the achievements related to them, it is right that we assess that progress together and hold each other accountable for what we have done to advance our agenda. I still think the intention between a formal mid-term review and assessment of progress on our mandate was absolutely the right one, but I now wonder if putting as much focus on a mid-term review as we did meant we, as an Assembly, failed to take advantage of other opportunities to course correct and deal with concerns before now. Good, honest and early feedback on my performance from my colleagues would have been an important opportunity to deal with issues and concerns early on before things got seriously off course or people got extremely frustrated.

The discussion here today has been helpful and it has been valuable to hear more directly from my colleagues on their concerns with my performance as Minister. They have given me a lot to think about, Mr. Speaker, and I think I can definitely learn from what they have said. While I recognize there is always more that I can do, I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish in our first two years. For more than 30 years I practiced law in a small NWT community and my practice took me all over

the territory. Based on my experience, I have made access to justice a priority as Minister.

I think we have taken some important steps in this regard, including expanding the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic to give more residents access to free, confidential legal advice. I am also proud that we have been able to expand the Mediation and Parenting after Separation and Divorce Program under my leadership.

While I know Members and the community have had concerns with the A New Day Program, I am pleased to say that we have made the transition to a long-term program, and that men who use violence in their relationships continue to get the programming they need from culturally-competent and qualified counsellors.

Addressing long-standing land issues has also been important to me. Over the years, I have become aware of issues surrounding equity leases and I have directed the Department of Lands to deal with this. It has been a bigger issue than anticipated and has required six months of review, but we are making progress in dealing with this long-term issue. I am also working to deal with some of the long-standing challenges associated with the Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker. Under my leadership, we have replaced the costly board of the corporation and made changes to the management structure. I have also directed a review of procurement practices at the corporation based on issues that came to light around the decision to purchase new generators for the Jackfish Power Plant. I'm particularly pleased that three of the generators have arrived.

As Minister of Public Engagement and Transparency I travel to every constituency in the territory to hear from residents about their views on how the GNWT can be more open and transparent. We are making good progress on our commitments in this area, including drafting the GNWT's first open government policy, finalizing a legislative review for ombudsman legislation, and completing a review of ATIPP and a proposal for legislative changes.

Under my leadership, the GNWT has also recently completed a highly successful engagement on cannabis legislation and we are well-positioned to be ready for pending national legalization next summer. Mr. Speaker, there is always room for improvement in any job, but I think I have a good record in my first two years as a Minister. I remain committed to doing a good job on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, and with the advice and support of my colleagues, and I thank Members for their feedback today and I will apply that advice and support regardless of which side of

the House I sit on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. At this time I will allow the mover of the motion to have final comments. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [English translation not provided].

Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate just for clarity that this side of the House has brought many issues and concerns forward to Cabinet; in fact we do it every day during sitting, and may do it hundreds of times by email or in closed-door meetings. It's not like we just started the process of asking questions and expressing our concerns when the Mid-Term Review started.

Today you've heard from the House. You heard from the majority of the people on this side of the House. You've heard from the small communities that surround the Great Slave Lake, the southern part of the small communities, and you've heard from the small communities that are still in the negotiating claims process. I've heard from people who are involved in the negotiating process and they're asking that we express their wishes to remove the honourable Member for Thebacha. However, it does not appear that is going to happen today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of the real serious concerns on the issues has been the request from this government to ask seniors and elders in the Northwest Territories to pay more than two months' worth of their salary to pay for a lease so they could become eligible for programs they otherwise would not be eligible for. We're talking about people who are living on \$1,700 a month.

We have concerns about the Taltson River dam that have gone nowhere. At one time in the '60s, the dam wiped out all the muskrat and all the beaver on a river that was extremely prosperous, and, over the years, all the animals have moved inland. Now they have come back to the Taltson River, and last winter they were flooded out again, but apparently it had nothing to do with the dam.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet was elected as agents of change to bring transparency and accountability for the people of the Northwest Territories. Yet, during the Mid-Term Review -- it sounds like a beautiful setup now -- each Minister was asked if they would resign receiving a vote of non-confidence. They all said no. During the break, we decided that we were going to try again. I asked the Premier if he would ask the Members who receive a vote of non-confidence to resign or strip them of their portfolios. He did not say no, but he said that Cabinet

solidarity must be maintained. I guess we are going to see that today.

The people of the Northwest Territories are watching us, watching this outcome, and it will determine how effectively we, as the highest level of government in the Northwest Territories, will be able to represent the people who we were elected by, people all the way from Sachs Harbour to Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that, had the answer been different when the question was asked, we would be revoking or voting on a revocation of more than just one Minister today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the vote: seven in favour, 11 opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

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: Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Tabled Document 1-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 2-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 3-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2018-2019, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of The Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 1-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 2-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018; Tabled Document 3-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2018-2019. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will consider the documents after a five-minute break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to begin our consideration of Tabled Document 1-18(3) Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2017-2018. I will turn to the Minister of Finance for any opening remarks. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3, 2017-2018. This document provides for a decrease of \$5.8 million to the capital budget.

The items in these supplementary estimates are:

- \$1.4 million for the construction of a new fish plant in Hay River. These costs are fully offset by a decrease in operations expenditures funding;
- \$822,000 for the Tuktoyaktuk Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation project. These costs will be fully recovered by funding from Transport Canada; and
- An \$8 million decrease to reflect changes in the timing of expenditures for bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects, specifically the Frank Channel bridge. This decrease is fully offset by increases in expenditures in future years for this project. This project is partially funded by contributions from the Government of Canada under the

Building Canada Plan.

That concludes my opening remarks. I am prepared to respond to the committee's questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Minister's witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please sit at the witness desk. I will open the floor to general comments from committee once the witnesses are seated. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have with me, to my right, Mr. David Stewart, deputy minister of the Department of Finance. To my left, I have Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary of the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do we have any opening comments? Seeing none, we can begin consideration of the document. Our consideration begins on page 6. Industry, Tourism and Investment, comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the page. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, economic diversification business support not previously authorized, \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Turning to page 7, Infrastructure. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would like to get an explanation of why we are delaying the Frank Channel Bridge. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When they went to do the more detailed look at planning for rehabilitation of the Frank Channel Bridge, they consulted with a variety of stakeholders. It was determined that replacing the bridge was more appropriate than doing repairs and rehabilitation. As a result of that, they are going to be spending some

money to fix it up and then planning forward to replace it in a few years. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair. Who was consulted then with regard to this change? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There were a variety of stakeholders who were consulted. As to the specific stakeholders, if that is the information the Member is looking for, I don't have that with me today. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Is it safe to say the mining industry was consulted on this change? I just don't remember the Minister actually having any public pre-budget consultations. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Correct, Mr. Chair. The mining industry did have some input. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. What kind of pre-budget consultation was actually held, or did people just sort of walk into the Minister's office? How does this work? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. The Minister has indicated Mr. Stewart will field this. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think the consultation that took place on this was specifically related to the Frank Channel Bridge and talking to user groups of that. Obviously, the mining industry would be one of those users. There were concerns expressed about the width of the bridge and the load limits and those sorts of things. I think that is part of that consultation that led to the decision to do a replacement rather than rehabilitation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Since we are deferring this from Building Canada Plan, where is the money going to come from to build a new bridge? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money is going to come from the capital budget with a contribution from the federal government. Then we will put our share in from the capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So do we have any idea how long this is going to be put off, or do we have any assurance from the federal government that they are prepared to fund a new bridge? How would a new bridge sort of ballpark figure compared to the \$8 million it would cost to fix or at least maintain the Frank Channel Bridge? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding that the price tag on the new bridge is going to be \$53 million. It will be built beside the existing bridge, and it will be built to specifications that would allow it to handle larger loads. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is helpful information to get and I appreciate the answer. Do we have any assurance that the federal government is actually going to come up with any of this money, the \$53 million to build a new bridge? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, they have been at the discussions on the construction of a new bridge. The bilateral agreements we don't have yet. I am not sure when we are going to get them. I will find the information and I will share it with Members. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess more of a comment on this and then I have another set of questions. I think there needs to be some effort, then, to communicate to the public why this is not going ahead and that there is not going to be any serious work done on the Frank Channel Bridge for some time perhaps, until new federal funding is secured. In any event, I want to move on to a different line of questioning, if I can. Can anybody

tell me what the position is of the supplementary reserve? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the change in the cash flow associated with this bridge project, the actual amount for the capital estimates will be going down by about \$5.7 million. We won't have used up all of the capital reserve at this point in terms of the supplementary reserve.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is the supplementary reserve in a surplus or deficit position and by how much? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. At this point, the supplementary reserve has a surplus of around \$9 million because of the cash flow change that I mentioned around the Frank Channel Bridge. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess the information I had was that it was actually in a deficit position of around \$9 million. Perhaps, can Mr. Stewart confirm those figures? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I clearly just read the table wrong. The Member is right that, when you include the purchase that was done for the double-haul barges, although that is intended to be paid back by marine services, it is about a \$9 million deficit for the supplemental reserve.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Those barges, they are going to be moved out of the supplementary reserve pot of money. They will go into the revolving fund and over what period of time? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The expectation is that the monies we've provided to purchase the barges will be paid back over a 10-year period from the revolving fund. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure why it's going to be paid out over 10 years, but it seems like some of those carrying costs are going to be put on to the public purse rather than through the revolving fund itself, which doesn't sound quite right to me. What's the implication of having a deficit in the supplementary reserve and how does that affect our compliance with the Fiscal Responsibility Policy? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. In terms of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy, as the Member would know there are a couple of important criteria in terms of the amount of carrying costs; it shouldn't exceed 5 per cent of your revenues, and that we have to have enough cash to be able to fund 50 per cent of our capital budget without having to borrow more than that amount. We are under both of those criteria even with the supps that are here today, so we're in good shape as far as the Fiscal Responsibility Policy. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, you're very generous and I don't have any more questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3. Oh, I have Mr. Testart. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On this specific bridge project, I know that this is an area of interest for a number of businesses, northern-owned and operated businesses in my riding. I'm interested to know if this future project will have opportunities for local procurement of northern businesses before I place my confidence and my vote in this appropriation, that that is something that is possible for the future bridge project. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like to think that all of our projects have opportunities for northern procurement. I'm not sure what the exact procurement will be on this particular project, but I'm sure the Department of Infrastructure will keep Members updated as we move closer to the work on the bridge and what procurement, but we like to think that all of our projects have an opportunity for local and northern procurement. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that that's the Minister's aspiration, but all too often do we see these projects do not have an opportunity for involvement from northern owned and operated businesses, especially the small players. I've been through a few of these processes now and, again, I hear the same concerns from my constituents, no matter how much money we spend on infrastructure it doesn't seem to create local economic opportunities.

Can the Minister give me anything more than just kind of an aspirational statement that in the future everyone is going to benefit from this? Is there something concrete he can commit to? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I said in the future there will be opportunities for procurement, but at the same time we need to make sure we get a quality product on the ground and if they can provide a quality product I'm sure there will be some opportunities there to take advantage of the work that's going to be going on with this. As for the actual procurement itself, I mean, that's a decision that would be made by the Department of Infrastructure and they will keep the Members updated. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Testart, I see nothing further. Next, I have Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd just like to clarify. With these double hull barges they're sitting in this fund and they're supposed to be moved to a revolving fund over 10 years, is this correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct, but the revolving fund or the MTS I think it is will be paying the money back to the government over 10 years. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for the answer. So please bear with me so I clearly understand. We are going to be paying the covering costs and then over 10 years the revolving fund is going to put it in there. Why aren't we putting these double hull barges' costs into the revolving fund now? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is the revolving account wasn't set up. We needed to purchase these double hull barges. We purchased them through this process and there's an opportunity there for the MTS to repay the money back to the government. I suppose if they had some good years where revenue was a bit more than expected, it's just like if we get loans; if we're able to put more money into it, I'm sure they would consider that possibility. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I think I've got a clearer understand of it. What you're saying is for 10 years the supplementals are paying for these barges and that, you know, the money is coming back. We're paying them upfront and then money is coming from the revolving fund and it's going to come back into the supplemental pot of money, correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we've paid for the barges. We paid for the barges. The revolving fund was not set up. We paid for the barges and the plan is to have MTS repay that money over 10 years. As I said before, if there's any opportunity and if their revenue is higher than expected they might be able to put more money into repayment of the loan. If they had the revolving fund set up at the time these barges went up for sale then they would have used the revolving fund to purchase these barges, but time was of the essence and a decision had to be made and so a decision was made that we would purchase them.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you and I thank the Minister. I'm getting a clearer picture now and I appreciate that. So what we're saying, though, so if we just clarify: MTS is going to be with the government for the next 10 years to pay off this cost. Is this correct in my understanding of this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I'm not saying MTS is going to be with us for 10 years, I'm saying that the loan is supposed to be paid over 10 years. I suppose if MTS were sold then we would get our money back. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and that's a little bit reassuring now, because I was sitting there going it means that MTS is going to be here for 10 years. Have we looked at MTS with all this equipment, have we looked at other options or are we just still going to be proceeding with this as they're going to be around for a while? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I apologize to committee for letting this conversation get off the rails. We're not discussing barges here, but seeing as how we didn't have general comments on the supps I've allowed it, so I'll allow the Minister to respond. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, MTS needed to be run as a business and a business decision was made to purchase these double hull barges because they would benefit the company to get into some of the coastal communities, so a decision was made. It was a business decision, and again, I say if there was an opportunity or there is opportunity that MTS was sold, then the government would recover their money, but it was strictly a business decision. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Seeing nothing further, Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, asset management not previously authorized, negative \$7,178,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures and total department not previously authorized, negative \$7,178,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree this concludes our consideration of Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 1-18(3):
CONCURRENCE OF Tabled DOCUMENT 1-18(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2017-2018,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move the consideration of Tabled Document 1-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 1-18(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Mr. Testart.

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

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

---Carried.

The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018. I would like to report that consideration of Tabled Document 1-18(3) is concluded and the House concurs on those estimates, and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? The Member for Hay River South. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Masi. 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 Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 2-18(3), Appointment of Conflict of Interest Commissioner
 - Motion 3-18(3), Appointment of the Equal Pay Commissioner
 - Motion 4-18(3), Extended Adjournment of the House to February 7, 2018
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns

- Tabled Document 2-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018
- Tabled Document 3-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2018-2019
- Committee Report 1-18(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Elections, Supplementary Recommendations and the White Paper on the Independence and Accountability of Election Administration in the Northwest Territories
- Committee Report 2-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 Public Accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.