



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 19, 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 of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 8-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 911 PROGRAM**

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to improving access to services and enhancing community wellness and safety through the implementation of a territorial 911 program. I would like to describe some of the key steps the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has taken to ensure that 911 becomes a reality for the territory and that the 911 program benefits all the communities.

In May, a 911 program manager was hired to design a culturally respectful, made-in-the-North 911 program. The program will be based on best practices and established standards. It will foster community wellness and safety for all communities of the Northwest Territories. Consistent with other Government of the Northwest Territories programming, translation services will be available, and our 911 service will be offered in the territories' 11 official languages.

In July, key community stakeholders met to inform the initial stages of the legislative development. The feedback received from stakeholders, along with the program design, will be the basis for an appropriate and responsive legislative framework for our territorial 911 system. I intend to introduce this legislation in 2018.

In August, industry experts were hired to help identify required information technologies and phone systems to be used in the future 911 program. We must ensure systems are adequate to handle the services and that robust privacy safeguards are in place. Mr. Speaker, a communication plan will soon be implemented and

information about the Northwest Territories 911 program will be made available on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website. The 911 program page will be updated often as the program design is finalized and key decisions are made.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of work is under way to validate earlier planning assumptions. The work will be complete in December, at which time we will decide on a final operational model and implementation plan. Ultimately, the goal is to develop a 911 program that is representative of the Northwest Territories' needs and operating environment.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing an update to my colleagues on the final design, and, shortly afterwards, a briefing to the Standing Committee on Government Operations. At this time, I am happy to confirm the Northwest Territories 911 program is on track to go live for every community by summer 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 9-18(3):
SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SENIORS
ACROSS THE NORTH**

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, over the past year the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has continued to make and implement significant changes in its programs for families, seniors, and students across the Northwest Territories. Last year, the federal government announced the new Canada Child Benefit. We revised our Income Assistance Program so that the new federal benefit is not counted as income for our clients. This change ensures all Northwest Territories' residents with families receive the full benefit of this new federal program.

Also, through a joint initiative with the Department of Finance, this past July we enhanced the Northwest Territories Child Benefit. This benefit now provides additional financial support to more low- to modest-income families with children. The NWT Child Benefit now reaches more Northwest Territories families, because we increased the combined income threshold to receive this benefit

from \$30,000 to \$80,000. More than 2,200 families are now benefitting from these changes. As well, the territory-wide implementation of junior kindergarten has provided opportunities for significant financial benefits to families, and reducing their cost of living. Parents of four-year-old children in junior kindergarten will save up to \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, most recently, we increased support for low-income seniors through the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit. Effective September 1, 2017, the monthly amount of the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit was increased to \$196. Northwest Territories senior citizens who are receiving the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement automatically receive the NWT Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit on the same cheque. Approximately 1,200 seniors across the Northwest Territories are receiving this benefit.

Also under the banner of our income security programs, I would like to provide Members with an update on the Northern Bonus offered through our Student Financial Assistance program. Since 2015, we have promoted the Northern Bonus to encourage post-secondary students to return or move to the Northwest Territories. The Northern Bonus is applied to a person's student loan account up to a maximum of \$2,000 per eligible year, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000. Residents who received a Northwest Territories' student loan and who have lived in the Northwest Territories for 12 consecutive months after ceasing to be a full-time student may apply.

There is no limit on the annual number of Northern Bonus applications for Northwest Territories-issued student loans. I am happy to say that we have approved 420 applicants since September 2016, totalling \$741,383. We offer a similar incentive to residents who have received student loans from Canada, a province or a territory other than the Northwest Territories. For these students, there is a limit of 100 applications accepted per year. I am pleased to advise that this initiative has been fully subscribed to for both 2016 and 2017.

Mr. Speaker, these improved programs are critical to the well-being and independence of residents across the Northwest Territories. These improvements help us reduce poverty, foster healthy families, and develop and grow our workforce. These improvements support the 18th Legislative Assembly's priorities to reduce the cost of living, foster healthy families, improve the affordability of childcare, develop and grow our workforce, and reduce poverty. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 10-18(3):
CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORK NEXT STEPS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NWT is on the front lines of climate change and has been experiencing its impacts for decades. Our government is committed to addressing the threats that climate change poses to the sustainability of our communities and the way of life of our residents. The Government of the Northwest Territories is actively engaged in a comprehensive and coordinated response to climate change by developing a Climate Change Strategic Framework, which will guide our efforts on climate change from 2018 to 2030.

This week, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, also known as OAG, released an independent audit report on climate change in the Northwest Territories. Environment and Natural Resources worked proactively with the OAG during the audit process and appreciates the work that has been done. We look forward to using the results of this audit to improve and finalize our planning around energy and climate change adaptation and mitigation in our territory. Mr. Speaker, the draft Climate Change Strategic Framework has three key areas of focus: ensuring we have a strong understanding of the impacts of climate change; protecting our communities through adaptation and resilience planning; and mitigating our greenhouse gas emissions.

The draft framework, which was developed through extensive public engagement, is set to be released for further external review by Indigenous governments, stakeholders, and the public in the coming weeks. The input gathered from this review, combined with the comments from the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment and the recommendations arising from the OAG Report, will guide the GNWT as we finalize the framework.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources plans to table the final document in the Legislative Assembly during the spring session, after which an action plan will be developed. Working together with the Department of Infrastructure, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working to ensure planning is aligned across government in order to ensure we achieve our goal of transitioning to a strong, healthy economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels and where our residents and communities are resilient and adaptive in the face of a changing climate.

As a small jurisdiction acutely challenged by the impacts of climate change, we have shown leadership over the past decade with actions that respond to the impacts we are experiencing. Our government has invested millions in adaptation

efforts related to climate change, alternative energy projects, energy retrofits, improved transportation infrastructure and improved building standards. These efforts are ongoing and will be further supported by the staffing of our new community adaptation specialist position, hired specifically to help communities identify and implement local resilience and adaptation initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, various research and monitoring initiatives within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are already tracking climate change impacts. These include government and community-based water monitoring programs, the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program, various wildlife research programs, and the GNWT Knowledge Agenda. The GNWT plans to build on this work by supporting further community involvement in the identification, planning, and completion of climate change-related research and monitoring efforts. At the national level, the GNWT is doing its part to honour our commitments under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Canada is committed to a 30 per cent reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and the GNWT has committed to a similar goal for our territory.

New adaptation funding opportunities at the federal level are anticipated to emerge later this year, and in 2018, under the Pan-Canadian Framework. Our government is actively pursuing federal funding to develop further adaptation initiatives. Mr. Speaker, audits are critical for evaluating what was done in the past and providing useful input for the future as we continue to fulfill our commitment to protecting the northern environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 11-18(3):
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NWT AGRICULTURE
STRATEGY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, our government believes we can foster a future in which agriculture entrepreneurs have the tools to succeed and each region can grow and harvest locally produced food. The Northwest Territories Agriculture Strategy is the blueprint with which we intend to grow the economic viability of our agriculture sector. The revised mandate commits this government to expanding the agriculture sector by implementing this strategy, improving access to agricultural lands, updating agricultural funding programs, and supporting training for commercial farmers. The strategy outlines the actions we must take, the investments we must make, and the legislative tools that need to be put in place in order to achieve this commitment. Mr. Speaker, this is no small task, but since tabling the strategy this past

spring, we have been working to advance the implementation of this strategy in a number of areas.

I am pleased today to announce a partnership with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to complete bylaws surrounding backyard agriculture. This project will see the association develop three Backyard Agriculture Smart Management Practices alongside associated bylaws for use across the Northwest Territories. Specifically, these template bylaws will cover backyard chickens, beekeeping, and backyard goats. They will be made available to Northwest Territories municipalities to be tailored to reflect their specific community needs. As the agriculture sector in our North grows, our communities are keen to advance local farming and food growing initiatives. This policy development is a crucial step in guiding grassroots agriculture in our territory and supporting the transition to commercial enterprises while protecting public trust and public safety.

Our partnership with the NWTAC is just one of many in which we are working to advance the implementation of the NWT Agriculture Strategy. We also worked this summer with the Inuvik Greenhouse Society to deliver Train the Trainer programs to community garden societies in each of the Beaufort Delta communities. The pilot program included the creation of community greenhouse coordinators. These community members were instrumental in helping to build local food-growing capacity by providing training and support all season long.

We were pleased this summer to support Polar Eggs, our largest and most successful commercial agriculture venture, with a marketing initiative to launch their six-egg carton. ITI is also supporting their work to gain a greater market share in the NWT, in particular by accessing our smaller remote communities. Mr. Speaker, as we move forward from our Mid-Term Review process, we do so with three priorities for the implementation of the NWT Agriculture Strategy: to improve access to agricultural land; to update agricultural funding programs; and to support training for commercial farmers.

Access to agricultural land is the biggest of these challenges, but, while we are the lead department, this is not something that we can do on our own. We have formed a working group across the GNWT departments to help us identify solutions. In particular, we are working with the Department of Lands to complete policy work regarding the leasing of lands for agricultural purposes. This work will continue throughout the winter. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are assessing our support for the NWT growers and producers.

Under the Growing Forward partnership with the federal government, we will once again invest \$1.2 million in programs and initiatives to support and grow the NWT agriculture sector this year. This funding program, however, will soon transition to the up-and-coming Canadian Agricultural Partnership, and it is providing a timely opportunity to assess our agriculture programming. We are doing just that. We have sent surveys to stakeholders across the territory to help us determine how they utilize our agriculture programming and what improvements or changes they would like to see. Their response and input will inform the program guidelines that are put in place with the new agreement.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we will also be focusing on the resources that we must provide to support commercial agriculture, specifically, to thrive and grow. The Agriculture Conference in Hay River this last weekend helped us to begin this important conversation. We were pleased with the participation of growers and producers who took part in discussions aimed at helping them grow their food business. It was an opportunity to talk about where our industry should go, and how we should work together to advance our collective goals. Goals, Mr. Speaker, that are reflected in the vision of the NWT Agriculture Strategy: to increase the diversity, amount, and value of foods and goods produced in the NWT for the betterment of all communities and residents in the Northwest Territories.

We know there is a lot of work left to do. We're committed to seeing it through, and I look forward to pushing the emergence of our agriculture sector and growing the demand for safe, affordable, locally grown food choices which will create business and entrepreneurial opportunities to strengthen and diversify the NWT economy overall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 12-18(3):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be absent from the House for today and tomorrow to attend the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Health meeting in Edmonton, Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that resource development is one of the most important assets of the NWT's economy. We've also learned that, when we move big projects forward, we'd better figure out how we're going to clean them up when production ends. That's where we're at with Giant Mine. The remediation of Giant will be a project almost as big as if it were a new mine development. It will involve nearly a billion dollars in spending around Yellowknife and the NWT. The remediation project will need a skilled workforce, and it will involve opportunities for local Indigenous businesses. The question is, Mr. Speaker: are we ready?

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we need to be consulting with and learning from the Giant Mine Remediation project team. What skills and trades will be in demand? What kinds of small business support will be needed? What opportunities are there for our businesses and residents to find long-term, meaningful employment? What will we be doing to keep those dollars at home here in the NWT? This project will place demands on our infrastructure. It will rely on our transportation and hospitality sectors, vehicles and maintenance, accommodations, and food. Services of all kinds will be needed. Long-term jobs will create opportunities for workers and their families who will need homes, schools, healthcare, and infrastructure. Another big demand will be the energy needed to make such a project possible. Mr. Speaker, the Giant project may be up and running at the same time as a new TerraX gold mine. TerraX has already identified energy availability as one of its biggest challenges. If TerraX and Giant are on-stream at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the demand will be even greater. I ask again: will we be ready?

Mr. Speaker, this project represents a new opportunity for Yellowknife and the NWT. Jobs, growth, training, skills and trades, secondary industries, are needed to support the people and the infrastructure this project will demand. In the interests of our mandate objectives of economic diversification, training, and growth, we need to be prepared. So I'm asking, Mr. Speaker: are we doing enough to make sure we're ready to capture these opportunities when they come? At the appropriate time, I'll have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DISPARITY BETWEEN EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL
HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS AND THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, according to the Housing Corporation's annual report, local housing organization, or LHOs, operate as agents of the corporation in most NWT communities. Under agreement with the corporation and overseen by an advisory board, each LHO provides a wide range of local property management services. Local is the key word here. As the Minister pointed out in a recent statement, when NWT residents have access to an LHO, they have access to timely, responsive, and relevant services right in their home community. They are able to take ownership in the local delivery of government programs.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker; this is good work, and the Housing Corporation is moving in the right direction when they help communities establish new LHOs, but there is still disparity, and this disparity is distressing for my constituents who have brought this to my attention. Let me explain. When a community doesn't have an LHO, property management work is handled by the Housing Corporation district office. This means it's handled by workers who are part of the public service, with all the benefits of being in the public service.

Mr. Speaker, the same work in a community with an LHO will be done by workers without those benefits. Mandatory leave with pay, the so-called "Donny Days," is one example, but it isn't the only one. I know the Minister isn't responsible for labour agreements between existing LHOs and their staff, and I know that our communities are well-served when LHOs can help residents engage locally with essential programs and services. Nevertheless, there is a question of fairness here, a question that needs asking. I want to bring this matter to the Minister's attention so that, when the Housing Corporation continues its work to improve community capacity, the people on the ground, the ones actually doing the work, won't be short-changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HIGHWAY PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, a while back, I received a visit in my office from a constituent, Nicholas Reimer. He is a grade 3 student at Harry Camsell school, my alma mater. He had concerns about the safety of some of the pedestrian highway

crossings at Hay River. I share his concerns, as do other constituents I have spoken with. I wanted to bring those concerns to the floor of the House today. By my count, we now have two official pedestrian crosswalks on the highway in Hay River: one by the health centre, and one from 553 to the Red Rooster. The health centre crosswalk is brand new and has bright LEDs that catch motorists' attention. On the other hand, the crosswalk by the Red Rooster has been there as long as I can remember. These lights are quite dim compared to the health centre crosswalk, and they are not always very noticeable.

Five-five-three is probably the most densely populated part of town, so there are a lot of people, including a lot of kids, who use that crosswalk every day. That is especially true in the summer months, when the long days mean it's even harder to see the lights. It would be nice to see Hay River North get the same bright LEDs for its crosswalk that the Minister had installed in his own constituency. Like I said earlier, we have two official pedestrian crossings on the highway in Hay River, but we have some unofficial ones, as well. The one that I have heard the most concerns about is actually on the border of our two constituencies. It runs from Poplar Road in the industrial area to behind the soup kitchen. Not everyone who works in the industrial area has a vehicle, so in the morning, at lunch, and after work, you often see people waiting for a break in the traffic to dart across. Again, I often see kids crossing here to go to their after-school jobs. If you look at the satellite images on Google Maps, you can actually see the walking trails worn into the ground leading up to the highway at this crossing.

Now, I don't want to slow people down when they're trying to where they are going. I am not saying we need a full set of lights at every de facto pedestrian crossing on the highway. I want to make sure we are doing what we can to keep people safe. Obviously, people should be using the official crosswalks, but it is not always practical to walk a couple kilometres out of your way and then trudge through the ditch. I will have questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. Hopefully, he will have some positive answers for me and Nicholas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CLEAN-UP OF SACRED VENT HOLE OF
TTHENAAGO

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, reclamation of traditional lands is of utmost importance to the First Nations of this country and of my riding. Recently, a sacred vent hole in the community of Nahanni Butte had been

blocked by an RCMP radio tower. This tower was built in the 1980s, and since then, elders have not forgotten the significance of the location. In August of 2016, the community of Nahanni Butte requested the removal of the RCMP radio tower blocking the Sacred Vent Hole of Tthenaago. A little over a year later, I am happy to report the vent hole has been unblocked and the site has been cleaned up.

According to traditional Dene legend, there were once giant beavers roaming the region. The Great Spirit used his walking stick to poke a hole in the top of the mountain to scare the beavers out and chase them down the river of the Deh Cho.

The main tower was dismantled by the RCMP in July 2017, and the large concrete base covering the vent hole was removed. Upon the inspection of the site later that month, an elder and a member of the community noticed that there were still leftover concrete and boulders located at the base of the trench that were blocking small vent holes and other materials that needed to be cleaned up from the site. The Nahanni Butte Dene Band reached out for assistance to remove the remaining debris, and our government was quick to accommodate their needs.

On Thursday, September 7th, ENR provided a helicopter and a four-man field crew to assist the chief, band manager, and locals in the cleaning up of the site of the sacred vent hole. Coincidentally, this was the same day that the community was evacuated due to the rapid expansion of the fire nearby because of a huge wind. Coincidence? I don't think so. Mr. Speaker, cleaning up the sacred vent hole was very important to the community, especially to the elders. They have witnessed the recovery of the sacred vent hole.

I would like to thank the ENR and the RCMP for working promptly with the community to have this issue addressed. I would also like to thank the Minister and department staff for working with us on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, departmental strategies are sound prudent management systems and strengthens vision for direction. I know I have mentioned this a number of times because we have a number of strategies out there.

Entering the two years remaining in our term draws attention to the more implementation of strategies

and achievable targets. It is incumbent on us to hold accountable and transparent government.

Mr. Speaker, action plans are developed with targets, measurable to the success of these strategies. Above all, education through consultation is just as important to the public's expectations of their government's direction.

Being innovative on government programs for maximum benefits through an intergovernmental or interdepartmental forum, this model exists today. We can look at the Anti-Poverty Conference. The structure is meaningful and going to be held at the end of next month in Norman Wells.

Mr. Speaker, this will be a template for similar joint initiatives. On this principle, I will later have questions for the Minister of ITI on two upcoming strategies, one referred to today. Thank you. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN MANUFACTURING OF MODULAR HOMES

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the demand for public housing outstrips our financial capacity to provide it. It's a game of catch-up that has no end in sight.

In June of last year, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation announced a potential solution, to have northern manufacturers build modular homes that could be shipped to communities across the NWT. The Housing Corporation publicly tendered a design-build request for proposals in April of last year for 39 units. After evaluating 16 proposals, a large contract was awarded to Concept Energy Services in Hay River for 19 two-bedroom duplexes, and a much smaller contract for one two-bedroom standalone unit was awarded to Energy Wall Building Products here in Yellowknife. I have been unable to find the contracts the Minister promised to post on the GNWTs Contract Events Opportunity Website, so I am not sure of the dollar value. The Concept Energy Services contract is obviously worth millions. Work was scheduled to be complete by the end of March this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister heralded the modular housing contracts as a game changer. She said it would spawn a new northern manufacturing industry. It would create more than 100 jobs. It would serve the private sector as well as government. The modular homes would cost between 25 and 40 per cent less than stick built homes. The homes would be energy efficient and

built to withstand northern winters. Mr. Speaker, it looked like a win-win situation. Fast forward to today. There are three contract opportunities now available to finish three partially completed two-bedroom duplexes in Ulukhaktok. Ulukhaktok was one of the destinations for the modular homes being produced in Hay River. Are these the same modular homes? How much money has the government already paid for these modulars? My fear is that a promising idea hasn't panned out. Instead of being a game changer, the northern manufacturing of modular homes is a bust. I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONSENSUS GOVERNMENT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, during debate in this esteemed House, some Honourable Members took our unique form of consensus government to task in its failure to deliver a binding result of non-confidence in a Member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear in stating my opinion that events surrounding the Mid-Term Review do not represent a failure of consensus government. Rather, it was a failure of good governance. Consensus government is not defined by how we choose our leaders or how we hold them accountable. Our system is based on the role of Honourable Members to get their fingerprints on legislation and spending decisions. Through our strong committee system and generous information sharing between Cabinet and Regular Members, each Member is afforded great opportunities to contribute to the development of our laws and how public funds are invested in our communities.

Good governance is another matter, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing inherent to consensus government that prohibits accountability mechanisms like the Mid-Term Review. In respect to holding government accountable, Regular Members serve as an unofficial opposition and work to represent the concerns of their constituents when government is failing to deliver results. Suggestions that accountability mechanisms like the Mid-Term Review or opposing what the Cabinet and Premier bring forward is party politics is simply false, Mr. Speaker. It is part of our jobs as Regular Members. It is the duty of this side of the House to ask tough questions and, yes, to make tough decisions when Cabinet is not performing in its duties.

Mr. Speaker, I share the frustration of my honourable friends on this side of the House who have criticized Cabinet's outrageous approach to the Mid-Term Review. They acted in bad faith. I

think we deserve an apology, and the people of the Northwest Territories deserve an apology for how they handled the Mid-Term Review. But I do not believe that consensus government is dead, nor do I believe that it is dying. Now is the time for reform, to strengthen our ability as Regular Members to hold government to account, and to establish new, transparent rules and conventions that will restore trust in the public that our government is accountable to the people it serves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AUDIT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Yesterday, the Auditor General of Canada released a very critical report on our government's management of climate change. Every jurisdiction in Canada is undergoing a similar audit to allow for some comparisons, best practices, and lessons learned, with a roll-up final report in 2018. While the NWT is a very small contributor to Canada's GHG emissions at 0.2 per cent, the effects are already being felt here, and we will experience some of the greatest impacts. We must do our fair share of mitigation and adaptation.

Environment and Natural Resources was reviewed as the lead department responsible for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The Department of Infrastructure was also reviewed in terms of its energy efficiency mandate and impacts on infrastructure. The audit reviewed whether the departments took adequate steps to meet stated commitments on mitigation and adaptation.

The audit found, and these are direct quotes, Mr. Speaker, that:

- ENR did not develop a territorial strategy to adapt to climate change;
- ENR did not fulfill its commitment to provide departments and communities with information needed to take action on climate change;
- The territorial greenhouse gas strategy did not have a significant impact on reducing emission levels; and
- ENR did not address long-standing deficiencies affecting its leadership on climate change.

These are very serious findings that do not reflect well on our climate change efforts and commitments. Clearly, climate change has not been

a priority of this government, even though it is contained in our mandate.

The Premier signed on to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change in December 2016. That agreement sets a crystal clear target for GHG reductions of 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This is what we promised, and it needs to form the core of the upcoming Climate Change Strategic Framework. If our framework does not clearly demonstrate a set of actions to achieve such reductions, any applications for or access to federal funding assistance is at serious risk. I will have questions later today for the ENR Minister on how this recent audit will inform the development of the Climate Change Strategic Framework. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR JOSEPH MAURICE NORN

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.] Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2017, many people, including myself, lost a good friend in Joe Norn. In his younger days, Joe was known as "Sonny." Joe was born on May 19, 1946, and was given the name Joseph Maurice Norn. Joe was born to Albert and Ernestine Norn. Ernestine was a Lafferty, and her mom was Catherine Beaulieu before she married Napoleon Lafferty.

Mr. Speaker, Joe had many relatives from the Beaulieu, Lafferty, and Norn families and even has some relatives here in the House. Mr. Speaker, I met Joe Norn when I was a kid and watched him box around the NWT. He was an excellent boxer and also fought in northern Alberta. Some of his friends called him "Smoking Joe."

Mr. Speaker, Joe is survived by his spouse Vitaline Lafferty; siblings Nora Rhineland, Joan Delorme, Stan Norn; adoptive child, Angel Lafferty, and many stepchildren. Mr. Speaker, Joe is predeceased by his parents, Albert and Ernestine Norn; grandparents, Napoleon and Catherine Lafferty, George and Helen Norn; and siblings, Marcel, Ernest, Herbert, Walter, Bill, Lena, and Leona.

Mr. Speaker, my sincere condolences go to the late Joe Norn and all his family and friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family as well. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife South.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome chief medical officers from across Canada who are meeting in Yellowknife this week for the annual meeting of the Provincial Territorial Medical Advisors. We are in good hands here today.

Those joining us here today include Dr. Stephanie Starks, Yukon Health and Social Services; Dr. Ray Dkystra, BC Ministry of Health; Dr. Cliff Fabian, BC Ministry of Health; Dr. Neil Hagen, Alberta Health; Dr. Jude Coutinho, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; Dr. Bruno Rainville, Regie de l'assurance maladie du Quebec; Dr. Anne Tweed, Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness; and Dr. Helmut Unruh, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living. Welcome. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to our great territory. Masi for being here with us. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize two Pages, Satee Antoine and Destiny Klee, and the chaperone Lisa Moses, for coming here, and I thank them very much for their hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKERS: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, thanks for being here with us. It is always a pleasure to have guests as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 25-18(3): MOOSE HARVESTING CONCERNS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my last home visit, I heard a large number of concerns about the lack of moose in the area. There were concerns that some hunters were taking cows and that overhunting is occurring in the areas, as well as the lack of accountability when it comes to keeping track of the number of moose being taken from the region. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of ENR tell us if his department keeps track of the number of moose being taken yearly during the hunting season, and if not, why? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, harvest from licensed resident hunters is estimated from an annual survey. Results are sorted into three large areas:

Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Inuvik, for the whole of the NWT. For the 2015-2016 hunting season, I can inform this House that 182 moose were harvested by residents of the NWT. An additional 76 bulls were harvested by licensed non-resident hunters through outfitted and guided hunts in the Mackenzie Mountains that help bring money into our communities. The moose harvest by general hunting licence holders or people exercising an Aboriginal harvesting right within their traditional area is not tracked, or if it is by an Aboriginal government, it is not shared with the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: Mahsi cho to the Minister for that answer. As I previously stated, there has been a number of cows being taken. This is a huge concern for the community and elders alike. We all know that taking a cow has a huge impact on our moose population. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister have his department look into doing a five-year ban on hunting cow moose to help increase the moose population?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Regular moose surveys in the Deh Cho region have shown a fairly stable trend and no evidence of any decline in the Mackenzie Valley. There was a community meeting in Fort Liard at the beginning of the month, and we actually heard that moose numbers in the Liard area have improved recently. Also, some of the other Deh Cho communities have not raised concerns over the moose population. I can inform the House that the next moose survey in the Deh Cho region is planned for November 2017 and February 2018, after which we will assess the population trend.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. I guess we are talking to different people, because when I was back home, they were saying there was a huge decline in my area and a number of communities. Fort Liard Road was one of the places where people were taking moose from outside the region.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, there has been a ban from allowing hunters from hunting from the side of the road. It is my understanding from the residents this may have been stopped. Can the Minister advise if the department has revised their policy and regulations to stop hunting from the side of the road?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Specific regulations to ban hunting from the side of the road may not be needed. The Wildlife Act already has provisions to ensure dangerous harvesting practices are not occurring, specifically, no person shall discharge firearm, bow and arrow, or anything that pass along and travel portions of highway while hunting of wildlife.

Also, no person can harvest wildlife without due regard for the safety of others, and that is just common sense as well for property. This applies to all licenced hunters in the GNWT as well as harvesters with Aboriginal harvest right within their recreational area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. I guess there are some concerns from the residents of my area. People are hunting from the road and there is a safety concern out there, so I greatly appreciate the answer and understand the rules, but we need to find out how we can enforce it. Is the Minister willing to come to my riding to do a regional tour to meet with the residents to hear about their concerns and other issues they have with ENR first hand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would be pleased to accompany the Member on a tour of his riding and hear from the folks in his riding. I will also give the invitations out to all the Members opposite that, if there is an opportunity for you to go to their riding and explain some of the work that we are doing within ENR, I would be pleased to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 26-18(3): MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. In the summer of 2016, her department awarded a contract of Concept Energy Services in Hay River to construct 19 modular duplexes to communities throughout the NWT. How many of those duplexes have been completed and how many have been shipped to their destinations? Mahsi.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, what we have is eight of the 19 buildings are now partially completed. We have three that are in Ulukhaktok, one in Inuvik destined for Fort McPherson, and four are now under construction in Concept's Hay River facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Unfortunately, the contract is not publicly available, or at least I can't find it. Can the Minister tell me whether the completion rate, that is an eight out of 19, and the partial completion meet

the terms of the contract with Concept Energy Services?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: No, the original contract completion dates were between March and June 2017. There were some delays that have been happening, so at this point they have not met the completion date.

MS. GREEN: What action is the Minister taking to either revoke the contract with Concept Energy Services or work with Concept Energy Services to have the terms and conditions met?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: At this point, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is exploring all of the options that are available to us to ensure that all of the houses actually meet their needs within the communities. Our number one foot priority is to ensure that homes are in communities. That is why some of the units actually were pulled into Ulukhaktok and like I say, partially completed as the Honourable Member pointed out, because we were conscious that they needed to meet the barge. So we are working diligently. Our number one focus is to make sure that we have houses in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to know whether the Minister can make the contract available so that we on this side can see what the terms and conditions are. In addition, I wonder if she could tell us whether these units were paid for in advance or whether they are going to be paid for when they are complete. What is the situation with the money? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I believe those were two questions, but I will answer them. I do apologize. I had said that the contracts would be available on the procurement website and for some reason, I have learned that there is some issue with not getting them on there. If the Member would like, I will be able to provide her with a manual copy of the contract. I will commit to doing that.

As for the money, some money was provided up front to help. It is not a normal practice, but it was provided up front to support the manufacturing strategy and recognizing that this is a new strategy that we are trying. To date, though, there is no upfront money. The money has been recouped for the work done, so there is no money that is with Concept at this point that is owing to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. We will not make any further payments until the products are complete or near completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 27-18(3):

HAY RIVER PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPGRADE

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I spoke about safety concerns about highway crossings in Hay River that were brought to my attention. One issue was about how bright, or rather dim, the lights are at the crosswalk by the Red Rooster. I would like to ask the Minister of Infrastructure if we can upgrade those lights so that they are brighter and more noticeable similar to the ones at the new health centre crossing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a difference between the two lightings at the two crossings in Hay River. The one that we just put up at the Hay River Hospital has the latest technology that has been introduced right across the country. Moving forward, the department has a program that we are going to install the latest version within this fiscal year at this crossing at the Red Rooster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: That is good news. My constituents will be happy to hear that. I would like the Minister to confirm that this upgrade is only to the electrical portions of the crosswalk, just to the lighting. I know that yesterday we discussed the Frank Channel Bridge has been delayed because Industry said that it would rather -- they want to bring wide loads through and high loads through. I know the new crosswalk in Hay River, the arms on it don't swivel so there is a limit to the loads it can go under. I want to make sure that we are going to keep the swivelling arms on this crosswalk and just upgrade to electrical. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: This is correct. We are going to be installing the new flashing beacons that are the LED ones similar to the or exactly the same as the ones at the hospital, but we will also be changing the panels that house those lights.

MR. SIMPSON: I also discussed the unofficial highway crossing at Poplar Road. Has the department considered installing some type of crossing lights here, or even signs warning motorists that there are pedestrians on this highway? Has that been looked into at all?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: When we consider new crosswalks anywhere in the communities, or in particular on the highway system, there are a number of factors that are involved. We have to figure in the projected traffic flows, the type of traffic, the volume of traffic, the width of the

highway, the speed limit, all these sorts of things, but we also sit down with the community and talk to the RCMP about these types of things. I can commit to having the department have a conversation with the Town of Hay River and the RCMP for consideration.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good to hear, that the Minister is going to sit down and have that conversation. I will just ask: would the Minister keep me informed of this so I can keep Nicholas informed of the progress we are making? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, I will keep the Member informed as this progresses. Just as a note, if there is a consideration of doing something, adding a crosswalk to a highway system in the Northwest Territories, the cost is approximately \$40,000 and takes 12 weeks to complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 28-18(3):
CLIMATE CHANGE AUDIT AND STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and his leadership role for our climate change efforts. In my statement, I summarized the findings of the audit released yesterday that clearly shows our failures as a government to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our GHG strategies fail to reduce emissions. We did not provide information to allow others to take action on climate change and we have serious long-standing deficiencies affecting ENR leadership on climate change have not been addressed.

For the Minister, and I would like some specifics if he can because I certainly gave him a heads up before today or the question session today, what lessons have been learned from this audit and how are we applying them to the upcoming Climate Change Strategic Framework? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I want to do is assure the people of the Northwest Territories that the sky is not falling down and we will still continue to have clean climate and we are taking steps to address that. ENR staff have worked very closely with the Office of the Auditor General over the last year.

During the time that the Climate Change Strategic Framework was already under development and the input received during the audit is being incorporated and addressed in the address CCSF, the Climate Change Strategic Framework. The Auditor General's Office can only assess work that is being completed, so they were unable to take into account the work that was already under way by ENR to address leadership, sharing information, reporting on results through the development of the Climate Change Strategic Framework. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. I am no Chicken Little, and it is not my leadership that is being questioned by the Auditor General here on climate change. It is this government's. ENR and Infrastructure undertook joint public engagement on the development of an energy strategy in Climate Change Strategic Framework.

That work was done months ago and a draft energy strategy is now out for further public consultation. There has been no public recording on the status of the Climate Change Framework until earlier today. Why is the Climate Change Strategic Framework lagging so far behind the energy strategy? I would like to get a response from the Minister on that.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Climate Change Strategic Framework is not significantly lagging behind the energy strategy work. The CCSF, and I will use by its initials, is currently going through an internal approval process. I can inform this House and people who are listening that we did get Cabinet approval this morning to go to the next stage so that it will be released now to Aboriginal government stakeholders and the public for review and comment.

The energy strategy is currently out for public review, which is a stage that the Climate Change Strategic Framework will be going through approval for. The Climate Change Strategic Framework is also being developed based on the key elements of the Pan Canadian Framework on clean growth and climate change, which was developed over the last couple of years.

Our release for external review was slightly behind the energy strategy, which is correct, so our mission targets within the 2030 Energy Strategy and key elements from the Pan Canadian Framework will be reflected in the Climate Change Strategic Framework as well as recommendations from the Auditor General's Office.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that, and I look forward to getting the document shortly. The Minister did talk about how GNWT signed onto the Pan Canadian Framework on Climate Change, and that happened in December of last year. That

agreement sets a crystal clear target for greenhouse gas reductions of 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This is a very important target and commitment that we will need to adhere to, otherwise we cannot reasonably expect to get any federal funding assistance.

I would like to get a very clear confirmation from the Minister that this target in the Pan Canadian Framework, the 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, is that going to be explicitly set out in the Climate Change Strategic Framework with a plan of action to achieve that target?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, the overall target for NWT greenhouse gas emissions is a reduction of 30 per cent at the 2005 levels as per the Pan Canadian Framework. We are working with the federal government. They have made opportunities for investment into help us mitigate and adapt to some of the challenges that we are facing, which will in turn help us reach the 30 per cent by 2030.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that very clear commitment. One more question for him, if I may, Mr. Speaker: the audit shows that there is often a flurry of activity around the adoption of a greenhouse gas strategy and then efforts to monitor and report quickly wane. We know that, if we don't get our act together, we may be ineligible for federal program funding. How does the ENR Minister intend to ensure that climate change becomes a real priority for this government with the attention and leadership it clearly requires and as called for by the Auditor General? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I believe there has been leadership shown by territorial government, past and present, on the work in climate change. We recognize and we are at the front line of climate change so we are feeling the effects a lot quicker than people across the country. In having said that, I think this government has invested a lot of money into some mitigation and adaptation measures. We will continue to work with the federal government. They have made it known that climate change is also a priority of theirs. They are willing to put some money into the mitigation of the effects of climate change. I think we are in, through all of the good work that has gone on from the departments, I think we have positioned ourselves very good to take advantage of some of the investments that the federal government. We will just continue to push that. Debates like we are having in the House today will also strengthen our case as we go forward to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 29-18(3):
DIFFERENCES IN EMPLOYMENT TERMS
BETWEEN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HOUSING CORPORATION AND LOCAL
HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's Statement. I have questions for the Minister responsible for Housing. Mr. Speaker, I believe some constituents may be listening in right now. Can the Minister explain the working relationship between the Housing Corporation and the local housing organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the relationship between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the local housing organizations is as a third party entity in that we contract out our services to provide supports on the ground for the housing units that are built in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: At the moment, LHOs have to take leave without pay during the Christmas holidays. Does the Minister feel that this is fair?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I just want to remind the Regular Member that, before I came into politics, I came from the non-profit sector, which didn't get paid for holidays as well based on if it is fair or not. The reality is that that is not our determination. We fund each local housing organization at a comparable rate to Government of the Northwest Territories levels. Each local housing organization has the ability to define their pay and their benefits and their compensations to their employees themselves. Those wages and benefits are determined by their board of directors. Some of the local housing organizations, 12 actually, are actually unionized. That, again, is not a requirement. That is an independent decision.

In conclusion, we fund them appropriate to the government's wages that are paid to government employees, and then the board of directors for each individual housing organization defines what they are going to do with that funding.

MR. BLAKE: I would like to ask the Minister: will the Minister ensure employees of the local housing authorities have the same benefits, for example, Donny Days?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: It is a really fine line that that Member is asking me to consider, in all honesty, because I do believe in self-determination, and I think that allowing the local housing organizations to have autonomy and determination of how they use their funding is best practice, in my opinion.

I can commit that I would recommend we meet with the local housing organizations on an annual basis. I can bring this up as a topic of discussion, but at this point, no, I am not willing to instruct local housing organizations on what to do with their compensation, the funding that we provide them for administering their programs.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there is a little communication gap between what the Minister is saying and the LHOs, because, according to the LHOs that I have been speaking to, they are sort of directed through their budgeting that they cannot take leave with pay. I would just like to ensure that, if the Minister is correct, that she relays that information to myself so that I could pass that on to my LHOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: If the MLA sends me an e-mail, I will actually address that to him and more to define exactly what he is looking for. Again, I must state that there are 12 of the 23 local housing organizations that are actually unionized, which in my impression is that it is really hard to tell unionized workers what to do because they are unionized. That does not itself state that they have autonomy over what they do with their funding, and like I say, each one is funded fairly. They are paid based on what we would pay government workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 30-18(3):
OPPORTUNITIES FROM GIANT MINE
REMEDICATION PROJECT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. In my statement earlier today, I spoke of the need to make sure that we are ready to take advantage of the opportunities that might be before us as it relates to the Giant Mine Remediation Project. We, of course, want to see some opportunity for local business and local employment, and since ENR is the GNWT's lead on the Giant Mine Remediation Project, can the Minister outline what opportunities

will be available under the final remediation plan when we go forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The priority of the Giant Mine Project is to maximize possible economic opportunities to Indigenous, northern, and local residents and businesses. The contracts for the main construction manager for Giant Mine will be awarded, my understanding is, by the end of December of this year. The purpose of the main construction manager would be to develop and procure subcontractors for the delivery of the project, and by dividing the project into smaller work packages, local employment and business opportunities can be maximized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Hearing from him as it relates to dividing the contracts into smaller work packages, this is good news. I have seen this done before, and it has worked well in the past. Mr. Speaker, there is going to be a lot of responsibility that the GNWT is going to have in this project as we move forward. There will be a lot of overlap going on between a number of our departments, whether it is Environment, Industry, Education, and the like. I would like to ask the Minister: how is the GNWT preparing for opportunities associated with Giant Mine?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Departments of ENR, ITI, ECE, and Infrastructure have established a working committee to provide advice to the project and assess ways in which the GNWT programs can be tailored and maximized to prepare NWT residents and businesses for opportunities with this project.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Again, thank you to the Minister for his reply. It is good to hear that we are being prepared in that record. Mr. Speaker, we have heard all kinds of numbers when it comes to potential employment, anywhere between 200 to 300 jobs potentially. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker: is there a good understanding of the current labour and skills required in order to help go forward with the Giant Mine Remediation Project?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: ENR is part of the Giant Mine Project team and is making sure that GNWT interests are considered in the design and implementation of the project. The project has carried out and is currently revising a labour study to assess the labour market and identify gaps in skill and services in the NWT. This will allow the project team and GNWT departments to focus our training and capacity building to maximize opportunities in the NWT.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: bee Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, again, I appreciate the insight shared by the Minister. It is good to hear about the labour study, and I am glad to hear that the GNWT is working with the project team to hopefully fill some of those gaps.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier about the potential energy demands that are going to be associated with the remediation of Giant, and can we meet the demands that the project will need as well as potentially if the needs of TerraX should come on stream at the same time that the remediation project is going forward. I would just like to put that to the Minister. Is the Minister prepared to describe to us how we are going to meet some of the energy demands? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The recent findings of the freeze of arsenic underground at Giant Mine determined that a passive freeze system is preferred, which uses substantially less energy. This means that the energy requirements for Giant remediation may not have a significant impact on energy consumption in the Yellowknife area. I can speak to the Minister of the Power Corporation and would be more than happy to discuss the energy needs of TerraX mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 31-18(3):
MANUFACTURING STRATEGY IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement on strategies, my first question to the Minister of ITI is: how do you think a new manufacturing strategy could help better the territory's manufacturing industry? Mahsi.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The manufacturing strategy that we tabled gives us an opportunity, I think, to reimagine how we approach supporting manufacturing in the Northwest Territories. It is an opportunity for us to possibly rethink how we re-categorize manufacturers and look at new policy ideas that could help bring more businesses to the manufacturers in the NWT and local manufacturers as well, but also use it to build a stronger relationship with the manufacturing community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for the answer. Often, when manufacturing is on the agenda, we are talking about Hay River, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife. My next question is: are we going to see some benefits for the rest of the NWT? Maybe a dry dock in the community of Norman Wells?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, we are absolutely looking how we can expand the manufacturing sector across the Northwest Territories. In fact, our team was recently in Norman Wells as of a couple days ago engaging with stakeholders and residents in the community to hear what we need to build a dry manufacturing in the Sahtu and what is possible there and what kind of ideas are brought forward. We will be doing this across every region in the Northwest Territories.

MR. MCNEELY: Will the Minister provide that information on engagement to the sessions that happened in Norman Wells?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I can certainly talk to the department and see whether we can release publicly to the Member.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister is: why do you think manufacturing is an important area to spend time and resources on, given its small part or contribution to our overall economy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Manufacturing is a relatively small part of our economy in the Northwest Territories, but it is a very important one, I believe, particularly with the background that I have. It has high potential. The stats that I have been receiving from the department is, for every million dollars of output from a manufacturer in NWT, it creates more jobs, and these jobs are well-paid jobs compared to other industries in the Northwest Territories.

So we think it is of great importance, and a good use of our time and resources, to look at how we can support the diversification of our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 32-18(3):
GOVERNANCE OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the recent climate change audit reveals, we have a large task before us in addressing our climate

change goals and objectives, and also transitioning to a clean energy economy. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation serves an important role there, and I'd like to ask the Minister responsible today if he can respond to a few of the decisions he's made around the governance of that corporation.

In 2005, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat released a report called the Review of Governance Framework for Canada's Crown Corporations. In there, they define a Crown corporation by stating, "Crown corporations derived a *raison d'être* from these statutory roles as instruments of public policy." How is the Minister using the NWT Power Corporation as an instrument of policy to drive our clean energy agenda? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are working with other departments to ensure that the energy future for the Northwest Territories will be a cleaner one. We are in the process of developing a 20-year strategic plan that will focus on addressing such issues as cleaner energy, ensuring reliability, and supporting economic development in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I was looking for something a bit bolder than kind of boilerplate strategic goals like that. Clean energy is a demanding task in the Northwest Territories. It's going to take time and effort, and I think the board of directors is key in this role. This report also goes on to state that "best practices dictate that to be effective, directors must approach their work objectively and with decision-making independence. This independence helps establish a board's credibility and supports sound governance and effective accountability. For these reasons, corporate governance best practices require that boards of directors of Crown corporations function independently from management." Can the Minister explain why he has decided to go against best practices, and combine an independent board with management?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The nature of this Crown corporation has changed over the years. Many of its activities, particularly in the area of energy conservation and the more experimental projects, are now shared with other departments. So a new board has been put in place and is looking at these types of issues of management as we move forward. It's a question of added value, Mr. Speaker. The old board was quite expensive. Keeping it in place would have led to a higher rate increase than the one that's anticipated. The new board of directors has a diverse education and background, and I am confident in them.

MR. TESTART: I can't see the Minister's shoes under his desk, but I assume they're dancing shoes, because he didn't quite answer the question. I asked him why he has eliminated the independence of the board and combined it with management, which undermines the credibility of the Power Corporation. Northerners are frustrated to see their power rates continue to rise, and have no trust in this organization. The Minister has further damaged that trust by this decision. So will the Minister at least commit to re-visiting these decisions and installing an independent board that can direct the corporation towards a clean energy future?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, of course, we are looking at all these matters. As indicated in my response to one of the earlier questions, part of the concern of the board that is shared by the shareholder was that increase in rates be as moderate as possible. Had we kept the old board, there would have been a larger increase than the one that is anticipated. We are, however, looking at the whole corporate governance of the board, the future of the Power Corporation.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last seven years, it would appear that Northland's rates have gone down by 1.8 per cent, and NTPC's have skyrocketed at 48 per cent, and we're still looking at an increase. Maybe it's a smaller increase. Perhaps the board could have been paid less or given less resources. The Minister has said he's working on governance. He's also talking about a 20-year strategic plan. When is the governance review going to be complete, and when is that plan going to come forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I will bring these concerns to the board, and work with them on a continuing basis so that we can improve the Power Corporation. We do wish to keep rates low. The rates, of course, are set by the Public Utilities Board, an independent arm completely separate from government. Northland Utilities and the Power Corporation are different corporations with different concerns. All I can say is that we are working to keep rates as low as possible, and I am in constant contact with members of the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 33-18(3):
HISTORY OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other day I was listening to the Aboriginal radio channel, and I heard an elder speaking about social housing in the NWT. He asked a question and he was just contemplating with the reporter, and one of the questions he had asked was: I wonder why the government no longer builds a federal government that no longer builds houses for us directly. Federal governments used to build houses for us directly. I'd like to ask the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation when the federal government will start building homes in the NWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by qualifying before I answer the Member's question about that, the information that I have on hand is just my understanding at this point and hasn't been qualified or researched. I will answer it, but based on my immediate understanding, not stuff that I can actually say I've researched and is factual, but my understanding is that the federal government started building homes in the Northwest Territories. They were built for treaty Indians, actually, and I apologize for the term, but that was the term used in the times from the mid- to the late 1950s. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, again, I'm referring back to that same elder. The same elder had indicated that the money had come from the federal government to the GNWT to house people, treaty people – treaty Indians, and that had evolved into something else. I'd like to ask the Minister: when were the first houses built by the federal government that became available to people other than treaty Indians?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Again, I'm going to apologize in advance. Some of the terminology that I'm going to use was terminology of the day; it is not politically correct at this time, but the answer that I have is that the housing programs actually incorporated Indian and Eskimo houses that were built from the early 1960s to about the mid-1960s. Recognizing that, again, that is not the terminology of the day, but at that time, that was the terminology used to name people.

MR. BEAULIEU: I am aware the state of the social housing and some of the program. I would like to ask the Minister the next evolution beyond the Indian and Eskimo housing. What was the next evolution of housing which eventually led to what we have today?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated earlier, the housing programs expanded in the early 1960s

to the mid-1960s to incorporate Indian and Eskimo housing. Then it evolved into Northern Territorial rental units and some public housings were built from about the mid-1960s to the early 1970s.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Housing Corporation is a vehicle for delivering social housing. I would like to ask the Minister when the Housing Corporation was formed. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Housing Corporation was formed in 1974. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 34-18(3): MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have few more questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation about the modular duplexes. Can she say who is going to build the remainder of this order that Concept Energy Services started? Who is going to fill the rest of this order and over what period of time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a couple questions there, Minister. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by actually addressing the question. I am actually glad the honourable Member asked this question. Earlier with her questions, I had promised to give her a contract. I have since learned that, actually, I may not be able to give her the full contract because of the Privacy Act. I will be able to provide her with the information that is on the normal procurement site, but not the whole contract. I just want to apologize for any misunderstanding that I may have given before. In answer to the contract that is being done now, I can state that the tender to complete the units in Ulukhaktok is out now. If they are not out now, they will be within the next week or two. Then the remaining units, we are still looking at our options to determine what we will do with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the clarification and I look forward to the more general information. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there are 11 units outstanding, and those units are not going to be built by Concept Energy Services. What are the options for completing these remaining units?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: There are many options that we can do at this point. We are looking at them. We can either work with supporting Concept Energy to do them. There are a variety of options. We can put them out to public tender. We can look at negotiated contracts within communities. There is a whole gamut of different options that we can consider. Again, my priority is getting these homes into communities, and we will be looking at the ways we can expedite that in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

MS. GREEN: Can the Minister say when a decision will be made on one of these options?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes. We are currently in the process of reviewing all of the options at this point. I know that, within the next two weeks, we will have defined which way or path we are going forward.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was also a contract with Energy Wall in Yellowknife to do one of the standalone two-bedroom units. Can the Minister say whether this unit has been completed? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am really glad that question came up because it is important to note that, although we have had some glitches with our manufacturing strategy for modular units, Energy Wall in Yellowknife did complete a successful unit and has received another contract, actually. We are looking forward to working with all northern business in the provision of northern homes for northern people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 35-18(3):
ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR GIANT MINE
REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I had some questions with regard to the Giant Mine Remediation Project, specifically as it relates to some of the power demands associated with that project. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Maybe what I would like to do is start by asking him, although we know from the Minister of ENR that the freezing of the arsenic chambers is going to take significantly less power demands, certainly a \$1-billion project over 15 years is going to require a significant amount of power on various levels. I would just like to simply start by asking the Minister: does he feel that, given the current infrastructure,

we can meet the demands of the Giant Mine Remediation Project? In other words, will we be using current infrastructure to meet that demand, or is there some alternative energy sources that we can consider to meet that demand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, any new major project would likely put a strain on the current system, whether that is a new mine or an old mine. I don't have any new details as to the amount of power that might be required. A major increase in the amount of power used in the system would likely require some changes in the manner in which we deliver power. It may involve the building of additional plants or even dams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate the reply from the Minister. Well then, that is an interesting point because we have heard, actually, from TerraX Minerals in the past that they have shared concerns that energy demand is going to be their biggest challenge. I wonder: can the Minister maybe share with us, has he had conversations with TerraX and does he understand some of the challenges that they are expressing as it relates to having enough power? Are we going to be able to help them meet those demands if, in fact, they go forward with the full-fledged mine?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I have not had direct contact with TerraX, although I did have the opportunity to attend a presentation that they gave in Yellowknife a year or two ago. I think it is a little uncertain at this stage the amount of power that they will require. Certainly, we would like to assist them. It may be necessary to increase our capacity.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I would certainly express, at least, my opinion and I think maybe the opinion of most here that it would be an opportunity to talk with representatives from TerraX to certainly talk about the challenges they are going to face, because I would see that as being a challenge also on the power infrastructure that serves the City of Yellowknife. If we are considering that we are going to use the same infrastructure to supply power to the city that would supply to a mine, then there is certainly good reason to want to talk with them and see, in fact, what their demands are going to be. I think it is fair to say that the residents of Yellowknife would like to see a --

MR. SPEAKER: Member, what is your line of question?

MR. VANTHUYNE: I guess the question is on behalf of residents of Yellowknife. Is there a way in

which we can get a mine like TerraX on with the Power Corporation so that it can help drive down the costs for everybody?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: There are many options in these types of situations dealing with this mine or other possible mines, including liquefied natural gas. I am informed by my colleague from ITI that this department has, in fact, been in touch with TerraX.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: I guess I will ask a simple question, Mr. Speaker, which would be: what would be the concern, if any, from this government or position from this government or the Power Corporation if TerraX was able to find a way in which to self-sustain their own power and do it on their own? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely sure if I understand the question. If TerraX proceeded on its own and had its own power plant, I suppose that would be one thing. On the other hand, the development of this mine or any other mine in this area may provide opportunities to the Power Corporation. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 36-18(3):
MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few more questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation about the modular homes. I have a few money questions. My first question is: how much money was advanced to Concept Energy Services and why was that money advanced? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I do not know that exact figure at this time, I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 1-18(3):
MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY NO. 3

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure. Highway No. 3 is in poor condition because of dips, potholes, and loose gravel causing frequent vehicle damage. Can the Minister tell this House what formula his department uses to calculate capital spending on Highway No. 3; and

1. if the formulas for capital spending and maintenance standards are applied to every NWT highway;
2. if these formulas take into account special circumstances such as accelerated permafrost degradation;
3. what the department's long-term spending plan is for Highway No. 3 and if it can be tabled in this House; and
4. what criteria are used to decide where and how road hazards are marked to alert travellers on Highway No. 3.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. 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. Member for Nahendeh.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 3-18(3):
REPORT ON MOTION 32-18(2), REFERRAL OF
PETITION 6-18(2), ELIMINATION OF TIME
CHANGE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Social Development is pleased to provide its report on Motion 32-18(2), Referral of Petition 6-18(2): Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development and the comments to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed.

MR. THOMPSON: Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction

On March 9, 2017, Motion 32-18(2), Referral Of Petition 6-18(2), Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development charged the committee with reviewing the petitioners' call to eliminate the biannual time change associated with Daylight Saving Time, or DST.

In our review of this complex issue, the committee considered studies that were comprehensive, recent, and undertaken with the policy-making in mind, examining DST and human health, accident rates, energy use, and economic impacts. We also sought studies investigating DST in other circumpolar regions and followed the work of our legislative colleagues in Alberta on a similar initiative. Today, we recommend that changes to the Northwest Territories' observance of DST not be pursued at this time.

Background

DST is the practice of moving clocks ahead in the spring and back in fall. It was observed intermittently in North America in the first half of the 20th century and its adoption in Canada was tied to time standardization. More recently, DST has been synchronized throughout North America, with the exception of one Canadian province, a small number of municipalities, and a few American states. In the Northwest Territories, the Department of Justice administers the Daylight Saving Time Regulations, under the Interpretation Act. These regulations were last amended in 2007 in response to amendments at the federal level in the United States of America.

Jurisdictional Comparison

Today, DST is observed in at least 70 countries and affects roughly one billion people. Notably, Japan, India, and China do not observe DST, although various informal systems are used to address regional disparity. Apart from Alberta, no Canadian province or territory has seriously amended their DST practices. However, the matter has garnered some public interest. Here in the Northwest Territories, Petition 6-18(2) received 533 signatures from residents of at least 18 communities. In Yukon, the Association of Yukon Communities intends to engage their government "to determine if there is a case for removing [DST] in the territory."

In Alberta, Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time, was introduced in March 2017. This private Member's bill proposed that the province adopt DST permanently. It received significant attention, attracting almost 14,000 public submissions, largely via response to an online survey. Because Alberta is our closest administrative and business partner, we have followed these developments closely. We note that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future has recommended that Bill 203 not proceed and that DST observance continue unchanged. That committee also highlighted the importance of "a coordinated approach" with other jurisdictions in any future initiatives.

Issues

Mental and Physical Health

We found that negative physical and mental health impacts associated with "spring ahead" are negligible, while in contrast, positive health impacts were observed at "fall back." This is linked to the amount of sleep a person may have in a night, as "fall back" can bring an extra hour of rest. Similarly, we found that rates of negative health outcomes such as heart attacks associated with "spring ahead" were also linked to sleep, and that risk could be mitigated with appropriate precautions, such as going to bed earlier. A policy focus not on DST, but on improved sleep accessibility, awareness, hygiene, and quality may achieve desirable positive impacts on population health, particularly for those already sleep-deprived or at risk of poor health.

Pedestrian Accidents and Vehicle Collisions

It is also commonly speculated that pedestrian accidents and vehicle collisions increase around days of time-change, particularly "spring ahead." We found that, where such rates increased in American states, these were linked to driver fatigue and driver error as a result of sudden changes in daylight. However, it is difficult to usefully compare such studies to the Northwest Territories, given our unique environment, small population, and comparatively low collision rates. Since 2007, an average of 33 collisions per year were attributed to alcohol, compared to an average of just one per year attributed to fatigue. Since 1997, collisions have also been more likely to occur in January, one of our darkest and coldest months, not the months of "spring ahead" or "fall back." Petition 6-18(2) proposes that the permanent adoption of DST will "result in an extra hour of daylight at the end of the day during the darkest months of the year." However, because of our territory's unique geography, there is notable variance in daylight hours between our 33 communities. The experience of such a change would be limited and largely subjective, depending on one's location.

Energy Consumption, Economic Impacts, and Local Contexts

Researchers have also speculated that DST supports fuel conservation and/or reduces energy consumption. However, we found that DST's impacts on energy consumption are dependent on unique local geographic and social factors, including sunrise/sunset times, average wake-up times, and average commute duration. For example, while DST was found to slightly increase energy demand in Alberta, it was found to reduce demand in Ontario. As with pedestrian and vehicle collision data, replicating these studies in the Northwest Territories is beyond the scope of the committee's work.

Similarly, although various researchers have explored the impacts of DST on consumer spending and local economies, such work would be difficult to usefully replicate here at this time. Generally, however, it is reasonable to expect that any changes to DST observance would have broad economic impacts, even more so if the territory were to fall out of alignment with Alberta. Any work or leisure activity requiring regular communication with or travel to other jurisdictions, from business meetings to television broadcasts, would likely be impacted. Should amendments to the Daylight Saving Time Regulations be pursued in the future, these questions will require further exploration. We would expect that, should such a situation arise, the Government of the Northwest Territories would engage the public, including stakeholders in industry, education, government departments, community governments, and non-governmental organizations.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Social Development recommends, should the Government of the Northwest Territories consider changes to the Daylight Saving Time Regulations in future, that it engage with its counterparts in Alberta and undertake both broad public and targeted stakeholder engagement.

Conclusion

This concludes the Committee Report on Motion 32-18(2), Referral of Petition 6-18(2), Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development. All committee reports are available online at the Legislative Assembly website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 3-18(3) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 3-18(3), Report on Motion 32-18(2), Referral of Petition 6-18(2), Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi.

Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 29-18(3):
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY:
CONNECTING BUSINESSES AND
COMMUNITIES TO ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES –PERFORMANCE AND
MEASURES REPORT 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 30-18(3):
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RESULTS
REPORTS 2016-2017

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Economic Opportunities Strategy: Connecting Businesses and Communities to Economic Opportunities – Performance and Measures Report, 2016-2017" and "Grants and Contributions Results Reports 2016-2017." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 7-18(3):
SETTING OF SITTING HOURS BY THE
SPEAKER

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 23, 2017, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Motions

MOTION 2-18(3):
APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a conflict of interest Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in the act;

WHEREAS the appointment of the current conflict of interest Commissioner, Mr. David Jones, expires November 30, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of a conflict of interest Commissioner essential to exercise the powers and perform the duties under the act;

AND WHEREAS Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of a conflict of interest Commissioner effective December 1, 2017 should now be made.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that pursuant to Section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories the appointment of Mr. David Phillip Jones as Conflict of Interest Commissioner effective December 1, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Motions. Member for Yellowknife North.

MOTION 3-18(3):
APPOINTMENT OF THE EQUAL PAY
COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS Section 40.2 (1) of the Public Service Act provides that the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly shall appoint an Equal Pay Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in this act;

AND WHEREAS the position of Equal Pay Commissioner became vacant in June of this year;

AND WHEREAS the board of management was tasked with recruiting an Equal Pay Commissioner and has recommended an individual to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Ms. Elizabeth Joy Noonan be appointed as the Equal Pay Commissioner in accordance with the Public Service Act by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories as recommended by the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of the appointment to the Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Motions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of just now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with a motion that was announced earlier. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed.

MOTION 7-18(3):
SETTING OF SITTING HOURS BY THE
SPEAKER,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Mahsi.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Motions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MOTION 4-18(3):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
FEBRUARY 7, 2018,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that notwithstanding Rule 4 when this House adjourns on October 20, 2017, it shall be adjourned until February 7, 2018;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to February 7, 2018, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice, and thereupon, the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Motion carried. Masi. Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 1:
WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY ACT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Motion carried. Bill 1 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 2:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2017-2018

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Motion carried. Masi. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 2:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2017-2018

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Motion carried. Masi. Bill 2 has had its second reading. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 1-18(3); Tabled Document 2-18(3); Tabled Document 3-18(3); Committee Report 1-18(3); and Committee Report 2-18(3). By the authority given to me as Speaker, Motion 7-18(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consideration the business before the House. 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. Testart?

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your committee would like to consider 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; and Committee Report 1-18, 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. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call the Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to begin our consideration with Tabled Document 2-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018. I will go to the Minister of Finance for any opening comments. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures) No. 3, 2017-2018. This document provides for an increase of \$5.9 million to the operations budget.

Major items in these supplementary estimates include:

- \$3.6 million for projected fire suppression costs; and
- \$2.3 million for costs associated with increased student enrolment and implementation of junior kindergarten in NWT schools.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I understand you have witnesses. Would

the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will open the floor to general comments on Tabled Document 2-18(3). This is the time to ask any questions the Members might have about the supplementary reserve or any such matters. I'll give committee a moment to gather their thoughts. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's the No. 3, 2017-2018 document; is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): That is correct: Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018. Any general comments? I see none. We will move directly to consideration of the document. Please turn to page 4. Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can someone explain to me the figure of \$2,283,000 for junior kindergarten? What does that cover? Is this additional, unanticipated enrolment, or are there additional things that are covered in there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$2.3 million is made up of \$741,000 for increased school enrolment, and full funding for JK in 2017-2018 of \$1.542 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So yes, some of it's for unanticipated enrolment, but the \$1.542 million for JK, how is that calculated and what does it actually get us? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like to refer to Minister Moses.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, and it's based on the funding formula of 12:1 that we have mentioned

when we were rolling junior kindergarten in terms of pupil-teacher ratios. That goes directly to the education authorities based on their enrolments. We are still finalizing some of the enrolment numbers for junior kindergarten at the moment, so that's how it is rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just to be clear here, that \$1.542 million, that's based on the current formula funding for district education authorities; is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. That is for the enrolment of 12:1, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Earlier, I guess, in the last session, I had asked the department to calculate the additional costs -- I shouldn't say "additional costs." What would be the additional costs if junior kindergarten was included in all the formulae that are used to help fund our district education facilities? That additional cost came to about \$1.7 million. Just to be clear, that shortfall in funding for the district education authority, that is not covered in the supplementary appropriation. Is that the case, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, it is not.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the very clear answer from the Minister there. I don't really expect a response here. It is more of a comment that we are still underfunding our district education authorities for 2017-2018 by about \$1.7 million, asking them to deliver programs and services within their authority for JK students and it is not fully funded. No matter what the Minister has said on this topic, or his Cabinet colleagues, junior kindergarten is not fully funded. Our district education authorities have to make up this shortfall themselves in some way to provide programming for our junior kindergarten students. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Comment noted. Anything further from committee? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister talked about 12:1. That 12:1, that is territorial? That is just not schools. It is not jurisdictions. It is 12:1 average across the Northwest Territories. Correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It is for junior kindergarten. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I apologize. Yes, 12:1 for junior kindergarten. I guess, my concern is: have we looked at how it is having an impact on some of the larger schools that - in my riding, I have a number of schools that are smaller that are calculated into this 12:1. Has this increase of money here, the \$1.542 million, is that actually coming to address some of those concerns, as well, with the larger classroom sizes instead of the 12:1? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I will direct this to Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned in previous communications with standing committee members, we are still early on in the implementation of junior kindergarten in all of our communities across the Northwest Territories. We did commit to continue to monitor and evaluate this implementation. Previously, we had 20 communities in the Northwest Territories that were successful in half-a-day, full-day junior kindergarten. We are going to continue to monitor and make any adjustments that need to be done as we roll out junior kindergarten throughout the Territories. It is still pretty early on in the process. The school year just started. Thanks.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I thank Minister Moses for that answer. When can the schools that have these larger classroom sizes expect the department to come back with additional funds if that is what is required? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Once again, Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We are keeping in close communications with the education

authorities. Through this process of implementation at junior kindergarten, we have also provided additional funding so that schools can hire additional education assistants to support the implementation of junior kindergarten. We are continuing to work with our education authorities. Usually, midpoints of the school year, if there are deficiencies as I mentioned in the standing committee, we can look at adjusting some of those budgets with the education authorities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Moses. I see nothing further from Mr. Thompson. I will call this page. Mr. O'Reilly, you have already spoken to this. I will let you speak briefly, if you would like.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. My colleague's questions made me think of one additional one. I spoke earlier about the \$1.7 million shortfall of funding to the district education authorities. If they were fully funded for all the JK students using the formula that the department now uses, is there a commitment on the part of this government to actually make up that shortfall at any point or to change the formulae themselves? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Minister of Education made a commitment on the evaluation of the process. We are also willing to work with committee to see if anything needs to change. We will go through the regular process as we do that. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am not sure that was a really clear commitment. If there was an effort to try to make up that shortfall, I think it would only be in the best interest of our children. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture not previously authorized, \$2,383,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Education, Culture and Employment, total department not previously authorized, \$2,383,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 5, Environment and Natural Resources. Comments or questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: In regards to this allocation, is this the final number, or are we looking at another supplement further on? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is this is the final number.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forest management not previously authorized, \$3,623,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$3,623,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 6, Executive and Indigenous Affairs. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Earlier this week, actually, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement about the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. In there, he said that ITI was working to position residents and business in the Beaufort Delta region to capitalize on economic opportunities from year-round road access. That led me to believe that ITI was sort of in charge of this part of this project and that they would be funding tourism-related activities and capacity building and so on. Why is this \$100,000 amount appearing in the Executive and Indigenous Affairs Department? It seems highly unusual that it would come through that department rather than either ITI or Department of Infrastructure. Can someone explain why this is coming through the Executive? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is this is cross-

departmental money. The place we decided to put it through was Executive and Indigenous Affairs. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Okay. Are there additional funds that are coming from this government to assist with community capacity building and getting ready for tourism and so on, or is this it? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this funding is to provide Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation to use to help prepare for the impacts and take advantage of opportunity as a result of the opening of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. As far as other investments on the road itself, I believe those would be infrastructure investments. I would have to confirm with the infrastructure Minister to see if there was any other investment going towards that. I know the money has been allocated for the construction of the road, and that is the Department of Infrastructure's responsibility. This money is to help the community corporation get ready. As far as the tourism side of it goes, I really cannot answer that. I may have to refer to the Premier.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Would the Premier like to answer?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you. This is a request from the community corporation, who was seeking matching money from the federal government as well. This will be to give them the capacity to access additional funding to get ready for the opening of the highway and anticipated increase in activities in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is helpful information. I am just wondering if someone can explain, then, to me why this is not really in the O and M budget, and why this is not really part of the regular project planning for something like a new highway. Can someone explain why this is not part of the regular project funding and in the O and M budget? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The request came from the community leadership in Tuktoyaktuk. Had we received the request in

time, I am sure it would have made its way into the operations budget for 2017-2018, but because we had received it after we had debated the budget, we decided to put it into the supplementary. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just before somebody tries to say that I don't support the road or that I don't support tourism or that I don't support communities, which I am sure somebody is going to try to accuse me of at some point, I do believe that the community needs to be supported in getting ready for this project. I just question the very highly unusual way of doing this through the Executive, through a supplementary appropriation, rather than as part of proper project planning. This sort of one-off request, I think, opens the door for other kinds of one-off requests that may come forward. Can we expect that there is going to be a similar application for funding, say, from the Inuvik Community Corporation or the Town of Inuvik to help them get prepared for this highway and the benefits that it could bring? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, no, I recognize that the Member supports this project and the benefit that it is going to bring, and we appreciate that very much. As far as anticipating any requests coming from Inuvik, I cannot speak for the leadership of Inuvik, but Inuvik has been at the end of a major highway for a long time. They have had opportunities to prepare and be ready for any influx of visitors that they have, and I think they have demonstrated this in the past. I do not anticipate a request coming from them, but I cannot speak for them as well. They have had experience being at the end of a road. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. I have spoken about the unusual nature of this funding coming through the Executive and not part of the O and M budget, not part of the regular project planning. What kind of assurance can I get from the Minister that, when it comes to other road projects, whether it is Whati or whatever, that these sorts of costs and proper project planning are going to become part of the normal cycle of developing a plan for similar projects in the future, like the Whati or the Tlicho all-season road? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would think that, with the new projects, we would do some consultation with the community, and we will make them aware that, if they have any initiatives that they want to put forward for consideration as the road opens or as they experience a lot of visitors, we will inform them to get their requests in early, and that way we can go through the regular planning process. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you. I appreciate that commitment from the Minister to look at how we can better build community capacity with regard to these sorts of projects as part of the regular project planning cycle. I still maintain and want to go on the record as being concerned about the one-off nature of this appropriation, the very highly unusual way that it is coming through the Executive, through a supplementary appropriation, rather than as regular O and M, and I think this opens the door to other interests coming forward to our government for special requests for money.

I will give one example: the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre has been closed in Yellowknife, and this is the sort of support that could have been offered or been made available to keep that facility open, but when I tried to get the Minister to look at this, he would not do it. I will just leave it at that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, I have to agree with the approval of the requests for this I'll call it a celebration request, knowing these smaller communities, and I am just picturing if it may happen that the Community of Tulita gets the funding required for the Bear River Bridge, which they have longed for for several decades, it is very highly unusual to have a celebration fund put in in the form of the contract tender when the contractor says, "No, I am not into the business of providing cake and cookies here. I am just here to build this bridge."

In the spirit of working with local governments and chapter 12, in our case, of the land claim, would be avenues for requests such as this to build the capacity of socialization in the community and welcoming the children, or the whole community for that matter, to have a barbecue and celebration that they have longed for. I think it is a real form of a normal request. I have made similar requests throughout the years in my private life, and I do not see any unusual circumstances of the request and the support from this government to the local

submitter, be it a land corporation or a band. I just point that out for the record there, Mr. Chair. I agree with the approval and request process.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Your comment is noted. Seeing nothing further, I will call this section. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Executive and Indigenous Affairs, operations expenditures, indigenous and intergovernmental affairs, not previously authorized, \$100,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Executive and Indigenous Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$100,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 7, Health and Social Services. Comments or questions? Seeing none, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs not previously authorized, \$290,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Health and Social Services, total department not previously authorized, \$298,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 8. Industry, Tourism and Investment. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, economic diversification and business support not previously authorized, \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

I apologize, committee. Let me redo that. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, economic diversification and business support not previously authorized, negative \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Industry, Tourism

and Investment, operations expenditures, total department not previously authorized, negative \$1,410,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Please turn to page 9, Infrastructure. Comments or questions? Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Infrastructure, operations expenditures, regional operations not previously authorized, \$70,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Infrastructure, operations expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$70,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 10, Justice. Comments or questions? Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Justice operations, expenditures, community justice and policing not previously authorized, \$316,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Justice operations, expenditures, legal aid services not previously authorized, \$266,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Justice operations, expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$582,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs. Comments or questions? I see none. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, regional operations not previously authorized, \$264,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$264,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee, do you agree that this concludes our consideration of Tabled Document 2-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 2-18(3):
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 2-
18(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2017-2018,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 2-18(3) Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 2-18(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. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

We have next agreed to consider Tabled Document 3-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2018-2019. I will turn to the Minister of Finance for opening remarks. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2018-2019. This document provides for an increase of \$855,000 to the capital budget.

The items in these supplementary estimates are:

- \$1.255 million to advance projects associated with the implementation of junior kindergarten; and

- A \$400,000 decrease for the Syncrolift project at the marine facility in Hay River, which will be funded through the Marine Transportation Services Revolving Fund.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Please take your seat at the witness table with your witnesses. Minister McLeod, you might as well introduce your witnesses one more time for us. Thank you.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do we have general comments from committee? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the Minister about the \$400,000 decrease for the Syncrolift project. This is something we discussed in our review of the capital budget estimates. I would like to know if the Minister could just explain how this \$400,000 project appeared in the capital when it was supposed to be paid out of the revolving fund just for our clarification. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Can we wait until we are at that section? Would that be acceptable?

MR. TESTART: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. If I have no further general comments on this, we can begin consideration at page 6. Education, Culture and Employment. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is, as I understand it, well, let's start with this: can the Minister explain what this additional appropriation is and what will it accomplish for junior kindergarten? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This money was initially appropriated to go over three years. I am working with and getting feedback from committee. It was decided that we would make this money available to all the schools for their junior kindergarten in one year. ECE is currently working with the divisional occasion authorities in

the Department of Infrastructure on an updated schedule to undertake required capital projects in 2018-2019. As far as the individual items of what the Member is referring to, we don't have that detail of information right away, but as soon as they come out with a plan, we will share it with the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the efforts of my Cabinet friends to move this up and try to get the work done within one year. That is something that I raise concerns about and I am really glad to see that they were able to respond positively and try to move this work up. I understand that there might be some capacity issues in terms of getting the work contracted and out the door and following up appropriately and so on. I take it, then, from what the Minister said that they are developing a bit of a plan to try to speed up that work. Any idea when they might be able to share some of the details of that with Regular MLAs on this side?

The reason why I ask that is I understand there are a number of projects and much of the work is to be done in smaller communities, which is good; it will help create jobs there, but also make sure that our new junior kindergarten students have access to safe playgrounds and school facilities and so on. Can the Minister keep us updated on this plan that they're developing to speed up the work? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will work with my Cabinet colleague from Education and soon as we have a concrete plan as to where the investments are going to be and what it's going to consist of, we'd be glad to share that with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just in the eventuality that the work can't all be done this year, it could be carried over into the next year?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I will just remind everyone to make sure your light is on before you begin speaking. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is correct. It can be carried over. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do sincerely appreciate the efforts of my Cabinet friends to speed up that work. I just want to go on the record, because I don't often do that, thanking them for their hard work on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Seeing nothing further, I will call this section. 2018-2019 Supplementary Estimate No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures), Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, early childhood and schools not previously authorized, \$1,255,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. 2018-2019 Supplementary Estimate No. 1, (Infrastructure Expenditures), Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$1,255,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 7. Mr. Testart had comments on this section. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the Minister to respond to my previous comment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Minister, do you remember Mr. Testart's previous comment?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We never forget. Mr. Chair, the reason that it's coming forward, and a negative supp, it was a timing issue. My understanding is the revolving fund wasn't quite set up in time. The capital budget had been approved by FMB, and then so once the revolving fund was set up, it would determine that we would put a negative supp in and have this \$400,000 paid out of the revolving fund. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for that response. I'm glad to see this is a timing error. It's important we follow through where financial authority is granted and where it flows from. My further question is: how much money is currently in the MTS revolving fund? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, because it is brand new, we haven't done a full accounting on it yet, so as far as the actual what's in there, we'd have to pull that information together and share it with committee. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So my recollection is that the maximum amount of the fund is \$35 million. Does the Minister believe that this will be sufficient and the current inflow of revenue is sufficient to fund future infrastructure projects, or will we ever be in the situation where we'll require additional funding from general revenue to pay for MTS operations or infrastructure? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we would like to think that, or we "believe" is probably a better word to use, that the MTS does well and there are profits realized at the end of the year. If there are any infrastructure investments that need to be made, we're quite confident that we should have the money in the account to cover them. If not, then we will have to cross that, when we get to it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I suppose that is a conversation as if and when it happens. I do know that discussion over the future of MTS is still a conversation that we have yet to have, but it's not the right place to have it here. All I will say is that I thank the Minister for clarifying this budget line item and taking the necessary steps to remove it and pay for the Syncrolift facility from the revolving fund, which is appropriate based on the establishment of that revolving fund. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any response from the Minister?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, we'll take that as a comment, Mr. Chair, and we'll continue to keep the committee updated as we develop further into the operations of MTS. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further? Seeing nothing, 2018-2019 Supplementary Estimate No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures), Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, programs and services not previously authorized, negative \$400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): 2018-2019 Supplementary Estimate No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures), Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, negative \$400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Tabled Document 3-18(3)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 3-18(3):
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 3-
18(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2018-2019,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 3-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2018-2019 be now concluded and that Tabled Document 3-18(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session in the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Before we consider the committee report, I'll call a five-minute recess. Thank you, committee.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Committee Report 1-18(3), Report on the Review of the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Election, Supplementary Recommendations and the White Paper on the Independence and Accountability of Election Administration in the Northwest Territories.

I will go to the chair of the committee responsible for the report, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, for any opening comments. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First off, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of my fellow committee members, the Member for Thebacha, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, and the Member for Nahendeh. We all worked very hard to come up with this report. I also want to thank the Chief Electoral Officer herself. She provided utmost cooperation to the committee, answered our questions, she appeared at two public hearings. She came up with some very thoughtful, thorough, and comprehensive recommendations for us to consider.

We had three different reports that we looked at and we decided that we would try to take a coordinated approach in responding to over 107 recommendations. Mr. Chair, I also wish to acknowledge and thank members of the public who made submissions. I mentioned how we had two public hearings; one on September 9, 2016, and the other on June 12, 2017. So what I want to leave my colleagues with is that there was a lot of thought and work that went into this report. That's not to say that we don't welcome debate and discussion and questions about it, but I do want to acknowledge the work of my colleagues, the public, and the Chief Electoral Officer in this important report.

The last thing I wish to mention, Mr. Chair, is that there is some urgency to move forward on this because there are a set of specific changes that are recommended to the Elections and Plebiscites Act, and for us to get those changes made in time for the next election, we need to deal with this report as soon as we can. As I understand it, the next steps would be, if these recommendations are accepted through the form of a number of motions, those would form drafting instructions and the board of management would go ahead and start to do that work. In any event, lots of work has gone into this report, and I look forward to debate and discussion about it, around the report today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Just to let everyone know what we're going to do, there are 15 recommendations in this report. After I open the floor to general comments, each recommendation will be treated as a motion, which Mr. O'Reilly will move. Are there any general comments on this report from committee? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and similar to my colleague who just spoke, I, too, want to take an opportunity to really thank the committee for its further report, but, more importantly, for the work that they undertook in reviewing recommendations, the consolidated recommendations. They were extensive. I again would have to commend the Chief Electoral Officer

for doing that work. As a candidate in the previous election, certainly there were times in which I found that there was room for improvement in the process, whether it was to do with the act itself or whether it was to do with measures that come from the act.

In order to overcome this big challenge that we face as it relates to encouraging voters to turn out and vote, that a number of these recommendations certainly have to be enacted, and enacted sooner rather than later. As the Chair spoke of, we are two years into a term. It is not long before the Chief Electoral Officer has to start preparing for the next upcoming election. They will require a number of these changes to be brought forward to better support our form of democracy when it comes to an election, and to be able to promote, and encourage a higher degree of voter turnout because that is ultimately what this is about.

Modernizing and taking advantage of innovation are a couple of the things that we also have to take advantage of, and I am hoping that these recommendations will play a part in that. Those are just some of my general comments, and I look forward to sharing my perspective on some of the recommendations as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, too, want to commend the work of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. This committee has met extensively throughout the life of this Assembly, and has had many meetings on many matters that have been brought before it, and they have helped clarify everything from our code of conduct, guidelines, to the Mid-Term Review, and ultimately this is the last large piece of work that they have undertaken, and it was a substantial piece of work.

I also want to mention the Chief Electoral Officer has brought forward a very substantial work on her own initiative, and it is very good to see so much thought going to how we can modernize and improve our electoral system. Voter turnout and ease of candidacy has always been an issue, not just for our electoral system, but for many electoral systems. I am really pleased to be having this debate today, and to be considering these motions. All of us rely on a sound electoral system that is easy to approach, and encourages not only voters to turn out, but for candidates to put their name forward and step up to represent their communities. That can be a daunting challenge for many people.

I think much of what has been considered and what is being recommended is only going to help that, and I hope we are all challenged in the next

election, and we all do our part to ensure a robust democratic process moving forward, so I look forward to the remainder of the afternoon while we will be debating these motions, and making real change to our electoral system. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any further general comments? Seeing none, Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 4-18(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 ELECTION,
SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND
THE WHITE PAPER ON THE INDEPENDENCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – ESTABLISH AN ELECTOR
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, as you mentioned earlier, we are just going to work away through each of the recommendations as a motion.

The first recommendation I have: Mr. Chair, I move that the Assembly recommend that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to establish an electoral residency requirement of six consecutive months on or before polling day. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There's a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed and is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support this motion. In fact, it was in my electoral platform that this was a change that I thought would be beneficial. Over the course of the election, I spoke to many residents of Kam Lake who had just moved to the riding. Kam Lake is a community on the grow, and some people were not able to vote because they did not meet that 12-month threshold. It is a curious thing that the three northern jurisdictions have a year-long residency that is required. I was just reading in the press the other day that there was a candidate in Nunavut who sought to run in the previous election, and was unable to because she failed to meet the one-year requirement which is also required for candidates.

I think this is a way to open up the electoral process and encourage more participation. The North is a place of opportunities, and we are always trying to attract new residents, and to have those new

people's voices added to our democracy is only going to strengthen the exchange of ideas that MLAs bring forward, and to empower them to be part of our democratic process. I would even say, we could drop this from six months to as soon as someone establishes residency in the Northwest Territories, but I think the committee did consider that and ultimately decided on taking a balanced approach that cut the time requirements in half. I think this is a very important and positive recommendation, and I will be supporting it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 5-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – SETTING OF POLLING
DAYS, CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The second motion is: I move that this Assembly recommend that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to set the first Tuesday in October as polling day, and that the November alternative polling day be eliminated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and again, I appreciate the effort that the committee has put in, in doing some research with regard to this. What is interesting is that, in fact, the two jurisdictions in which the report references with regard to, that are voting currently on Tuesdays, interestingly enough, I have come to know that those jurisdictions, in fact, now are revisiting that and considering moving to Saturday.

It was the recommendation within the report that it be considered for a Saturday, and there is a lot of reasons for that, and the first is to do with the convenience for electors to attend the polls without having to schedule it into a busy workday. Of course, it would increase the voter attendance numbers. Secondly, many of the polling stations occur in schools, and a Saturday polling would alleviate any kind of concern with the schools and their schedules within the gymnasiums, and any security concerns associated with the presence of children.

Thirdly, Mr. Chair, a Saturday event would also allow for a significantly expanded human resources pool, which is always a challenge during elections for staffing up election positions. There are a number of people, individuals who possess adequate skills, that it would broaden the pool. A lot of times, those skills that are required for managing polls are people who are at work, commonly Monday to Friday. Certainly, it would increase the pool of people able to work during an election.

I am not going to make a motion to amend this, but I just wanted to, for the record, share my views that I was in support of the original recommendation to have a Saturday be considered. I am not sure that moving to a Tuesday, in fact, changes anything, and that the effort should even be considered. Why not just leave it on a Monday? Those are my comments, Mr. Chair, and I just wanted to be able to put those on the record. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just would like to respond briefly to my colleague, the honourable Member for Yellowknife North. I want to assure him that we did look at all of the options. On page 64 of the Chief Electoral Officer's report, there is a very interesting table of jurisdictions around the world and what their polling days are and also another figure showing the days that other Canadian jurisdictions use. We had all of that information available to us.

I think one of the reasons that we didn't really go with the recommendation from the Chief Electoral Officer was that having a poll on a Saturday might reduce turnout in small communities, in particular because people want to go out and get on the land and do their thing. This is coming at a time of the year in the fall when the ability to get out onto the land -- winter is coming. People want to get out and do their stuff. I think that is why we stuck with a day of the week.

We chose the Tuesday in particular because, with Monday, there is some reluctance on the part of candidates and their workers and so on to work on

a Sunday. We felt that having the election on a Tuesday would still allow people to go out and do last-minute work on a Monday without upsetting people too much, perhaps. That is why we settled on a Tuesday. I appreciate the comments from my colleague from Yellowknife North, but wanted to offer that brief explanation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I, too, am supportive of the recommendation, going to a Tuesday to vote. I have the very same concerns as our chair. In the communities that I represent, I have seen the community empty out on the weekend sometimes in the fall time, when there is a lot of hunting and things like that. A lot of the community members from the community I represent go out hunting. They are back during the week for when the kids are back in school and so on.

In another community, a highway community, a lot of the people would just go to the neighbouring, larger community for services that they are not getting in their small community. This was something that we discussed and the reason we had changed the Chief Electoral Officer's recommendation of going to a Saturday to vote because, historically, small communities have come out to vote. Our turnout is, I would safely say, about 70 per cent. That way, we want to try to for sure maintain that type of voter turnout, if at all possible. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next, I have Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have a problem with the motion of the first Tuesday in October. I am okay with that. I do have a question on eliminating the November date. I am not sure if this is the forum to ask it or a concern. We had the November date. Is this going to limit our ability if our election is concurrent with the federal election again? Is this going to limit our ability to have a November election so we don't over-cross with the federal election?

I think the last time we had our election on November 23rd because the federal election was going on at the same time. I am just curious as to whether or not this is going to limit our ability to do that, or can we just come forward an amendment in the House or a motion in the House to change it? I think we did that the last time. I am just concerned whether this limits our ability or not. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. I will allow the chair to respond if he would like to. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to be able to respond to my honourable colleague from Inuvik Twin Lakes. I am happy to try to respond. The effect of this motion would be to delete the provision in the existing Elections Act to move our Territorial election into November if there is a federal election around the same time. Yes, to be clear and open about it, that is what the effect of this motion would be.

We had quite a discussion at committee about this. The Chief Electoral Officer in her report, as well, identified a number of problems with having our election that late in November. It wasn't just about candidates trying to campaign in the winter. She also identified problems with trying to get ballot boxes to some communities that time of year, making sure that people get home while it is still daylight. She identified a variety of issues. It wasn't just about candidates because I had one colleague of ours say, "Are we just doing this for the candidates?" No. It is not just about the candidates. It is also about making sure we can run good elections.

As a committee, we looked at this issue. We thought that, if we moved our election forward, it is maybe not as far as we would all like to try to avoid that overlap or potential overlap that could happen maybe every three or four elections. I may not get all the timing right here. We decided to try to move ours forward even so ours would fall before the federal fixed date. I understand it is not perfect. We thought about trying to move it forward even a bit further, but then we run into the harvest time and people wanting to get out on the land in the fall. We tried to get a compromise. The best that we could come up with was to move ourselves to a fixed date, the first Tuesday in October. I think that is a good compromise that I am hoping all Members can support. Thanks, Mr. Chair. I hope I did an okay explanation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation from the chair of the committee. If we are thinking of just moving ours forward just so we don't overlap, then I am pretty sure I can support that. I would also like to know if the chair would be willing to contact the Prime Minister of Canada and see if they can move their election date a little further back so we can have ours at the appointed time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

---Laughter

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. The Minister is looking for commitment from the chair. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I might have to take a page out of my colleague's notebooks here and say, "No." Look, I know that the question was asked rather facetiously, and I do want to provide some assurance that this was an interesting debate at committee that we had more than one time. I think we tried to come up with a reasonable compromise. If I had any ability to influence Ottawa, I would probably be in Ottawa now rather than in Yellowknife. Thank you for that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Is there anything further from committee? Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 6-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – RECOMMENDATION 10 OF
THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORT ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2015
TERRITORIAL GENERAL ELECTION,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do appreciate the discussion and debate we are having. I think it is important for the public, as well. Mr. Chair, this is the third motion, third recommendation from the committee. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended per recommendation 10 of the Chief Electoral Officer Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Election to reflect current practices of maintaining a permanent list of electors and further that the act be amended to remove references to identification of electors by gender. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. For the motion on the floor, motion is in order. To the motion. Minister Cochrane.

MS. COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate the

committee on this work. I think it is very progressive that you are actually making the amendments to reflect the current beliefs around gender and inclusiveness, so just my appreciation to the committee for this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Minister Cochrane. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you, committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 7-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT LIMIT AND REGULATE
THIRD-PARTY ELECTION ADVERTISING,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the fourth recommendation. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to limit and regulate third-party election advertising related to candidates and/or policy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 8-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT ABSENTEE BALLOTS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is recommendation five from the report. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow for the option of electronic voting for absentee ballots to provide an elector who has requested an absentee ballot to cancel his or her application in favour of an ordinary ballot on polling day, and to extend the period for voting in the office of the returning officer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't want to speak on this at length, but I personally had heard a number of complaints about our students in particular not getting absentee ballots while they were down south studying. Certainly, it happened for my son. The Chief Electoral Officer did identify this as a problem and an issue, and she brought this forward as a recommendation, so I am more than happy to increase opportunities for our students to participate in our elections. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 9-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT CANDIDATES FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are on to recommendation number six. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to replace the requirement for candidates to file statements from a bank or other financial institution with a practical, reliable requirement that ensures accountability and transparency; and further that the act be amended to provide the Chief Electoral Officer with discretion to extend elected candidates' deadline for filing accurate and complete financial statements for up to 15 calendar days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This is a recommendation where the committee actually, we had a very different recommendation from the Chief Electoral Officer, and I believe it was in her supplementary report to the general election where she had actually recommended that chartered accountants be signing off on the financial reports. Although we understand the intent behind her recommendation, the fact is that there are so few chartered accountants and that they are only in the larger communities that we believe that would have formed a barrier and a significant barrier for potential candidates, so we have gone with this alternate recommendation that I think will encourage more people to run in elections. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the effort that the committee has put into making this motion. I do have a little bit of difficulty with it. My only difficulty is that I recognize that the filing of reports and access to banks is an issue that I will not take -- it is a huge issue. My only concern is that it has really left it kind of vague because it just says "replace it with a practical, reliable requirement that ensures accountability and

transparency." I personally would have preferred if there was something more concrete within this than just leaving it to whatever the interpretation of "practical" and "reliable" means to anyone. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Would the chair like to respond? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I accept the remarks from my colleague, and I think, you know, these motions basically serve as drafting instructions, and it will be up to the board of management to work with a law clerk, legal counsel to basically come up with wording that meets the spirit and intent of these. Look, I am not a lawyer, but it might be a statutory declaration or a place for a candidate and the official agent to sign off on the statements and have them notarized or, you know. Look, I am not a lawyer, but I think the intention is clear here. We do not want there to be unnecessary barriers in the way of encouraging people to run for elected office, but we also have to balance that with the need for accountability and transparency by having accurate financial statements. So I think that is the balance we are trying to achieve here, and we look forward to the work of our friends on the board of management in coming up with the appropriate language to implement the intent here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Anything further, Minister Cochrane?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I appreciate the efforts. I do understand the intent of it, and I agree with the intent of it. I will abstain from this motion just because I do wish that there was something more concrete as a solution, so it is not that I oppose it. It is that I just find that it is not concrete enough for me. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 10-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
CONSULTATION WITH MUNICIPAL AND
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, NWT ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY
GOVERNMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I also want to assure my colleague that she is going to have another chance at this when the bill comes forward. On to recommendation number 7, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer consult with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, and a broad range of community government representatives with respect to consolidation of responsibilities for the administration of general and local elections; and further that the results of this research when complete be included in the Chief Electoral Officer's subsequent report to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor and in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that this is something that the Chief Electoral Officer recommended. I think the committee has taken an important step in recommending that we do some work before making those kind of changes. In other jurisdictions they vary, but often the central election body or the provincial election body does send teams in to support municipal level elections, and that can be very helpful when you may have a situation where the chief administrative officer of a municipality is also the returning officer and, if there is a dispute over the results, they have to basically act as the decider for their new employer, who would be the mayor or whatever have you. So that conflict of interest can be difficult, so having a third party assist with administration of elections I think could help preserve the integrity of the electoral process.

You know, there have been over the years several complaints around the conduct of municipal elections, and it puts the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in a difficult position if they are being requested to suspend the results of an

election. I think if we had a second set of eyes on the issue, we might be able to avoid those circumstances, so I look forward, and I hope this is supported and this is moved and we are able to see this work done and ultimately determine if it is the best choice for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just would like to speak to this briefly. The committee was also cognizant that we did receive correspondence from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and the NWT Association of Communities expressing some concerns about the recommendation that came from the Chief Electoral Officer on this subject. To us, that just flagged that this needs some more work and a discussion amongst these different organizations. I think there are probably some good opportunities for collaboration and coordination amongst them, whether having the Chief Electoral Officer run municipal elections, I'm not sure that that's one option, but there may be other ways to do this. What we wanted to do was to open the door here for further discussion to take place and that's, I think, what this motion will do. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 11-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT - ACCORD WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS 2, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23,
24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, AND 38 IN THE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER ADMINISTRATION
REPORT,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the eighth recommendation. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended in accord with Recommendations 2, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, and 38 in the Chief Electoral Officer Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Election. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is in order. I will let committee know that the recommendations referred to in this motion can be found on page 21 of the report that we're looking at. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 12-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND SECTION 257.1(1) OF
THE ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITES ACT -
INCREASING PENALTY FOR NON-
COMPLIANCE,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is recommendation 9 from the report. I move that this Assembly recommends that Section 257.1(1) of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to increase the penalty for non-compliance to \$500, plus a daily fine of \$50 to a maximum of \$1,000. And further, that the act be amended to establish that the term of office for returning officers expires with resignation, change of permanent residency to outside the Northwest Territories, revocation, or death. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There's a motion on the floor and in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 13-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES – AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – ROLES, DUTIES AND
POWERS OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Recommendation 10 from our report. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended as needed to provide:

- that the Chief Electoral Officer is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer shall take an oath affirming that she or he will impartially and faithfully exercise the powers of the Chief electoral Officer and perform all duties fairly, objectively, and with due care;
- that no proceeding may be commenced against the Chief Electoral Officer or a person acting for or under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer for anything done or omitted in good faith in the exercise, intended exercise, or performance of a duty, responsibility, or power under the act;
- that the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections NWT is established to ensure impartial administration and conduct of elections and plebiscites;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer administers and manages the business of Elections NWT;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer shall examine all statements, reports, forms and other information filed with the Chief Electoral Officer;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer shall publish reports filed pursuant to this act on Elections NWT's website or in such manner determined to be effective by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer shall formulate

policies regarding the conduct of elections;

- that the Chief Electoral Officer may prescribe forms for use under this act;
- that the Chief Electoral Officer may engage the services of professionals or experts such as counsel or accountants as necessary to carry out the Chief Electoral Officer's duties under this act within the appropriation for Elections NWT; and
- that the Chief Electoral Officer shall submit annual estimates of the funds required to operate Elections NWT to the board of management via the Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Just very briefly. The purpose of this motion is in response to the White Paper that the Chief Electoral Officer submitted, and that was sort of looking at election administration in the NWT in a broader sense comparing us with some other jurisdictions. The committee is not recommending acceptance of all of the recommendations of that report, but this motion is an effort to help clarify some of the roles and duties of the Chief Electoral Officer in terms of modernizing our approach to elections and his or her role into the future. I think this will provide the kind of authority that the office needs to move forward in a more efficient and effective manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 14-18(3):
 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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
 RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
 ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
 ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
 ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
 TERRITORIES – AMEND ELECTIONS AND
 PLEBISCITES ACT – CHIEF ELECTORAL
 OFFICER REPORTING TO THE LEGISLATIVE
 ASSEMBLY,
 CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Recommendation 11 of the report. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to require the Chief Electoral Officer to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly describing work done under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the act;

- require the Chief Electoral Officer to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly after each election or plebiscite about the conduct of the election or plebiscite;
- provide the Chief Electoral Officer with the option of combining his or her reports into one in the year of an election or plebiscite;
- provide that the Chief Electoral Officer may report to the Legislative Assembly at any other time on any matter that the Chief Electoral Officer considers necessary; and
- provide that any of the Chief Electoral Officer's reports to the Legislative Assembly may include recommendations for legislative amendments to improve the administration of elections under this or any other related act.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just very briefly. Right now the Chief Electoral Officer is required to file a report following the conduct of an election. The office does have the ability to file other reports as necessary, but this would require the filing of an annual report and I think this would just increase accountability and also give the officer the ability to tell us what they're doing in any given year. I think it's a helpful addition and something that the CEO herself has recommended and I think

it's a good tool to increase accountability. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you committee. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-18(3):
 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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
 RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
 ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
 ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
 ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
 TERRITORIES – AMEND ELECTIONS AND
 PLEBISCITES ACT – INVESTIGATION OF
 COMPLAINTS,
 CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is recommendation 12. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to:

- require the Chief Electoral Officer to notify the complainant in writing with reasons, if the Chief Electoral Officer decides not to conduct an investigation of a complaint;
- make it an offence to obstruct the Chief Electoral Officer or his or her designate in carrying out an inspection or investigation under this act, or to withhold, conceal or destroy any records, documents or things relevant to the investigation;
- provide that when the Chief Electoral Officer believes it is in the public interest the outcome of the investigations may be published on Elections NWT's website or by other means the Chief Electoral Officer considers appropriate, and information provided may include the name of the person investigated and the nature of the matter;
- provide the complaints respecting omissions or offences under the act may be made within six months of the alleged omission or offence; and
- provide that the deadline for the Chief Electoral Officer to commence a prosecution under the

act is one year from the date of the alleged offence.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: I don't want to prolong this, but this is about clarifying the Chief Electoral Officer's ability to carry out investigations and enforcement and I think these largely stem from recommendations that she made, and I think they're very helpful in improving the transparency of the complaint process and providing some firm deadlines and certainty around complaints and. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I understand the intent of this and I agree with the intent. Again, I am going to abstain on this one because I do have some issues with the sentence: "The outcome of investigations may be published on Election NWT's website or by other means the Chief Electoral Officer considers appropriate."

In my understanding as people are innocent until proven guilty, this doesn't state that, if the findings are proven true that they would be, this says that the Chief Electoral Officer has the ability to define, on her own, outside a court of law whether it is appropriate or not. I do have issues with people not going through due process to do that. I will be abstaining again on this one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. To the motion. I will allow the mover of the motion to close debate. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I understand the concern from my honourable colleague. I want to provide some assurance. I am sorry, I don't have the Elections Act in front of me, but other wording in the motion here does provide the Chief Electoral Officers with some discretion in terms of releasing information about investigations. He or she has to determine what is in the public interest. They also have the ability to not investigate a complaint if they believe it is frivolous or vexatious. Those are the typical words. I think they are in the act, but as I say, I don't have it in front of me. I think there is enough discretion in the authority that the Chief Electoral Officer has to prevent disclosures that are not in the public interest and so on. I understand the concern, but I think the authority is there to appropriately deal with these sorts of situations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES – AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – DEVELOP AND MAKE
MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is recommendation 13. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable the Chief Electoral Officer to develop and make materials available to schools for distribution to students who have reached voting age or will soon do so, including information on the NWT's electoral process, the right to vote, how to have one's name added to the register of electors, and any other matter that the Chief Electoral Officer considers useful to electors and prospective electors. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just very quickly, the Chief Electoral Officer requested the mandate of the office be clarified to give her specific mandate to go and talk to kids and youth in our schools because right now it is a rather vague and I am sorry, I don't have the wording in front of me, but I think this is the kind of authority that the office should have to encourage our youth to get engaged and involved in future elections and our democratic process. This is a good thing. I want to thank her for this recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES – AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – ENABLE THE CHIEF
ELECTORAL OFFICER TO DIRECT USE OF
VOTING EQUIPMENT DURING THE BY-
ELECTION,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is recommendation 14. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable the Chief Electoral Officer at a by-election to direct use of voting equipment, vote counting equipment, or alternative voting methods that differ from those required elsewhere in the act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-18(3):
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 ELECTION, SUPPLEMENTARY
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WHITE PAPER
ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTION
ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES - AMEND ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT – ENTERING AGREEMENTS
WITH ANY PERSON OR GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the last recommendation. I am sure everyone will be relieved to know that.

I move that this Assembly recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to authorize the Chief Electoral Officer to enter agreements with any person or government, department, or institution to obtain information, including personal information, to update the register of electors and permit the Chief Electoral Officer to enter agreements with any person or government, department, or institution to provide address, mapping, demographic, or geographic information including geospatial information and ensure appropriate protection of the privacy of personal information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I respect the intent of this and I just wish it would have gone a bit further. I found that the voter's list was really inappropriate during the campaign period and I kind of wish that this motion was made stronger and actually had a timeline that said that, when the voter's list had to be updated, how many years, et cetera, because that is an issue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. The chair of the committee indicates that he wishes to respond. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't always want to get the last word in, but I think and I understand the concern from my honourable colleague. There was, I think, a motion or two earlier here that does deal with the issue of the voter's list and preserving the ability for the public to scrutinize it and make corrections to it.

The intent of this motion is to ensure that the Chief Electoral Officer has the ability to make agreements with other agencies to make sure that we have a better voter's list in the first place. That is what the intention of this motion is, so I think it meets your concern by improving the information and the ability to put together a better list. That is what this motion is about, but I appreciate the concern from my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was going to let him have the last word, but I appreciate it. Again, I do support it. I do wish that it would have had some kind of timeline that said every four years or something that the voter's list would be updated just because it is so obsolete and just unmanageable, in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you, committee. Committee, do you agree that we have concluded consideration of committee report 1-18(3)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We have now concluded consideration of Committee Report 1-18(3), 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. What is the wish of committee? 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 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 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.

I would like to report progress with 17 motions adopted and that review of Committee Report 1-18(3) has been concluded and that consideration of Tabled Document 2-18(3) and Tabled Document 3-18(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 report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? The Member for Frame Lake. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 2:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2017-2018, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I would request for a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

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

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. SCHAUERTE): The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, and the Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the motion: 13 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Friday, October 20, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ministers' Statements 3. Members' Statements 4. Returns to Oral Questions 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery 6. Acknowledgements 7. Oral Questions 8. Written Questions 9. Returns to Written Questions 10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address 11. Petitions 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills 14. Tabling of Documents 15. Notices of Motion 16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills 17. Motions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion 5-18(3), Apology and Compensation to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Relating to Damages from the Giant Mine - Motion 6-18(3), Action on the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge 18. First Reading of Bills 19. Second Reading of Bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns - 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 - Committee Report 3-18(3), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Motion 32-18(2), Referral of Petition 6-18(2): Elimination of Time Change in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee on Social Development 21. Report of Committee of the Whole | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Third Reading of Bills 23. Orders of the Day <p>MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 20, 2017, at 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>---ADJOURNMENT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The House adjourned 5:53 p.m.</p> |
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