

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**2nd Session Day 41 16th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008**

Pages 1655 to 1688

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

**Members of the Legislative Assembly**

Speaker  
Hon. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Members Present

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya.

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

# Prayer

Prayer.

**Speaker (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers’ statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

# Ministers’ Statements

## Minister’s Statement 103-16(2) Energy Contribution Programs

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, the continued high cost of energy is an ongoing concern for people in the Northwest Territories. Many residents are making changes to reduce their energy use and costs. Many are taking advantage of our energy contribution programs to make these changes.

Last year our government paid out more than $165,000 in rebates through the Energy Efficiency Incentive program to residents who purchased energy efficient appliances and vehicles. The majority of 549 approved applications were for the purchase of new household or home heating appliances in communities in every region in the NWT.

We also provided rebates to ten successful applicants through our Small Renewable Energy Fund to install solar photovoltaic and wind turbine technologies in their homes, which are off the grid. This resulted in a total fuel savings of 20,772 litres, or 58,900 kilograms, of greenhouse gas emissions per year. All applications for this program came from the North Slave region.

The department is currently developing public information to promote the use of alternative energy technologies. One of the main purposes of this work is to help people learn about how they can use these technologies in their homes and communities.

Four applications were approved through the Community Renewable Energy Fund. These included the installation of solar hot water systems in seniors’ centres in Hay River and Fort Providence and support for the Remote Community Wind Energy Conference in Tuktoyaktuk last November. Support was also provided for the Con Mine Geothermal Study in Yellowknife.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the energy contribution programs to ensure they respond to the need to reduce energy use, particularly in the area of home heating costs.

The Energy Efficiency Incentive program has been refocused this year to assist homeowners in dealing with the high costs of home heating by increasing rebates for purchasing energy efficient models of home heating appliances.

As Members are aware, wood pellet heating appliances are becoming more popular. Advances in wood pellet technology have resulted in the production of new furnaces and boilers that are replacing or augmenting oil furnaces and boilers.

Rebates of $700 for wood pellet furnaces and $1,000 for boilers are now available to homeowners purchasing these appliances. Rebates are also available for the purchase of wood pellet stoves, wood stoves, high energy efficient oil furnaces, gas furnaces and boilers, hot water heating appliances and energy efficient home appliances.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that there’s a need to start using alternative energy technologies to reduce our dependence on oil and diesel fuel. To help business owners deal with these costs, we have updated the Alternative Energy Technologies program to include the new Medium Renewable Energy Fund. This fund will provide one-third of the costs, up to $15,000, of qualified alternative energy systems for businesses in the Northwest Territories.

Other changes to our energy contribution programs include making community and regional aboriginal land and development corporations eligible for funding for community projects through the Energy Conservation Program, and adding solar hot water heating systems to the list of eligible systems under the Small Renewable Energy Fund.

Mr. Speaker, these program changes reflect the priorities of the 16th Legislative Assembly and help residents, businesses, municipal and aboriginal government and non-profit groups address the high cost of energy.

By becoming more energy efficient, we will save money and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will continue to review our energy contribution programs and make sure they are responsive to the needs of our residents.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

## Minister’s Statement 104-16(2) Draft NWT Hydro Strategy

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, our government is tasked with balancing our efforts to address immediate energy challenges with the responsibility for investing in longer term energy solutions. Since its release last year the NWT energy plan has been the framework that has guided our work and investment to meet these two key challenges.

At the appropriate time this afternoon, as the Chair of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, I will be tabling the draft NWT Hydro Strategy. This is the next step in our government’s comprehensive and strategic approach to energy planning.

Mr. Speaker, the growing impacts of our use of fossil fuels on the environment underscore the importance of harnessing clean and renewable energy for the future. Meanwhile, rising and volatile prices emphasize the reality that we must find ways to reduce our reliance on imported diesel.

Our territory has some of the best undeveloped hydroelectric resources in Canada. It is critical that we fully explore and understand the true extent of this natural energy potential.

The actions of the Hydro Strategy are aimed at developing the environmental and technical baseline data that will enable us to make informed decisions. We will focus our actions on key strategic areas, including:

* preparing for hydro development;
* protecting our environment; and
* financing hydro projects.

Once established, hydro facilities in the NWT will be able to provide clean, reliable energy, insulated from rising oil prices for 100 years or more.

In addition to producing clean and secure power for our communities, hydro power holds tremendous economic opportunities for our people. In fact, in the next ten to 15 years this strategy could result in over $1 billion of investment.

Developing our hydro potential, however, will require a great deal of time, effort and capital investment. This draft NWT Hydro Strategy looks forward and will allow us to consider a number of key initiatives to advance the long term development of our world class hydro potential.

I encourage all communities and residents to share in this work and to take time in the coming months to consider this draft strategy and provide us with input and comments.

Your timely insight will allow us to finalize our Hydro Strategy by April and to move forward with a concerted, long term approach to the development of our hydro resources reflective of the vision, principles and values of all NWT residents.

Together we will build on our existing hydro legacy to maximize the benefits and the promise of this sustainable energy source for future generations.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

## Minister’s Statement 105-16(2) Mammography Program in Hay River

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Among Canadian women breast cancer is the form of cancer most often diagnosed. It ranks second after lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths. More than 21,200 Canadian women will be diagnosed with this disease each year, and more than 5,200 deaths will occur as a result. In the NWT about 20 new breast cancer cases are diagnosed each year, comprising 40 per cent of all cancers diagnosed in women. The incidence of breast cancer among NWT women is higher than the Canadian rate.

The evidence is strongly established that routine mammography screening reduces the number of deaths from breast cancer by detection at the early, most treatable stage. I am pleased to announce that as of September 2008 we have expanded the mammography breast cancer screening program to Hay River. This builds on the program we have at Stanton Territorial Hospital.

The implementation of this core service, made possible with assistance from federal funding, will improve wait times for women being tested in the area. The service will have a common database with the Stanton Territorial Health Authority screening program and will work in collaboration with the breast screening program in Yellowknife. An estimated 450 to 500 women will be screened in the Hay River area each year.

This new mammography program is in addition to the mobile mammography services being provided through Screen Test Alberta to residents of Fort Smith and other South Slave communities. This service will enable women to take charge of their own breast health by providing them with results sooner, screening education, as well as recall letters when they are due for their next screening exam.

I applaud the collaborative work of the authorities and the NWT breast screening committee in making this project become a reality, and I encourage all women to get breast screened regularly to ensure early detection of this disease.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

# Members’ Statements

## Member’s Statement on Tribute to the Late George Blondin

**Mr. Yakeleya:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I’d like to pay tribute to the late George Blondin. George Blondin was an uncle to many people. He was an uncle to me. I have a statement here I want to make in the House.

George Blondin, a respected elder from the Sahtu, passed away October 12, 2008, from a heart attack and double stroke at the age of 87.

George was a traditional Indian and a skilled hunter and trapper who enjoyed living off the land and water. He’s best known as a storyteller for the Dene culture and tradition. He was an author of three books: *When the World Was New*, *Yamoria* and *Trail of the Spirit*. The Dene people will forever be grateful to him for preserving these stories and knowledge.

As a youth George spent four years in a residential school but went on to raise seven children whom he encouraged to get educated so they could continue to help with their people.

As he got older, he wrote regular articles for The Native Press and the News/North. He spoke at many universities and conferences to talk about his books and to accept various awards. He was a great storyteller with a powerful voice who captivated audiences with his humour and booming laughter.

His involvement in politics and Dene rights spanned 30 years. He was chief of Délînê, vice-president of the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories representing the Denedeh elders and Chair of the Dene Culture Institute. The George Blondin scholarship was recently established, and he was the recipient of the Order of Canada in 2003 for preserving the heritage of his people.

George will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. He led a full life and left a legacy behind of many issues that were important to him and his people. God bless George Blondin and his family.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

## Member’s Statement on Impact of Market Volatility on NWT Economic Outlook

**Mr. Abernethy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to quote five sentences and phrases from the North American Outlook, which is an economic activity newsletter prepared by Nesbitt Burns of the BMO. This edition of the newsletter was released last week.

Quote number 1: “The outlook for the North American economy is lowered in response to the watershed events that have reshaped Wall Street and roiled the global credit markets.” Number 2: “The near term growth outlook has worsened.” Number 3: “Minimal recovery in ’09.” Number 4: “The higher borrowing costs, tighter lending standards and equity sell-off will prolong the slump in consumer and business spending.” And number 5: “For Canada, the pullback in commodity prices will slow the Western provinces.”

I am not intending to be an alarmist here. I know that the Canadian banks are sound, with sufficient resources and better lending practices than many banks in other countries. I know that the Canadian mortgage system is strong and that our mortgages are a smaller percentage of our home values and our disposable income than averages in American mortgages.

However, I am very interested in the views of the Minister of Finance of how the change in the North American outlook has affected the short and long term fiscal outlook of this government. How is the Mackenzie Gas Project affected by lower natural gas prices and by reduced share prices for the producers? How are the diamond mines affected by the huge sell-off in equities that has occurred? Is the borrowing of the Government of the NWT affected by the freeze-up of bank to bank borrowing? Is the Minister of Finance now facing higher interest charges? How does the slowdown of the Canadian economy affect our fiscal forecast?

I listened to the CBC interview last Tuesday with a local mortgage broker who explained that there was a slowdown in Yellowknife housing sales which he had not seen since the ’90s. There was another CBC interview last week about the sharply declining share prices of Aber Resources and MGM Energy. Both companies have seen an approximately 65 per cent decrease in share values in the last six months. MGM is an energy corporation working on exploration in the Mackenzie Delta. If companies we have counted on to lead economic development have been hit hard by the market decline, what is the effect on the GNWT?

The Minister of Finance advised Members of this House in his fiscal strategy statement that he was counting on economic growth and population growth for the longer term. How realistic is this now?

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Abernethy:** I would expect that the Minister of Finance has had to take some of these realities into consideration during the preparation of the government’s business plan. At the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Finance to share his views on the changed fiscal outlook of the GNWT.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## Member’s Statement on Public/Private Partnership Policies and Procedures

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some months ago I posed questions to the Minister of Public Works and Services about P3 projects and policies. As we now move into discussion of the 2009–2010 capital budget, I have to ask myself if my questions in February had any effect or created any action.

Most people will agree that the proposed 2009–2010 infrastructure plan is ambitious but that it still leaves many projects undone. This 16th Assembly has several megaprojects on our wish list. Expansion of the Taltson hydro power plant and the building of the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuk are just two examples.

I think we all acknowledge the GNWT on its own cannot accomplish these projects, that we will need financial assistance from other partners, the federal government and/or private industry, to see these projects through to fruition. But are we prepared for these types of projects? Going by the answers to my questions in February and information received or not received to date, no, we are not.

There seem to be no consistent P3 policies in place. I was told in February that projects are dealt with on a case by case basis. Further, as found in the Hansard record of February 14, 2008, the Minister stated:

“There have been very few projects brought forward to this government that are classified as P3…. As we move forward, there needs to be more analysis done as the federal government has, as part of the Building Canada plan, a funding initiative that’s referred to as the P3 model. We need to move forward if we’re going to access some of those dollars.”

I couldn’t agree more.

And from the same Hansard record, “We’ve agreed that we will all be as competitive as we can, and I’d be glad to bring the issue of the P3 forward to that committee for consideration.” I believe the committee referenced was the ministerial infrastructure committee. I appreciate that this committee has been busy, and I recognize and give credit to that committee for a lot of the work that’s been done; it’s been very good work. But I have yet to hear or see any report that references the development of P3 policies and procedures.

I said in February: “I urge the Minister to get a policy in place as soon as possible. These kinds of projects are somewhat unusual, and we need to have as much governance, as much of an umbrella for overseeing these projects, as possible.”

I hope repeating my words will have an impact on those across the floor who are hopefully listening. Not surprisingly, I will have questions for the Premier or the appropriate Minister later on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

## Member’s Statement on Application of Housing Programs in Non-Market Communities

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Today I’d like to talk about housing policies, the changes needed to housing policies and how the window for accessing housing policies is too narrow for non-market communities.

All too often my constituents fail to meet criteria for housing programs. The NWT Housing Corporation is trying to make people eligible for programs as opposed to making programs that fit the people. We have empty units now that are being sold on the open market. The NWT Housing Corporation has failed my constituents by putting houses in place for people in need, but nobody fits that program. Is it not incumbent upon the NWT Housing Corporation to use the sale proceeds to help people in need in communities such as Fort Resolution and Lutselk’e?

From what I understand, the federal affordable housing program is designed to remove the people from core need and to lower the overall need in the communities. I would guess that it’s not to build new houses in communities and then to sell the units on the private market. I don’t think it’s designed to circulate the money back into the system to address areas that are easy to resolve. This needs further exploration.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation has not completed a needs survey since late 2003. It is vitally important the needs survey be current and that spending be put where the needs are highest. It should not be based on population.

I see houses being built in market communities, and people in need are moving into their units. They do not sit vacant for very long. The new homeowners get a unit that is worth more on the market than what they owe for their home. The system works well for those communities.

Mr. Speaker, I’ve said over and over to open up the program. Understand the difference between communities. Understand that one size does not fit all when it comes to delivering social programs. The NWT Housing Corporation must understand the difference between the communities with a market that is as strong as anywhere else in Canada and communities with a few hundred people, low incomes and no market in sight.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ll have questions for the Minister on this later on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## Member’s Statement on Medical Care Provided to Constituent in Southern Institution

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the Thanksgiving weekend something horrible happened. A young mother in her youthful prime had a stroke, and because of her condition level, she needed to be sent to an Edmonton hospital to meet her needs. So she was medevacked to Edmonton Monday night and arrived around 11 p.m. with her daughter and three month old nursing son in tow.

As anyone can imagine, this is a difficult situation, but what can be noted here at this specific point is that it has the appearance that the system may be working. That is, you get sick, and the publicly funded system, via taxpayer dollars, is there to care for you when you need it most.

However, this is where the system did not work, because when this mother needed it most, it seems to have fallen off the rails. When she got to the Edmonton hospital, there was no room to forward her to. When she got there, she spent the remainder of that evening and most of the next day in emergency. In total, she sat there almost 19 hours in the emergency room — again, with two in tow.

I don’t know what the reasonable level of health care is and how it would be defined by our Health Minister, but, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that if we stepped outside of this building, no one on these streets would tell you that waiting 19 hours in emergency is considered a reasonable level of care considering our taxpayer dollars are paying for something much better.

Why do I keep pointing to 19 hours? Well, that’s when an enclosure in the emergency room was found. I don’t know where it may have been. Maybe it had been lost. To be honest, Mr. Speaker, I don’t even know what an enclosure is. Is it a broom closet? Is it a coffee room? Is it a storeroom? I just don’t know. Again, this is not a reasonable level of care that I would normally define. I only wish the story ended there, Mr. Speaker.

So this woman with a stroke, two in tow, waited 15 more hours in the enclosure. But I’m pleased to say, that as of 9 o’clock this morning, after 34 hours of this whole ordeal, she finally received a room.

Now, this is very important. As I’ve come to understand the situation, a memo had been forwarded to the Health Minister almost two weeks ago saying that there were no rooms available. That’s two weeks ago. How can that be? How can we leave health care to chance? Mr. Speaker, this stresses me out just thinking about this statement. How do you think the husband felt? How do you think she felt? How do you think her children felt? No one should feel abandoned by our system, certainly not like this.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. So what happened? Why were there no rooms available? There is more than one hospital in Edmonton that I’m familiar with. Where is the assistance from our northern nurses who work down there to make sure our northern patients are taken care of? What about that great arrangement we have with Capital Health? We pay them. What are they doing? At this moment I’m not sure. It sounds like they’re not doing their job.

So what is the problem? What was the plan? Knowing full well that there might not be room, why did we send her? Why didn’t we send her to Calgary?

Mr. Speaker, I don’t want to have wait six to nine weeks for an answer from the Health Minister on this situation, but I can guarantee you that this family deserves a written apology and a public statement saying that this level of care will not be delivered to anyone and that this is not a reasonable level of service for anyone to receive in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Health Minister later today. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## Member’s Statement on Cooperative Reconstruction of Dettah Road

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have previously spoken about the distressing standard and condition of the Dettah road. The road presents a direct cost to the people of Dettah and those who work or visit there, and there are safety concerns that result from the state of the road. The government well recognizes the need for reconstruction to resolve this dilemma.

Despite their proximity to our capital and the seat of government, this situation has festered to the point where the people of the community are developing their own response to try and deal with it. It is my understanding that through the good work of some caring and can do people, a coalition of agencies and dedicated individuals is putting together a plan to get it done.

Mr. Speaker, where there is a will there is a way. With resourceful people and agencies like the chiefs of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Mine Training Society, the Deton’Cho Corporation, and even the North Slave region and perhaps our Department of Transportation, partnerships can be made and results can happen. Reconstruction of the Dettah road can be prohibitively expensive as a one time hit for any one player, at least in the short term. However, a number of partners working cooperatively over a period of time on the same goal can actually yield many benefits. In this case, I am optimistic that such an approach can yield a reconstructed and safer road, a bunch of trained workers, enhanced efficiency of financial and human resources, more experienced aboriginal businesses and strengthened working relationships.

Mr. Speaker, as an aside I would like to acknowledge the NWT Aboriginal Business Conference establishing economic cooperation, a conference on northern business and workplace development that’s happening today, as we speak, in Yellowknife.

I am pleased to say that such a coalition of determined partners does indeed seem to be coming together. I do not doubt that our government recognizes that when our people move, this government has a role in recognizing and supporting that commitment. I suspect our Minister of Transportation has such foresight, and I want to acknowledge the fundamental role, perhaps in a more behind the scenes fashion than is typical, his departmental staff may provide in being available to help the people move this project forward.

I have spoken before about what it says when we have a community of original inhabitants of this land living surrounded by expensive, well constructed and paved roads while they suffer with substandard access.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my appreciation to all the partners who are working to put this initiative together, and I want to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Transportation for whatever they can provide in assistance to help it come to a successful end. Mahsi.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## Member’s Statement on Consolidation of Boards and Agencies

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this has already been referred to in the House, I am going to follow on the lead of my colleague from Frame Lake on this whole issue of refocusing government and reviewing our boards and agencies in the Northwest Territories. In the previous government I sat on a committee with Minister Miltenberger and Minister Lee as we looked at agencies, boards and commissions.

Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about refocusing government and looking at our governance structure here in the Northwest Territories, there are many, many considerations to be taken into account. I do not believe we should think that because something looks good on paper, it is the way to go. We can draw a fancy org chart with all kinds of ideas to consolidate things like housing, education and health service boards. The fact is that our regions and our communities are so extremely diverse that a cookie cutter, one size fits all approach will not work. The impetus for this reorganization should come with extensive consultation, and perhaps even the request for it should be from the ground up, as opposed to us dictating from this level of government down. We have for many years in our government talked about the need to build capacity in our communities and in our regions. We need to keep that in mind with the self-government negotiations that will continue to take place.

I am personally fearful of what could happen: the destructive effect of taking a less than cautious approach to any consideration of consolidation of boards and agencies. I believe that a lot of good work has been done. A lot of money has been spent to develop some of these boards, and to take a kind of wholesale approach that’s not well thought out could result in considerable damage.

So I guess my caution to the Minister who will be heading up this review on refocusing government would be to proceed with caution and respect the work that has been done to develop these agencies in the communities and in the regions. Please bear in mind going forward, as perhaps more self-government and aboriginal government take on a greater role, that these boards may be needed to ensure local and very good quality input into the provision of these very important services. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Nahendeh Mr. Menicoche.

## Member’s Statement on Probation Services and Rehabilitation Supports for Young Offenders

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Today I would like to express some concerns of my constituency about fair justice.

Mr. Speaker, we all know, unfortunately, that some of our young people get in trouble with the law. Some of those young people are first time offenders and fearful of the system. One of the biggest issues with encountering a new life situation, like trouble with the justice system, is that there may not be a clear understanding of the consequences of their behaviour.

Even though these young people may genuinely regret their actions and are motivated to better their lives, they may not have the skills or understanding to do so. This also poses challenges for the justice system itself, which aims at fairness and equal treatment. I believe that sentencing of our youth has to be clear and ensure that they do fully understand the consequences of not following out a conditional sentence.

One of the principles of fair justice is that trial and sentencing should happen without undue delay after charges have been laid. In the case of a conviction, the person must fully understand his or her sentence. Every effort has to be made in the courts and by corrections to explain the details of a sentence and later the conditions of the release. Many of these young adults would gladly turn their life back onto the right track. There have been cases where youth thought they were released and did not know the consequences of breaching their conditions and as a result now suffer a continued or even harsher sentence.

Community justice groups and community corrections are tasked to help with their rehabilitation back into society. We have to strengthen the existing system to give clients more support in re-establishing their lives in our communities. We must recognize that they do need help to find the path to a positive life.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, our system does not always offer appropriate supports, particularly for young people who struggled through school and now are trying to understand our complicated legal system. Without adequate probation services and rehabilitation support, we fail these young persons, and they will end up back in the corrections system instead of leading a meaningful life in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members’ statements, the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

## Member’s Statement on Funding Support for Youth Programs

**Mr. Jacobson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Years ago an elder told me that taking care of our youth was like building or taking care of your hunting equipment. Without this, things continue to deteriorate quickly to a point where survival is impossible. The healthy survival of communities relies on our youth. These are an elder’s words of wisdom I try to promote whenever possible.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of Nunakput face the hardest challenges in the entire territory, possibly the entire country. Challenges such as few recreational sports, the high cost of supplies, the high cost of transportation and no adequate youth centres are just a few. Equality is all Nunakput is asking for.

Mr. Speaker, there are many students in Nunakput who have never played an official sporting game, such as basketball, hockey and the Super Soccer tournament here in Yellowknife. This is unacceptable. Another example is that if a group of youth travel to Inuvik, let alone Yellowknife, from my communities to a sporting tournament, the cost of an aircraft return flight would be $6,000, even before they left Inuvik.

Healthy youth results in a healthy community. That is why I am challenging the government to follow through on promises and priorities established for our youth. Mr. Speaker, strengthening our communities through a wide range of youth enhancement initiatives must be a priority for the government, such as education, recreation, motivation, inspiration and edification. Making these commitments is not going to be easy and will require considerable resources to be assigned, but the alternative is more unhealthy youth, a higher dropout rate and possibly even more youth in the correctional system.

We have to be there for all youth in the Northwest Territories, not just where we live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:**  Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

## Member’s Statement on Consolidation of Boards and Agencies

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today about board reform and initiatives of the government to move this large piece of refocusing government forward. During the life of the last government I was a big supporter of the agencies and boards review that began in 2004 but unfortunately was shelved in 2005 by the previous government.

Under the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiatives Committee the current government is moving ahead with board reform in our territory, and I still am a supporter of this being examined and analyzed.

There are currently 70 GNWT boards involved in governance for health, social services, education and housing. This is about half of all GNWT boards. Board reform supports the goal of the 16th Legislative Assembly of effective and efficient government and the priority to achieve greater effectiveness, efficiencies and a more client focused, service oriented approach through better planning, coordination and communication between GNWT departments. These are all lofty words and noble pursuits; however, this is a colossal undertaking. From what I am to understand, the GNWT is moving forward with a regional based boards approach whose responsibility would include Health and Social Services; Education, Culture, and Employment; and the NWT Housing Corporation.

I would like to thank the lead Minister, Michael Miltenberger, for meeting with committee recently to discuss this important initiative. I certainly do have a number of concerns as this moves forward. What I am seeking is reassurance from the Minister that once this is proposed to stakeholders, he shares all the concerns with Regular Members before proceeding to the implementation phase.

I’m also concerned about the cookie cutter approach to board reform. Just because the Tlicho Community Services model seems to work effectively, will this model work in other regions? And, Mr. Speaker, what will this initiative mean in terms of legislation? We will require enabling legislation for regional boards and also changes to the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, the NWT Housing Corporation Act, the Education Act and even possibly the Public Service Act.

This is no small undertaking, Mr. Speaker, and again, we need to make sure that we get things right and that Regular Members have meaningful input before implementation of the reform takes place. Mahsi.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**Recognition of  
Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Speaker:** Colleagues, I’d like to draw your attention to the presence of our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Gerald Gerrand, in the gallery. Welcome back to Yellowknife and to the House.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

# Oral Questions

## Question 465-16(2) Impact of Market Volatility on NWT Economic Outlook

**Mr. Abernethy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance. As indicated in my Member’s statement, the outlook for the North American economy is lowered due to recent economic realities, yet this government is focused almost exclusively on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and diamond mining as our solutions for the future. Given that those industries we have counted on to lead economic development in the North have been hit hard, what is the effect on the GNWT, and how does this slowdown in the Canadian economy affect our fiscal framework or fiscal forecast?

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the rapidly unfolding events that have been happening around the world have had an impact in the country. I indicated to Minister Flaherty just last week when he called that overall we anticipated a chilling effect in terms of credit, cost, the pressure on companies and the dropping of resources on the stock market. There is a whole host of areas where we anticipate there is going to be an impact.

The one good sign, I suppose, is going to be that the price of oil drops, even though we have already purchased our oil for the small communities. The price of oil is now down to $75 a barrel, I think it was today. But overall we are not going to be immune.

**Mr. Abernethy:** I would like to thank the Minister for that. To me this is something we need to be concerned about: the drop in the market and whatnot. It worries me that we have put a lot of our direction into the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and the diamond mines. I’m not suggesting that we stop; I think that if we can develop a pipeline in an environmentally responsible way and get the benefit such as hydro and roads out of that, that would be brilliant. But I noticed that we have not spent a lot of time focusing on other economic opportunities in the North, such as fishing, agriculture and tourism. These things are a lot more sustainable. I think that for our future we seriously need to look at those as ways to increase our economy and employ Northerners.

I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if we are going to be spending any more time focusing on those types of industries to create a more sustainable economy in the Northwest Territories.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, through the Strategic Initiatives committee there is an awareness and recognition that there is a need to expand our economic base so it is not totally reliant on the non-renewable resource sector. As we come forward with the initiatives and the business plans, it will be demonstrated that we are making an attempt to provide better support for those areas.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## Question 466-16(2) Consolidation of Boards and Agencies

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Members’ statement I talked about the work that is being undertaken to look at the review of boards and agencies in the Northwest Territories. My questions today are for Minister Miltenberger.

I would like to ask: how much consultation has already taken place? What’s the status of the work being done? This is something that people in the public are very interested in having input into. I’d like to know where we are in terms of the consultation and the development of a plan.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been work underway now for the last eight months. We have briefed committee, as was noted. We’ve had some meetings and discussions recently with the DECs and the board chairs as well as thehealth folks. I will be coming into the House, hopefully this week, with a more detailed report to the House about what’s being proposed.

So there is work underway. There has been consultation, and there will continue to be consultation as we continue to carefully move forward with this large, complex undertaking.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** We know that the North is small and people like to have input into how the services are provided in their communities and their regions. I would like to ask Minister Miltenberger if any of the actions undertaken by this government could be characterized as a centralization of that kind of either governance through input on an advisory basis or a management basis.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, the plan is to have an integration of service at the regional level to bring together and to tune up the legislative pieces that are needed to be there to allow things to function more appropriately, to bring together the administrative and finance systems, which are now scattered and often disjointed and unconnected. The intent is to keep the decision-making at the community and regional levels.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I wonder if the Minister could speak to the issue that was raised in my Member’s statement about the diversity of the different regions. Certainly some regions, like the Tlicho area…. There’s kind of an obvious way for that to work. That’s why the community service board is always held up as a prime example, and a good example, of how the integration of various social services — housing, education, health, social services — has worked in the past. That’s a very unique scenario.

When you look at communities in the South Slave, for example, you have two relatively large communities and a number of small communities. Some of the history we’ve seen with the governance of education, for example, with the District Education Council…. Has the Minister got anything he could share at this time on how the government is going to deal with that diversity issue?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a point that we’re very cognizant of and sensitive to. That is that while recognizing there is a need to better plan, to do case management, to integrate these fundamental services of housing, education and health at the community level so we can be more effective in our planning and integrate service delivery, we need to tailor these to the specific regions.

In the South Slave, for example, it’s anticipated that we will have moved toward a regional board split between Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution. The services on the ground will still be there, so the decision-making can be made in a timely way. The board function and management oversight will be provided through that type of board.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There’s been reference made to the efficiency and effectiveness, but I’d like to ask: is there an underpinning to this exercise? Because this has to do with saving money.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** The intent, clearly, is to put as much money as possible toward program delivery at the community level. We know the money we have currently as a government is insufficient. As we look at things like reductions and revenue options, we’re also looking at how we’re structured. Are we structured to best deliver the programs that are needed? If we’re more efficient and effective in terms of administration, would there be more money that could then go to the program delivery area? That’s the approach we’re taking.

The money that’s in the system will stay in the system, but we’ll try to put it as close to the community as we can to focus on programs if at all possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## Question 467-16(2) Energy Contribution Program

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to follow up on the statement by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I’d like to briefly start by saying that this is like a breath of fresh air. I think our public is totally ready for this sort of thing. I’ve had a lot of feedback that people do listen to us in the House. They’re interested in what we say. I’d like to pull a little bit more information from the Minister.

I notice in the second paragraph that there were almost 550 applications for new home heating appliances, mostly that they’re more efficient and so on. Has the Minister estimated what the greenhouse gas savings are from these 550? I notice he did that for the ten mentioned below. What was the payback time for these appliances? I think the public would be interested in knowing that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All good questions of a fairly specific and technical nature. I will commit to the Member that I will get that information and share it with him and members of the committee that he’s a member of.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you to the Minister for that commitment. I hope he shares it publicly in the House with us, because, again, I know the public would be very interested indeed.

Another question I had. One of the bottlenecks I think our public experiences is the installation and services for these new appliances. It’s often very difficult to find somebody in a timely way. We don’t have homegrown expertise here. Is the Minister working with Aurora College and other arms of government to try to get some progressive educational programs going to ensure that we have in all our communities expert renewable energy and energy efficiency technicians to help our public?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** The Member is correct that there is an economic opportunity here as we look at moving to alternative energies. The whole support, installation and monitoring was raised in the House last week — the need, for example, for simple things like having qualified local people to be able to do inspections of pellet stoves and wood fired woodstoves.

Yes, there is an interest, as we move forward and start planning the value-added to this whole operation, in building the economy and being able to sustain, implement and repair and upgrade this whole type of new industry we’re going to be creating in the North.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you again to the Minister for those comments. I think the Minister mentioned the economy. That’s an important part of what we’re about, I think, trying to build and strengthen our local economies. Having the local expertise available will really assist that.

A huge one for me is that we’ve started to see the light and moved into the new Medium Renewable Energy Fund. Now we’re starting to get into some of the bigger projects where some of the biggest gains are to be had. I’m wondering: is the Minister establishing the concomitant level of expertise within this department to enable us to be efficient with this? In this case I’m thinking we’re so far behind in North America. Europe and other countries are really the standard. Are we getting some European level expertise for staff to deal with this sort of situation?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** We have some knowledgeable staff who are thoroughly engrossed and up to speed in this area. As well, we’re making use of local resources like Arctic Green Energy and the other folks who have developed their own expertise.

We recognize that there is a huge amount to be learned from Europe. As we move forward with the planning exercise, with the business plans, the need to go and take a look at what’s happening over there in terms of biomass — for example, to generate things like electricity — is what we’re committed to trying to pursue. We’re working, of course, very closely with the appropriate committees.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question, and thanks again to the Minister for those comments. I’m glad to see we’re being progressive here. Some of the technology out there is pretty new and perhaps a little bit untried in the North.

I think it’s great we’re starting to test those systems and so on, but an important aspect of that is establishing a monitoring program on them to make sure we know how much the gain is and what the full benefit is to us with our dollars and to the public. Is there a program to ensure that some monitoring, especially on the relatively new technologies out there, is paired with these projects?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** First let me comment that the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Members of Cabinet — the Premier on down — are all fully supportive of this approach and the investments we are making. I know that Public Works and Services has done work to do the monitoring the Member speaks of on some of the larger schools across the North.

I picked up a copy of a document when I went to the wood pellet fair that was held here a couple weeks ago. Clearly, we are going to have to develop all those types of support services and expertise in our own government and across the North in the communities as we move into alternative energies in a very significant and serious way.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## Question 468-16(2) Medical Care Provided to Northerners in Southern Institutions

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement today I talked about a woman who had to wait 34 hours in order to be let into a room and suffered from a stroke. She was sent down to Edmonton, as I talked about in my Member’s statement. I felt that this was a disgusting way for government services and funding to show that the standard of health is completely unreasonable and unfair.

My questions will be focused on the Minister of Health and Social Services and specific only to this incident. I want to be very clear. I’d like to know what happened in this situation. I want to know what the Minister is doing about it. And will this Minister be willing to put a written apology in place and explain why it happened and why it won’t happen in the future?

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. A couple of questions there. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member’s question. Yesterday we happened to be out of session, and I was in my office all day. I spent the better part of my day addressing this specific situation. I talked to the husband of the patient myself. I know my deputy minister has talked to the patient’s husband in Yellowknife. We had a nurse in the department mobilizing the key people in the department to move this patient along into a room as quickly as was possible.

This patient had a stroke. She had to be sent to Edmonton. It was a decision made by the doctor here. She had to be near cardiology and neurology services so that she could be monitored. Capital Health’s Edmonton Clinic hospital is right now under what’s called full capacity protocol. They are completely full, and they have waiting lists. They have 50 patients in emergency rooms. It was safer for that patient to stay in the emergency room until they got a bed and she was able to get that. There were a few neurology patients, and it was really important for her safety and for the best practice of health. The doctor here and the doctor there thought that she had to be close to that hospital.

It is really unfortunate that she was not able to get a bed, but for reasons of traffic and volume of work required at the Edmonton Royal Alexandra Hospital, that was what they had to do.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Waiting 34 hours for a room is completely unreasonable. I would not describe that as a reasonable level of care that we pay for with our tax dollars. Two weeks ago this Minister knew there were problems down there. The husband called me to say that they knew this in this department and they understood this in this department.

I want to know what the plan was, because there appears to be no plan if they sent her down there with no room. And is this Minister prepared to put an apology in writing to this family that explains, “Sorry this happened, and it will not happen again”?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** I’m not aware of this two week ago communication the Member is talking about. I did talk to the husband of the patient yesterday. I let him know that I was taking this issue very seriously and that I was using all of my powers and authority available to me to help this NWT resident who is being cared for in emergency without being able to find her own room.

We use Capital Health services because for services like neurology and cardiology, we don’t have those services here. The doctors here felt it was better for her to be sent there than to stay here. She was being taken care of and monitored, and I believe that I as the Minister and the department did everything we could. I was on the phone all day yesterday to do everything within our power to move her. I’m glad to know she has finally moved into a room of her own.

**Mr. Hawkins:** The Minister just doesn’t seem to understand the question. I’m not asking or stating that the problem was in sending her to Edmonton. That’s not the problem. The problem is that she had to wait in emergency 34 hours to get a room. There seems to be no concern about an apology to this family. There seems to be no concern or thought as to saying: well, maybe if this hospital is full and if there are no rooms in this hospital, why could we not have sent her somewhere else, be it in Edmonton or Calgary?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** I asked that very question, and I was advised that the Capital Health authority decides where these patients go. Doctors consult with each other when we’re sending patients South and when they’re receiving. On the basis of what the doctors know, they decide what facility and what expertise this patient needs.

This patient needed neurology and cardiology treatment. Royal Alexandra is where she had to be. Before she could be placed in a room, she had to be in emergency. There were two other Alberta residents with neurology conditions. They were all being monitored. They had a bed; it’s just that they didn’t have a room.

We use the services in Alberta. We do not control the capacity issues at the hospital where she was being taken care of. We are all aware of NWT residents who go to Stanton hospital and wait for hours for service. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to wait for service, but I want to tell you that this patient was given the best service we were able to provide. I know it wasn’t the best, but I was on top of that all day long, and so was my department.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the issue seems to elude the Minister. It’s not that she needs to go to Edmonton. It’s not that she needed to go to emergency. It’s that she spent 34 hours in emergency. That is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, why are we sending people to Edmonton if they have no rooms? I know the hospital care is the level that we’re concerned about, but why are we sending them to that hospital if they don’t have any rooms? Why did we send her there, and where is this apology that I think this family deserves?

**Hon**. **Sandy Lee:** The doctor here decided that she needed services we didn’t have here. Capital Health doctors decided that she had to go to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. We had inquired about other capacities, and I understand that the emergency units in Calgary, as well as in Grande Prairie, were also at full capacity.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

## Question 469-16(2) Application of Housing Programs in Non-Market Communities

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member’s statement I talked about Housing Corporation programs. I have questions for the Minister.

Can the Minister advise this House if he is willing to create or revitalize programs that are more congruent to smaller, non-market communities?

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**Hon. Robert McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just went through an exercise and review and a whole program change to look at our programs to see how well they are delivered and how well the communities understand the criteria and what is being provided. We reduced our programs to four programs. We think they’ve been targeted to a wide range of the population of the Northwest Territories.

The Member has indicated in his statement that one size certainly doesn’t fit all, and we agree. We’ve got programs that are targeted to low income families and communities. We have targeted programs for families who want to own their own homes. We’ve targeted programs so that we can assist people who are above the threshold and can’t receive financial support from us. We can work with them to work through the system to the financial institutions and help them with some of these designs.

Mr. Speaker, I’m not sure where the Member would like us to go with it. I believe and I think most communities would believe that our programs are geared toward all the population of the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House exactly when the next needs survey will be completed? When can we advise communities of the results of the next needs survey?

**Hon. Robert McLeod:** We’ve had a community needs survey completed and presented in 2004. That was shared with Members of this House and the general public. We also had in 2006 a housing data census. The next community housing needs will be done in 2009. Mr. Speaker, that’s the information we use to allocate our budget, based on this information.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House if he’s willing to look at an allocation model that is based on percentage of need, and not on the number of people who need housing, community by community — in effect, allocating to communities most in need?

**Hon. Robert McLeod:** I’m pleased to sit down with the Member and discuss the concept he’s presenting. We do currently provide housing allocations and housing budgets based on core needs, and we look at the national average. We also look at what is the core need in each community. I fully recognize that the two communities that the Member represents are above the core need average, so I would be pleased to sit down and talk to him about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement I mentioned that houses built under the current allocating system in the communities are now being sold in the private market, because there are no people in need in the community who fit the program. Can the Minister ensure that the allocation of money and proceeds from sales of any units, NWTHC units, anywhere in the Northwest Territories are allocated on a system that is agreed to on this side of the House — in other words, using the percentage system, the aforementioned system?

**Hon. Robert McLeod:**  I would have to get more clarity on the Member’s comments on how we allocate the units. We certainly feel that our current system is fair. We base it on core need, and we try to balance the investment between public housing and home ownership. However, I would certainly need to have more discussion to fully understand where he would like us to embark with the new allocation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

## Question 470-16(2) Consolidation of Boards and Agencies

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Strategic Initiative Committee on Refocusing Government. That’s Minister Miltenberger.

In my Member’s statement from earlier I spoke of my support for this initiative if done properly and if thoroughly examined and analyzed. I think there is room for improvement. However, I do have some concerns about the process that is currently at play. I’m just wondering if the Minister could comment on the intent to use the one size fits all approach with boards across the territory.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** First let me indicate in this House that I look forward to having the Chair of EDI and the Chair of Social Programs hopefully come on board as fully participating members on this very important committee so we can in fact do all of the work.

The issue that the Member raised of one size fits all. There are some fundamental principles we’re moving on, but we recognize that we’re going to have to tailor circumstances to each of the regions. For example, we recognize that the North Slave, which comprises mainly Yellowknife as well as Lutselk’e, has some unique challenges. They’re complex in a different way from most other regions. We’re recommending that we take a two track approach. We believe that we can look at most of these other regions and move ahead, but in Yellowknife we have to take the time to look at all the complexities that are there to make sure we are making the best and most informed decision, tailoring the requirements to those realities.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I thank the Minister for that. I do look forward to working with him on the Refocusing Government committee when the time does come. I guess what I’m seeking today is just reassurance. It sounds like the Minister is understanding the intricacies of the various regions across the territory.

I wanted to ask: before any implementation is undertaken on the board reform, will the Minister convey all the concerns that have been expressed to him and his staff? They’re going out and shopping this around. There are going to be concerns out there from stakeholders. Will those concerns in their entirety be shared with Regular Members, Mr. Speaker?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** What is being proposed and worked on by the refocusing and the strategic initiatives committees will be, in my opinion, the single biggest piece of restructuring we’re going to do as an Assembly in terms of government and how we deliver services.

Clearly, with the Members and the Chairs coming on board as fully participating members, they’ll have access to all that information. We intend to fully brief committees as a matter of course as we proceed with the work that’s necessary as we move down the implementation path. There’s work we’re doing right now. While we have timelines, we have a lot more preparatory work to do, recognizing that this is a very complex undertaking.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Again, I thank the Minister for that. In the decision-making process, from a public standpoint, the public wants to have some reassurances as well that their concerns are going to be addressed — the board Chair in Yellowknife and even outside of Yellowknife. I just wanted to ask the Minister again: in the decision-making process, what is he doing to base a go/no-go decision on in terms of board reform, and are we going to be able to debate the pros and cons of such an initiative publicly, Mr. Speaker?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, we’re proceeding on the assumption, clearly, that we have hundreds of boards in the Northwest Territories in the area we’re talking about. Just between health, education and housing we have 70 boards. We’d like to streamline that down to be more efficient.

Over time we let things develop, often in an unplanned way. We intend to work closely with you folks in committee and all its members and committees of Regular Members to hopefully reach a consensus at the end of the day for a plan that’s going to allow us to rationalize, as the very first step towards boards and agencies across the Northwest Territories focusing on this social program area, and come to an agreement on an approach that will make sense and that we can hopefully implement during the life of this Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m glad that the Minister understands the intricacies and the complexity of this issue. It sounds like he will be willing to work with Regular Members to move this along.

I guess the last question I’d have, Mr. Speaker, is in terms of a timeline. Obviously, this is something we’re going to want to try to get done by the end of the life of this government. Can he share with us a timeline on the implementation of this?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that we’re on about a 12 to 18 month planning frame here, in addition to the work we’ve already done. To get us ready to have all the work done, as the Member’s indicated, there’s a whole host of things we have to look at in terms of assessment. There’s legislation. There are a whole number of things we’d have to be clear on, sort out, put in the proper sequence, do the appropriate costings and all the other impacts that we have to do. So it’s going to take some time. We’re going to be working through it through the life of this business planning process for ’09–10 and on, probably into the subsequent year.

That work is underway, and we look forward to the full briefing of all the committee members here in the next week or so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## Question 471-16(2) Public/Private Partnership Policies and Procedures

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned in my statement that I discussed P3 projects, and it is extremely important, in my view, that we be adequately prepared for P3 projects more and more as we go forward with our infrastructure plans. We’re going to need partners to provide us with the financial assistance in order to get these projects done. A perfect example is that cited by Mr. Bromley in his statement earlier today.

I’d like to ask the Premier — or he can refer it to whichever Minister is the appropriate one; I’m not quite sure — to explain where a P3 policy sits on the priority list for this government and for the Premier and Cabinet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Hon. Premier, Mr. Roland.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We place in a high priority area, as the Member has pointed out, the fact that we have to look at other avenues of dealing with some of the larger initiatives that we are looking at within the Northwest Territories. I committed to having the P3 policy review put in place. Deputies met a number of months ago. In fact, I’ve had meetings as well and invited a firm to come up North to sit down with us to begin looking at a P3 process.

**Ms. Bisaro:** I thank the Premier for that answer. I was going to ask him where we were at, but he’s already answered my question — and good for him.

I guess I would just like him to confirm that currently we do not have a document in place that outlines the process that would be followed for a P3. It sounds to me as though it is in the works, so I’d like him just to confirm that.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we do have a policy. It is a very old policy. We recognize that. We’re looking at other jurisdictions for policies they’ve put in place, and that’s why the review is going forward. We will have deputies meeting again on this later on this month. As I’ve stated, I’ve also invited a firm that has much experience in this area to sit down with us to look at development in this area.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you to the Minister. I’d like to know if he can give me any kind of an idea of the timeline of when this process will be done and when we will have a revised, renewed and revitalized policy in place.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we’re trying to, as I stated earlier, go through this initial process. Any policy work we would do we would bring to committee for review and testing if, in fact, we’re heading in the right direction. We’re hoping we’ll be able to bring something forward during this winter. I don’t know if we’d call it the winter session, but at that point, we’ll try to bring something forward to Members for review.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for the answer. I think I heard the Minister say he’s going to look for input from Regular Members. I guess I would like to have him formally commit to or to formalize his answer that, yes, he will ask for input from Regular Members in terms of this particular policy for P3 projects.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we will do that as we do with any policy work. If we’re to change it, we’ll work with the appropriate committee to have input and give us feedback. So we will be doing that, yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

## Question 472-16(2) Nahanni Butte Firebreak

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to address my question to the Minister of MACA with regard to community preparedness.

I was recently in Nahanni Butte, and I had a couple of constituents ask about their firebreak. It hasn’t been worked on for some time. I’d just like to ask the Minister: does that program still exist?

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**Hon. Robert McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven’t been briefed on that particular issue yet, but I will let the Member know that I will get a briefing on it, and I will be in a better position to answer his question.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much. I think it sounds like the Minister took that question on notice there, Mr. Speaker. But just some of the further questions I’d be interested in are: what is the process to access this program; is there still funding available for this year, and if there is, can we access it as soon as we can?

**Hon. Robert McLeod:** One of the things I do not intend to do very much is take questions on notice. I will commit to be briefed on a lot of the material that Members are bringing forward to me, including the questions brought forward by the Member for Nahendeh. I will get briefed on it, and like I said, I will be in a much better position to give a very good answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

## Question 473-16(2) Program to Support Community Harvesting Practices

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 8 I talked about the importance of traditional foods and how the high cost of living is impacting the practice of harvesting traditional foods. I would like to follow up my statement today with questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell this House what programs, if any, this department currently has in place to assist subsistence hunters, not trappers, with traditional harvesting activities?

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has recognized the importance of traditional harvesting activities for some time now, and we do have a number of programs in place. Over the course of the past ten years or so we also had the Western Harvesters’ Assistance Program, which is a $15 million matching program that is available to every aboriginal government organization in the Northwest Territories. We do also have the Harvesters’ Assistance Program, a total of $1.5 million, which includes funding for local wildlife committees, Community Harvesters’ Assistance Program and Harvesters’ Disaster Compensation. We also have the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program, which provides assistance to trappers, and, of course, the Take a Kid Trapping program, which introduces youth to living off the land.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mr. Speaker, this is fairly specific. I am talking about hunters. The high cost of gas is having a huge impact on many families, and the traditional practice of harvesting traditional foods from the land is being threatened. Would the Minister commit to looking at how the department can assist subsistence hunters to offset the high cost of gasoline as soon as possible?

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, we do have the Community Harvesters’ Assistance Program, which can be used for deferring some of the costs of living off the land. I do know that the last time there were any changes to the program was at least three or four governments ago. So I will be quite prepared to review this area.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mr. Speaker, I’m glad the Minister is prepared to review this policy. The high price of gas is having an immediate impact on our harvesters. We have mineral exploration resource development, hydro expansion, tourism; even global warming has an impact on wildlife. My Tu Nedhe riding is being hit from all sides. I would like to ask the Minister if he will commit during the review to help develop a traditional harvester strategy for Tu Nedhe communities.

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I do know that in the past we have worked with the community of Tu Nedhe to develop a community development strategy. There are lots of resources around Tu Nedhe in areas such as wildlife, forestry and so on, so we’d be quite prepared to work with the community to develop such a strategy.

**Mr. Speaker:**  Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

# Tabling of Documents

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Draft NWT Hydro Strategy.

Document 103-16(2), Draft NWT Hydro Strategy, tabled.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

# Notices of Motion

## Motion 23-16(2) Appointment to the Board of Management

**Mr. Abernethy:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 17, 2008, I will move the following motion:

Therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management of this Assembly: Mr. Jackie Jacobson, Member for Nunakput, and Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Member for Monfwi; and further, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management as alternate members: Hon. Robert McLeod, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, and Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Member for Nahendeh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Abernethy. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Ministers’ Statement 80-16(2), Tabled Document 93-16(2), Bill 15, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

# Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** I call Committee of the Whole to order. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Minister’s Statement, sessional statement; Tabled Document 93-16(2); Bill 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to continue on with the Northwest Territories Capital Estimates, 2009–2010.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree?

**Some Honourable Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** With that, we’ll take a 15 minute break and begin with Capital Estimates.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** I call Committee of the Whole back to order.

## Tabled Document 93-16(2) NWT Capital Estimates 2009–2010

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** At the break we agreed to carry on with Capital Estimates 2009–2010. At this time I’d like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he is going to bring in any witnesses. Mr. Miltenberger?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Mr. Minister, can you introduce your witnesses, please?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Ms. Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance; Mr. Michael Aumond, deputy minister of Public Works and Services; and Mr. Russ Neudorf, deputy minister of Transportation.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We’re on general comments with regard to Tabled Document 93-16(2). What is the wish of the committee?

**An Honourable Member:** Detail.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** The first department, Legislative Assembly, page 1-2, we’ll defer. Carry on to 1-4, Office of the Clerk, Activity Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $130,000. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re talking about capital for the Legislative Assembly. I wonder if we could just get a description from the Minister of Finance about the condition of the property here and what the plans are for our ever sinking driveway, parking lot and heaving roadway that we call asphalt.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s beyond the scope of my knowledge, other than what’s in the capital plan. The Legislative Assembly maintains and looks after the building and grounds.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Under this budget, Mr. Chairman, it’s a legitimate question. I see there is a security system and an exterior door replacement, but is it appropriate in this discussion on this capital budget to be asking if there are any plans for the condition of the deteriorating property out there in terms of the driveway?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** It’s a legitimate question; it’s just not one I’m in a position to answer.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** The Legislative Assembly reports to Gov Ops. Where is the forum to ask questions about capital for the Legislative Assembly?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** In regard to your question, Mrs. Groenewegen, are you requesting that someone, either the Speaker or someone from his office, come before the House to explain the situation we see here by way of infrastructure for the Legislative Assembly?

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you. That would be helpful. I would be interested, because it seems like it’s a worsening situation, and it has already been deferred for quite a while. I’m just wondering if it’s a priority or if it’s in a two, three, five, ten, 20-year plan. What’s the plan?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I’ll request a formal invitation to the Speaker to come before the House and answer those questions. We’ll request the presence of the Speaker to respond.

We’ll continue on. If it’s okay with the Members, we’ll stand down. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to let you know I would also have a question for the Speaker on the Legislative Assembly.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Okay. If it’s agreeable to committee, we’ll stand down the Legislative Assembly and move on to the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Is that okay until the Speaker is prepared to come before the House?

**Some Honourable Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Moving on to the Financial Management Board Secretariat, defer page 2-2 and go to page 2-4, Directorate, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.152 million.

Financial Management Board Secretariat, Directorate, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.152 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** We can go back to page 2-2 in regard to Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.152 million.

Financial Management Board Secretariat, Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.152 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Municipal and Community Affairs, defer page 3-2 and go to 3-4, Activity Summary, Municipal and Community Affairs, Regional Operations, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $28.09 million. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I’ve raised this before, but I do have concerns about the high costs of our data management systems, which seem to involve very large capital costs. If I’m correct that it’s flowing in this department, technology service centre — oh, sorry; I had that wrong. That would be under the Department of Public Works and Services. I’ll hold the question until then.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We’re on page 3-4, Municipal and Community Affairs, Regional Operations, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $28.09 million.

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Activity Summary, Regional Operations, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $28.09 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** We can go back to page 3-2, Municipal and Community Affairs, Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $28.09 million.

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $28.09 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Dealing with the next department, Public Works and Services,

I can refer you to page 4-4. Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Asset Management, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $17.22 million. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s actually another couple of pages before I get to it.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get some more information on the proposed facility? Oh, we’re on Public Works now, right? Okay; good. The proposed facility for Inuvik for multi-use facility and records: what’s the use of that building going to be?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The purpose of the Inuvik office complex records storage facility is to house government employees who were in the Perry Building, which had to be vacated in early 2007 because of structural problems. They have now been put into leased accommodations, and they’re jammed in there pretty tight.

The purpose is also to move people from MACA who are in a current MACA facility, which is a good old trailer about 25 or 30 years old, and also to accommodate a health clinic. Then there’s a separate building that’s just for paper storage. It also houses the regional data centre, which was in the Perry Building. So it will include employees from Public Works, MACA, Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Beaulieu.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a quick question on whether or not the department has a policy on lease versus build.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Yes, we do, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Could I get a quick explanation of what the process is to determine lease versus build?

**Mr. Aumond:** We have a policy where if we are going to lease office space, we have to go through a financial analysis to estimate the construction cost versus the estimated lease cost over, say, a 20 year period if that’s what the term of the lease would be. Then we do a net present value of the cash or the money that would be applied to either construction or lease.

In this case that was applied and based on the information that we had over the 20 year life of the lease. It would be about $38.6 million more to lease the facility over 20 years than to construct it ourselves.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Beaulieu, any further questions?

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Yes. I have a question on this specific facility. What’s the size in square footage?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The total area for the office building is going to be about 3,575 square metres, and the record storage is going to be about 793 square metres.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** I have a similar question on this item. I know for a fact there was a request for proposal for an office space with the option to lease/purchase, but that fell by way of financial or legal ramifications for doing that. But there was a lot of emphasis and effort put out by the private sector to look at this request for proposal. They took the time to develop the proposal, looked at the lease arrangements, and looked at the different options. They did have a building designed and everything else.

We also have the private sector that provides office space in Inuvik, where they made a lot of capital investment with millions of dollars. As a government don’t we have a policy on market disruption? Also, what are we doing to allow for the private sector to provide such accommodation as the facility we’re already leasing? I’d like to ask: was that ever taken into consideration?

Also, in regard to the request for proposal that was previously called for, do those groups still have an option to consider the possibility of building a facility and leasing it back to this government?

**Mr. Aumond:** The Member is correct. There was an RFP that the department put out last year. There was no response, for the reasons the Member raised. We did however get an unsolicited proposal from one of the proponents to build an office building and lease it. We used that as the basis to do the least cost scenario versus leasing or owning. As I indicated earlier, it was significantly less expensive for us to build and own the building ourselves.

I guess with respect to market disruption, we are not proposing to take anybody who was not in the Perry Building or in leased space into the new office complex. We’re only going to be accommodating those employees who were in the Perry Building and displaced when that building was closed and not people who are already in other government facilities.

We lease about 93 per cent of our office space in Inuvik. With construction of this building we’ll have a more balanced portfolio, but we will not be moving people out of leases who were in those buildings and who would otherwise be in the Perry Building. We’re just moving the people who were in the Perry Building, which has since been closed — other than Public Works, which is in there now on the bottom floor — and taking peoplefrom MACA, which is in an old government office, and people who are currently in Health and Social Services, who may move in and provide a client space there. We’re not going to be leasing any less space than we were prior to the Perry Building shutting down.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to the cost per square foot is there an actual number for what the cost per square foot is going to be for this government facility versus the request for proposal of the facility — the request that did go out in regard to the cost per square foot — as to the private sector building it versus the government building it?

**Mr. Aumond:** We could provide that information — I don’t have it with me today — on what the cost per square foot is for this building. I could not tell you what the cost per square foot would be for the proposals that weren’t received in the RFP.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to this site that was located, I know there’s going to be a request for a cost to clean up the old Arctic College site. There again, there was a request for proposal. There were no takers.

There is also concern in regard to environmental contamination. Has a study been done on the environmental contamination on the site to be remediated for this building to be built?

**Mr. Aumond:** Yes, we had an environmental assessment done on the building. The Member may recall when we did the RFP. The original proposal considered having the proponent demolish the building, clean up the site and then provide a leased building for the government. We are going to be doing that. We’re proposing to do that ourselves.

We have an idea of what the assessment is. There was a project in Education, Culture and Employment through the supplemental appropriation that was previously considered by the House a couple of weeks ago and put into ’08–09. So there’s about $3.75 million allocated for the demolition and remediation of that site. There’s a separate project here for Public Works and Services to build an office building on that site.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to the environmental assessment was there any detection of environmental hazardous contaminants such as lead paint or any other types of hazardous products that are in the existing facility that’s being retrofitted?

**Mr. Aumond:** I have not read the assessment myself, but given the age of the building, I’m pretty certain that there’ll be lead paint and asbestos in that building.

**Mr. Krutko:** Can the deputy minister tell me what the government’s plans are to dispose of these hazardous materials that are in that facility? There is a cost in regard to disposal. Has the cost to remediate this site been taken into consideration?

**Mr. Aumond:** Yes, the total cost of the demolition and remediation of that site is in the allocation I spoke of earlier. It’s in the $3.75 million range. We will have to dispose of those hazardous materials in accordance with the regulations everybody must follow when disposing of hazardous materials.

**Mr. Krutko:** As we all know, the Gwich’in have an MOU with the Government of the Northwest Territories in regard to contracts. There’s presently a major capital project being constructed in Inuvik, yet a lot of the Gwich’in companies have not been able to take advantage of that contract.

I’d like to know, in regard to the Gwich’in MOU, will the Gwich’in have an opportunity to look at the possibility of taking on some of this work under that MOU we have, to allow them the opportunity to bid on this work and also through a negotiated contracting policy?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opportunity is there within the MOU for the Gwich’in to request that involvement.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Next on the list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this project that’s being proposed, how long has this project been in the capital plan?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the first year that this project has been in the capital plan. If the Member recalls, we did ask for $500,000 that was allocated to this project in ’08–09 to be accelerated into ’08–09. This is really the first time that the standing committee or this House would have seen this project in the plan.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** So this is something that came up as a need as a result of a structural failure in a different Inuvik building that was being leased then, and that’s what brought this about. How many square feet were being leased versus how much is being created now in the government’s inventory here for lease?

**Mr. Aumond:** I don’t have that information with me today, but I’d be happy to provide it to the Member and the committee.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you. Have any negotiations or contracts been entered into for this project to date?

**Mr. Aumond:** No.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Does the Minister or the deputy minister anticipate that there’s going to be a negotiated contract for the construction of this building?

**Mr. Aumond:** Our intention is to put out a request for proposals for a design/build approach. Thank you.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** For the record, that will be a competitive process for this piece of infrastructure. We keep saying: well, this project’s too big to put out to a competitive bidding process. This is one that I would imagine would be of a size that there could potentially be construction companies that could manage the bonding, and they would have capacity to deal with this.

I guess what I’m getting at is I’m just worried about losing track of what the market rates actually are if we do not continue as a government to try and procure capital through a competitive bidding process. I just want to confirm that…. Well, let me ask this: why is it going to RFP versus tender?

**Mr. Aumond:** We’re using a design/build approach, which would necessitate an RFP versus a tender. We’re leaving it up to the contractor or the private sector to determine and give us some ideas about how they would approach the project to see if we can get some innovation in the solution that way rather than specifically stating what we want and how we want it to be done, which we would do through our traditional construction contract. It’s just a different way to achieve the same thing. It’s just a different approach, but it’s the design/build approach. Rather than splitting the design and the construction up, this will combine it and see what proposals the private sector can offer us.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Just in terms of the RFP I’d like to know if the RFP has already been drafted and the terms of the RFP. I would like to know if any points will be awarded for a building that would be modern in terms of energy efficiencies.

**Mr. Aumond:** No, the RFP has not been drafted. The answer to the second question is that the design criteria will be the GNWT design criteria with respect to energy management and energy efficiency, as we put a high priority on that. It won’t necessarily be an option; it will be a requirement, a minimum requirement that everybody will have to meet, and if you do well, then you’ll score better.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I would like to know if that is a standard policy of this government now when going to the private sector for design/build or for construction design. With any kind of infrastructure that we are building in the government, is it now mandatory to have an element of energy efficiency built into those projects — a solid policy?

**Mr. Aumond:** Our design criteria, Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities, has minimum standards for energy efficiency that generally will exceed the eco standard that the federal government puts out. For all our new construction we have the standard that has to be met or exceeded.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** When Mr. Aumond speaks of a standard, is he referring to a standard that has been specifically detailed to consider the northern climate and the environment here, or is this just a national eco standard that he is referring to that would be the same as if you were building something in downtown Calgary?

**Mr. Aumond:** Our design standards are for subarctic or arctic environments. It is something we have designed for ourselves and implemented here that will exceed anything that you would see down South.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Any further questions? Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Aumond mentioned that they were approved for $500,000 in the previous budget. Could you tell me exactly what the $500,000 was spent on, and has it been expended?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** The $500,000 for ’08–09 was just approved about two weeks ago by the House, and we have not yet spent any money.

**Mr. Krutko:** Could Mr. Aumond elaborate on exactly what the $500,000 is going to be used for?

**Mr. Aumond:** For preliminary design work.

**Mr. Krutko:** That answer was really helpful. I would like to ask Mr. Aumond to elaborate a little more on exactly what the $500,000 is going to be spent for.

**Mr. Aumond:** The $500,000 will be spent on work to undertake design development for the building so that we can get it to the stage where we can put an RFP out so that proponents will have an idea about what it is we are looking for, how we see it sitting on the land that we propose to put it on and so that we can solicit proposals to complete the design and construction of that project.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to the $17 million that is going to be expended or had to be approved for this year, what is the construction timeframe you’re looking at here? Are you going to construct it over a year, three years, five years? What type of a timeframe are you looking at in regard to constructing such a facility?

**Mr. Aumond:** For ’09–10 we are looking for $12 million for this project and not the $17.2 million as the total for the activity for the division. We expect that this winter we will knock down the building, the old Aurora College site, and that will be used for the other allocation I spoke to earlier. We will spend the $500,000 in remaining ’08–09 to get to this design development, and we hope that by December or January we will have an RFP out and that we can commence our design and construction in ’09–10.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to the urgency of this project and the timelines that we’re looking at, I’d just like to ask the Minister: where does the priority of capital projects fit by way of urgency in regard to other types of capital projects? I’ll use as an example water treatment facilities for communities. For me that’s an urgent capital project. Most of these projects will not see the light of day until 2010, yet they were approved in previous years. I find it kind of interesting that this project happened to be fast tracked, moved to the front of the line, and is going to be constructed prior to essential infrastructure for communities by way of water treatment facilities.

I’d like to ask the Minister of Finance what due diligence was done here in regard to ensuring that we establish the priorities that this government needs to implement infrastructure across the Territories, to see where the real emergencies are so that we can deal with those pressures that are out there. Again, how does this project come by way of emergency, overriding other projects such as water treatment facilities?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):**  Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:**  Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project didn’t override other projects. It was brought forward because of the pressing nature of the requirement. The bundled water treatment plants have a schedule. They are going to be completed probably before this records storage building, and they are proceeding with all speed possible.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):**  Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to Diamond Jenness I saw the report on that facility, and it is amazing that people allow students to go to that facility. That to me is an essential project. But in regard to this project I think it basically does not really meet the standard of essential by way of real infrastructure.

This government can spend its capital dollars as a result of a private sector that is already in the market that provides space in Inuvik. I want departments to have their own office — something that the Inuvik region has been fighting for, for years — but they would not support the private sector and private market in Inuvik. Nowadays they are competing against them. I think that shows us exactly where the priority of this government is going. I would like to ask: where does the Diamond Jenness School stand in line with an office building for department staff versus children in a community such as Hay River?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:**  The one issue that is now before the Diamond Jenness project is the completion of educational programming by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that will allow this project to move forward.

**Mr. Krutko:** At the appropriate time, Mr. Chair, I would like to move a motion to defer this project.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):**  Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger? To the next person on the list. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you. Just some quick calculations here, Mr. Chairman. This project looks like it is coming in at about $425 per…. All right, let me take that back. Different types of uses of buildings come in at different…. Hospital costs differ per square foot from a warehouse, for example, for records storage. So I would like to ask the Minister how the government’s estimate of this particular project was determined.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):**  Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The estimates that we would have come up with for the office building would have been based on what we were seeing as costs for office buildings anywhere else that we had either just built or that we saw being constructed elsewhere. Also, we would have done a community cost differential for Inuvik, say, versus what we were paying for the office building, whether it be in Fort Simpson or in Yellowknife. Looking at what is going to be in the office building, one of the major cost drivers for this building will be, I guess, the addition of a small data centre in there that was in the Perry Building and needs to go in this building. It’s just general office spaces. It’s basically a square box with a block, with a floor plate. It also includes all the tenantimprovements that go into that building as well rather than just being the base building.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** So at the risk of repeating myself — I may have already asked this question — please tell me if Mr. Aumond said he could get this information for me. Let me just ask again. The records storage and data centre will go in there for about 8,500 square feet. A medical clinic I think he said was going in there. I would just like to get a breakdown again of the clients or tenants proposed for this base. Is it already all spoken for? Is there going to be extra space, and are they going to be leasing out space to other people?

I’d like to get more detail on how this has come to a 47,000 square foot building, the same size as the Wal-Mart. It’s hard to believe that all these people are tucked away in other places, that all these client departments are all tucked away in other places in Inuvik. It’s a bit hard to imagine this particular consolidation of people that are just kind of out there given the fact that Mr. Aumond said there would be no tenants displaced from current leases.

**Mr. Aumond:** The records storage building, Mr. Chair, will be a separate building that’s 793 square metres. For the office building we will have general office space for Public Works, MACA and the Financial Management Board Secretariat for 1,337 square metres. The career and income support centre, which is Education, Culture and Employment, is 502 square metres. The public health unit will be 479 square metres. There will also be a mechanical room and a building services room for 841 square metres. The data centre is going to be 167 square metres, and there is going to be an allocation of swing space, which will be circulation space that we can use to move people around, of about 249 square metres. So those are the space allocations on the program we have for this building.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Which one of these on the list is a new use of space in Inuvik? I know that the deputy minister said before that there are PWS employees, I believe, still located in the office space on the ground floor of the Perry Building, so we know where they are coming from. Where are the rest of these folks coming from?

**Mr. Aumond:** The MACA folks are in their own building, which is an old government building, so they will be coming from there when we vacate it. The Perry Buildingis a three storey building. We have to vacate the top two floors. Public Works is on the third floor. We are now down on the bottom floor. That’s all we are allowed to occupy. Public Works will be in there, as the Member mentioned. FMBS that was in there is now accommodated with MACA in their building. Once Education left the Perry Building, we leased space with other commercial properties in Inuvik. The public health unit I think is going to be…. Some folks are going to come from the hospital, is my understanding.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you. Those are all the questions I have for now.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Any further questions? Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Aumond mentioned there is going to be swing space. What’s the use of that space? Is that for future expansions or so when people move out of other facilities, they’ve got a place to stay? Is that what this is?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The use of swing space is something that we work into our office space standards. Right now, if we have to do any renovations to leased space, we don’t really have any other place for these people to go. If there’s not a lot of space or if some departments at MACA or Public Works or any other people who are going in there require more people or more employees or more staff, then we have room for them. We need to accommodate for some growth, but the intention, again — and the commitment has been made — is that other than the people who we have identified, we’re not intending to move anybody else out of leased space in Inuvik.

**Mr. Krutko:** A number of months ago we had a similar discussion in regard to the Department of Environment, where they moved out to Shell Lake and were in the facility where they were renting space, yet they had the department check to see exactly what is the vacancy rate in Inuvik of retail space.

**Mr. Aumond:** We have never checked to see what the vacancy of retail space would be in Inuvik.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Chairman, there are quite a few facilities in Inuvik that aren’t really operating at their full capacity. I know that there are offices that are underutilized in Inuvik. I’m wondering: as a department have we done due diligence by way of finding those other facilities that could be reformatted so that the departments that you mentioned could be considered within facilities in the Inuvik rental market that are already there?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Public Works has done the analysis and evaluation and has put forward this option as the best one to proceed with.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Chairman, in regard to an option being the best one, I believe we had the same battle going back to the 13th Assembly regarding the Lahm Ridge Tower. That asset had been sold off, because the government said they had no use for that facility. They got rid of it, and the battle over that thing…. Also look at the capital cost of the Perry Building. That thing’s been a cash cow ever since we built it. I think the cost of maintenance, renovations, upkeep and whatnot, taking into consideration all those long term costs…. Has the government thought that in some cases we should maybe allow the private sector to provide these things and also to stimulate that economy in those deprived areas in the Northwest Territories?

I would like to again ask the Minister: have you done due diligence to ensure that the private sector is not going to be put in a situation where they make a major capital investment and then find out that government seepage by way of staff and programs, leeched to each office in government facilities, will have an impact on that market in Inuvik? Inuvik isn’t that healthy right now, especially with the whole pipeline in the next couple of years, which could have a major impact on that economy. So have you looked at doing due diligence? The present regime has basically made capital investments by way of buying into that market not knowing exactly what the implications of this is going to be on that sector.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, once again, the assessment was done. The staff in the Perry Building are some of the folks that are going to be relocated, because the condition of the building made it beyond use. There’s a balance that we try to look at as we move forward in communities so that we respect some of the concerns raised by the Member. In this case the approach determined as the best was to redo the building.

**Mr. Krutko:** Can the Minister release the report he mentioned in regard to due diligence that was done by the department so we can see for ourselves exactly what the contents of that report are and what the findings are by way of the effect it will have on to the private sector in Inuvik?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, I’ll commit to pulling together a package of information for committee.

**Mr. Krutko:** Can we get that information before we conclude this department?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, we’ll get that work done as quickly as we can. Considering the fact that we’re currently before committee, we’ll endeavour to have that done by tomorrow.

**Mr. Krutko:** With that, I’d suggest that we defer this department until we receive that information.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** The combined storage building and the office building is 47,000 square feet. The rationale I’m hearing for it is that the space that some of the government offices are in right now is old. I want to know more about what that entails, because in my community not government employees but students are in a building that’s old, and I can’t even get air quality reports, although I’ve asked for them repeatedly. I can’t get the asbestos report for that school, although I’ve asked for it repeatedly. PWS has not provided that.

To hear about an investment of this type for a building of this size because government employees are in a space that’s old doesn’t cut it for me. Until we get information to the questions that Mr. Krutko has asked and until we have a chance to discuss this further in terms of it being a priority in our capital budget over health centres, water treatment, schools…. Until we can get a sense of the priority that’s being placed on this particular project, I would agree with Mr. Krutko’s request that we defer consideration of the capital expenditures for Public Works and Services until we have that information in hand.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Before we move forward and decide whether we’re going to defer this, I’ll go to Mr. Aumond and let him answer your other questions. Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’ll just restate the commitment that by tomorrow we’ll pull together a package of information for committee that will hopefully capture and be able to address the questions that have been raised.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before we conclude this, I wonder if I could slip in a question on the major projects area and where they are for the focus on the deferred maintenance program.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did provide the work plan for the committee. I have some information with me, if the Member would allow me to pull it out.

**Mr. Bromley:** Yes, that’s fine.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. All right, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## Committee Motion 79-16(2) Deferral of Consideration of Asset Management Activity in Public Works and Services Capital Estimates (TD 93-16(2)) (Committee Motion Carried)

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity Asset Management under the Department of Public Works and Services Capital Estimates ’09–10 on pages 4-4 and 4-5 at this time.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. A motion is on the floor. The motion is being circulated.

All right, the motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question. The motion reads that we’re only deferring what’s on pages 4-4 and 4-5, not the whole department. Is that correct?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Yes, that’s correct at this time.

**An Honourable Member:** Question.

Committee motion carried.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** We’ll move on to the next activity on page 4-7. Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Technology Service Centre, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $7.075 million. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This, by anybody’s standards, sounds like a lot of money: $7 million. I was wondering if the Minister could tell us how our expenditures on information technology capital compares with other jurisdictions of a similar size. Even to people out there in the public, even to us in here, this sounds like a lot of money. Are we over resourced when it comes to information technology services and infrastructure?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the presentation that we provided to committee, we pointed out that the Gardner Group, which is a world leader in IT research and analytics, has determined that governments on average spend about 5 per cent of their overall budget on IMIS and IT. The GNWT, based on our budget, is below that, at between 4 and 4.4 per cent.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Mr. Chairman, this is a public forum for the public to hear the answers to the questions. I don’t need to be reminded by Mr. Miltenberger of what the committee received a report on. Unfortunately, the public wasn’t in our committee meeting. They would not have been privy to the answers that were provided. So if Mr. Miltenberger is trying to make me look stupid and my questions look stupid because “as I know” the committee received a briefing, yes, I know the committee received a briefing. I am trying to ask questions and get answers for the benefit of the people who might actually be listening out there in the public who care that we as a government need to spend another $7 million on information technology. That’s why I’m asking the questions. So thank you very much, Mr. Miltenberger. I’m aware we had a briefing. I don’t need to be reminded of that, and I don’t want my question diminished or essentially mocked because we already had a briefing.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, there was no intent to mock or diminish. It’s an important question. The percentage that the Gardner Group, which is a world leader, had is 5.4 per cent of overall budgets. The GNWT is between 4 per cent and 4.4 per cent of its overall budget.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I’d like to thank the Minister for that non-editorialized answer. Thank you very much.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I don’t hear a question. I’ll go to the next on the list, Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also have raised this and I raise it again here. I recognize that we’re within the general guidelines of other jurisdictions and so on, but the large capital projects don’t seem to fall into that formula of coming up with a percentage. Those are mostly operational dollars. We know that we have, relatively, a very high cost for infrastructure compared to other jurisdictions.

Another perspective on this is that because we have a modest size of population and availability of these very specialized talents, we often have to contract outside of the Northwest Territories for these services, whereas most jurisdictions are able to find that sort of expertise in house, if you will, Mr. Chair.

These are important perspectives, and I think they are relevant here. We have a similar complexity of data to manage and so on, as we learned from our briefing, as other jurisdictions, but we have much smaller numbers and sample sizes of things to deal with. This is all by way of stressing that I’m looking for some real critical assessments of what we spend on the technology/data management end of things. I’ve raised with the staff, as well as with the Minister, that I’m very interested in their input on where efficiencies can be had and so on.

Again, we’re at 4.5 percent; we’re sort of in the ballpark for operations, but I would bet that our infrastructure costs are much greater than other jurisdictions, and we’re sending our dollars away from the Northwest Territories to deal with this stuff. That’s why it’s quite a serious financial issue. I’d welcome any additional comments the Minister might have on these perspectives.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member raises some good points. Our infrastructure costs are due to distance, isolation and transportation issues that are often higher than other jurisdictions. In terms of the IT side and information services, we are, as well, coping with highly dispersed communities and that type of infrastructure with those costs. It is, as well, that the life cycle time, as the Member is aware, of IT systems is significantly less than a lot of the buildings that we invest money in. So the renewal time is shorter. We have equal distances and all the other challenges that we have with our other infrastructure costs, plus it’s also an area where it is very specialized and hard to recruit, which requires a reliance often on contractors.

**Mr. Bromley:** I recognize the points the Minister has raised. Often these dollars are so large that I wonder. A lot of data management now gets outsourced to other countries, even other continents. I would ask that the Minister always look for opportunities to hire people locally and deal with some of this information manually. Given that we often are dealing with relatively modest sample sizes and the numbers to actually deal with it, we perhaps don’t need these Cadillac systems for all of those data management needs.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, it’s a point that we try to keep in mind. We strip down these proposals to make them as realistic and basic as possible, recognizing the significant costs. I appreciate the Member’s concern that there are skilled Northerners we can put to work in these areas. We’re definitely looking for those. A lot of these systems we are engaged with have proprietary information and specially trained folks. It’s a constant struggle to try to do those things, but they are things we try to keep in mind.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. We’re on page 4-7, Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Technology Service Centre, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment. Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the 2008–2009 Main Estimates the schedule that was laid out at that time, which was approved, states a new computer data centre for Yellowknife. In 2009–2010 it’s $1.3 million; in 2010–2011, $6 million; in future years, $5.7 million. Is that the schedule that is still being contemplated for this project?

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was the schedule that was originally contemplated, but as the Member may recall, we had asked consideration and approval of the House to accelerate four projects we identified. That was considered in the House two weeks ago. The $1.3 million for the data centre was moved out of ’09–10 into ’08–09.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Chair, can Mr. Aumond give us the breakdown in regard to what the capital costs are going to be over the next four years?

Interjection.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** We’ll go back to Mr. Krutko. He had some additional comments.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Clarification in regard to what is now the schedule of capital expenditures for this project going forward.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, the cash flows are as in the information the Member has before him.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Chairman, just restating that. Basically, $1.3 million has been expended for 2008–2009, which is this fiscal year. Next fiscal year, 2009–2010, we’re expending $6 million. Then future years, 2010–2011, will come in at $5.7 million. Is that the schedule we’re now on?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Chairman, just for the public record and the Minister’s, I support this project, so don’t think I’m trying to delay it in any way. I know there’s a substantial need for this facility. Again, I’m just trying to ensure that when we make this capital investment, we have a fair process that’s transparent and fair to other projects that are out there and just as substantial in regard to this capital investment we’re looking at for the data centre. I think it’s important we look at that.

But, again, we have to find fairness by way of our infrastructure, from schools to water treatment plants to these types of facilities. I’d just like to again thank the Minister for that.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I didn’t hear any question. Any other comments? We’re on page 4-7, Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Technology Service Centre, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $7.075 million.

Department of Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Technology Service Centre, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $7.075 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** We’ll move along to page 4-10, Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Petroleum Products Division, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.230 million.

Department of Public Works and Services, Activity Summary, Petroleum Products Division, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $5.230 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, committee. We’re back on page 4-2. Seeing as we have deferred pages 4-4 and 4-5, we’ll have to defer page 4-2 until we get that information we’re looking for. Is the committee agreed?

**Some Honourable Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Okay. We’ll move on to the next department, which is the Department of Health and Social Services. We’ll defer page 5-2 until Activity Summary, so let’s turn to page 5-4. Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Health Services Programs, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $16.003 million. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t know why the H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital is on our schedule, because nothing shows up until a very, very small amount in 2011–2012. But for the record, could the Minister tell me again how the Fort Smith Health Centre got so far ahead of Hay River? At some point they were on par at the same time in the capital budget.

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Miltenberger.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an agreement relatively early on in Fort Smith with regard to the master development plan — community service, bed issues, the scope laid out within the master development plan. In Hay River there were questions about the catchment area, the population, bed numbers, questions over the master development plan. As well, there was a request that consideration then be given to, rather than a renovation, a new facility, which was also being considered.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Mr. Chairman, I could spend some time and camp on that subject, but I won’t. The consolidated primary care clinic for Yellowknife, the work to commence in ’09–10…. Actually, I think there is already some prior spending on that, but the completion of it in ’09–10. Could the Minister please describe for me the intent? Just give a description of this project.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** The intent of this project is to consolidate the clinics in the downtown area into one facility. It will have better services, more treatment rooms, the ability to do basic testing that is right now done at.… People have to go to Stanton in terms of basic blood tests and basic diagnostic efforts.

It will allow for a better coordination of use. Right now the patient cancellation rate is very high. There’s a lack of coordination among the existing three clinics. Consolidation is intended to remedy that, to bring some efficiencies to bear. As well, hopefully with the changed hours and such, it will take some pressure off the emergency room in Stanton.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** It doesn’t seem like that long ago, Mr. Chairman, that we just bought the clinics in the downtown area. I think we also spent quite a bit of money renovating them once we did buy them and took them in. So now they’re going to be rolled up and become part of this new consolidated primary care clinic?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** The three clinics in question, some of them are relatively old. They have some significant shortcomings in terms of examination rooms and such. Quite possibly, if the Minister of Health is in a position to provide more detail, I could ask if she’d be prepared to do that.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Member might have said that we own some of the clinics downtown. We do not own any of them. The Gibson Clinic, Great Slave clinic and Family clinic, I think — the one next to the Explorer Hotel — are the three that are going to be combined to move into the consolidated clinic. Those are all leases. We have leases with the landlords. Some of the renovations that were done were with respect to Great Slave Medical clinic, and that was done mostly with federal funding.

This consolidated clinic would allow us to have lab work and X-rays and diagnostic imaging and that sort of thing. That could be done in a location like this kind of clinic, and that would lessen the traffic of people who are going to the hospital right now for lab tests and X-rays and such. I think that’s the question the Member might have had.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** The dollar value that’s being proposed in the capital budget for this consolidated primary care clinic, is that just for leasehold improvements to another leased space?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** I believe so.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I think I heard the Minister say, “I believe so.” Was that the answer? I couldn’t hear it; it was very quiet.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** My understanding is that it’s for the lease improvements of 1,800 square metres that the clinic is looking for, to renovate, but I could defer to Mr. Aumond to see if that information is correct.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The dollars in question are for tenant improvements to fix up the consolidated clinic and also to provide some equipment, I believe.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** This is a new process we have here, and it’s very difficult to talk about these projects and not be able to talk about the dollars. We’re not talking about the dollars, because we want to go to a fair, competitive process in order to acquire the leasehold improvements. But oh, my gosh — this is for tenant improvements? This is a very large amount of money. Did the department consider building a free standing clinic somewhere else as opposed to renovating somebody else’s space to the tune of $6.5 million?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Chairman, this capital funding includes everything to do with the clinic. That would include tenant improvements as well as all of the medical equipment and everything else that would have to go into this clinic.

Secondly, I do want to inform the Members that there have been extensive studies done. Initially when this project was approved, I think about three years ago, the thought was to build a new building. The review has come to the conclusion that it’s more economical to use the existing site and do tenant improvements.

I’d be happy to get back to the Member on the exact breakdown of how much of this allocation is for the tenant improvements and how much is for the equipment. I just don’t have that on me right now.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Well, that sort of begs the question: what’s going to happen with all the equipment that’s in the leased facilities now? And what’s going to happen to the clinics that are currently leased, the three that Ms. Lee or…? Somebody made reference to three clinics. Where is the equipment going from them, and what’s going to happen with the government’s investment, I guess, even if it was the federal government?

Since the GNWT invested money, particularly in the one downtown here, do they have any other alternate uses that have been contemplated for those buildings since we have invested so much?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns, of course, that led to this is that the current clinics don’t have a lot of the equipment they need. They don’t have the space. They don’t have the exam rooms. They don’t have the plumbing and other infrastructure, let alone the equipment to do the testing or the X-rays and such. So a lot of that will be new.

The government will look at the length of the leases and put the existing space to whatever use they can during the life of the lease. I would imagine they would look at their other requirements and see if there’s any further need for those particular leases.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I’m good. Thank you.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Next on the list I have Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask some questions, too, about the consolidated primary care clinic in Yellowknife. It’s something I’ve been looking forward to for a number of years now, and I’m glad to see it is finally going to materialize.

I just wanted to ask some questions and make sure it’s going to be in a location that’s accessible, that there’s going to be parking. I want to know whether or not a lease has been signed. I want to know where it is and when we might expect it to happen.

I guess the first question I have is: has a lease been signed with anybody to get this primary care clinic off the ground? Has it gone to RFP? Where is it in the process?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Interjection.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** For the record, Mr. Minister, if you want to refer the question, can you do it through the Chair?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** I apologize, Mr. Chair. The Minister of Health is in a position to answer that detail.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An RFP was issued in July, and the lease has been awarded with downtown access space as well as the necessary parking. I expect to do a public statement on that. It’s just that the employees of the centre have not been advised yet, but it will be in a downtown location.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under what authority was a lease signed that would commit the government to spending dollars on leasehold improvements? I’m not privy to the contract that was signed or the lease that was signed.

Obviously, when you look at a contract or a lease that’s been signed, it has provisions to say what the government would be responsible for in terms of leasehold improvements, what the rate of the lease would be per month or per year, however that’s worked out. So, yeah, that’s a question: under what authority was that lease signed?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Department of Health and Social Services has the O&M money to enter into a lease, and the capital that is before you is for the tenant improvements. Health had the authorization to enter into the lease, they had the money, and now it’s the capital that’s required to undertake the tenant improvements and the proper fit-ups and put the equipment in place to operate the consolidated clinic.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Chairman, I would think the department would come before the Legislative Assembly and get authority for the leasehold improvements before it would sign a lease. That would, to me, make more sense.

I guess a couple of other questions. The lease that has been signed, how long is it, how much is it for, and how big is the space? I’ve heard 1,800 square metres. Where is it going to be, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, that’s not a part of the capital item. We don’t have that information with us, but we can commit to getting that information for committee.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I thank the Minister of Finance for that. Maybe the Minister of Health would have that level of detail with her today.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, I will defer to the Minister of Health to see if she has any further information as per the question by the Member for Kam Lake.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have answered one part of that question: 1,843 square metres of space is what we are looking for. I believe we have acquired that with 25 parking spots. It is in the downtown location.

I would also concur with Minister Miltenberger that we will get back to the Member on the details of the lease agreement signed. I would think that there is a provision in there that it’s subject to approval of this House.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I don’t know if it’s subject to approval of the House. The department has already signed it, so that’s neither here nor there.

You know, what we are talking about today is a capital expense of a substantial amount of money. I, too, like Mrs. Groenewegen, would like to hear from the Minister, whether it’s the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health, what equipment can possibly be migrated from the current clinics over to the new clinic. Are we are going to be buying everything new? What are we going to do with the old equipment? Is it possible we could sell some of the old equipment?

It was just four years ago that we spent close to half a million dollars on Great Slave Medical House. I know it was federal dollars, but that doesn’t make it okay to spend money that is not going to have much utility to us if we are shortly signing a lease and moving to a consolidated clinic downtown.

Now, I am supportive of the consolidated clinic. I think it’s a move in the right direction, but the right steps have to be followed in order for that to happen. I don’t know. Again, I have some concern over the fact that the lease was signed prior to the Minister coming before the House to get approval for the capital expense on that. I am not sure why the Minister wouldn’t tell us where it is. I am not sure why that’s a big secret, Mr. Chairman.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, I will once again defer to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would undertake to make that…. I mean, this is a situation where we don’t want to be making announcements without having gone through the debate here. So it is sort of a catch-22 situation.

I just want to say on the equipment that the most expensive part is the new services the new primary clinic will deliver, such as scan machines and X-ray machines and lab tech machines that are not available in the existing clinic.

The second thing, for those who know about these three existing clinics — with the possible exception of Great Slave — Gibson Clinic and Family clinic are very, very old. All of the furniture in there is quite old. I mean, I don’t think we are talking about chairs and tables that are the expensive items; it’s the new health equipment we will have in the new primary clinic, because it will deliver new services that are not being delivered by current clinics.

I assure the Member that we will be vigilant in making sure that anything the clinics take with them will not be replaced with new money. I know that the most expensive part of the equipment is the new imaging machines and lab tech machines that will be purchased for that clinic.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I thank the Minister for that. There is probably a tremendous amount of equipment if you look at the three clinics that are currently in operation. If the new clinic can’t use it, I have been to a number of health centres in small communities that are in desperate need of any equipment. We should put that equipment to the best use possible. It shouldn’t just end up being thrown out or end up at a government surplus facility. If it can be used in the small communities and it has some usefulness, it should be sent there as soon as it can be.

Again, if we signed the lease three months ago, I am having trouble understanding why it is that we can’t talk about where that lease was signed and what the new location of the consolidated primary care clinic is in Yellowknife. It is beyond me why we can’t discuss that here. I’ve heard rumours about where it is, but I want the Minister to confirm where this consolidated care clinic is going to be. I mean, the lease was signed three months ago. What’s the big secret?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Chairman, the RFP went out in July, and I believe the lease was negotiated at the end of last month, so it hasn’t been signed for three months. The location is in between Wycliffe Centre and the mall, that area.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Nexton the list I have Mr. Bromley and Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also wanted to speak up very clearly in favour of moving forward on this consolidated primary care clinic. I compliment the departments for moving forward and getting this lease established. I hope we can move very quickly on the capital items, assuming it is approved shortly here, and get operational.

One of the reasons I’m pleased this is moving forward and hope it moves forward quickly and efficiently is that we have a hope that this will resolve some of the situations we are facing at the Stanton hospital, where the emergency room deals with much that could be dealt with at a clinic like this. Further to that, my understanding is that this clinic would operate long hours, perhaps around the clock.

One of the big issues that has been raised at Stanton emergency is the security issue. We have all heard horror stories about what is happening out there and what can happen, what the potential is. We are hoping that people will quickly adopt this facility in downtown Yellowknife, but I want to know that some thought has been given to designing the facility to be secure if it is going to operate during nighttime hours in downtown Yellowknife. That’s the reality of today’s world. I am wondering if the Minister could share evidence that this is so, that this facility is being designed to be secure and attractive to emergency patients.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** This consolidated clinic will be designed to meet all the appropriate standards in terms of patient care, patient safety, staff safety, safety of the equipment and the records. The traffic flow will be laid out in such a way that it is going to maximize the effective use of the space. At the same time, this addresses some of the issues the Member for Weledeh has raised.

**Mr. Bromley:** Thank you, Minister, for those remarks. Often at the hospital, in the emergency rooms there, because the way locks are on the doors and so on, it can lead to very dangerous situations for the medical staff. I am assuming all that is being addressed in the design of this space. Is that correct?

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** To the best of my knowledge, yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Bisaro.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask a question relative to the Stanton hospital master plan. The capital budget for 2008–2009 indicated funding for the Stanton master plan, and I don’t see it in the 2009–2010 Capital Estimates. I wonder if I can get an explanation as to why.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The master development plan hadn’t progressed to the point where we were able to tie up the amount of money that was initially identified in the budget, so it was temporarily removed from the capital plan. When the development plan is fully ready to roll, then we will be looking at reintroducing it back into the plan.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you for that answer. I would like to ask the Minister if there is an estimate of time as to when this particular project will come back into the Capital Estimates.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** I would ask your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, and defer to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The master plan has been redeveloped with a focus on the seven critical areas. The department feels that we do have a workable plan worked out now. We will go through the new capital planning process, which has a committee made up of officials who will review this and put it back into the capital planning process. It will progress along with all the other projects that will be put into it that are ready with a concrete plan. This project is at that stage.

**Ms. Bisaro:** I don’t believe I heard an estimate of when this might come back to us — if it’s three months, three years or 30 years. I would appreciate if the Minister of Health would give me a bit better idea of when we might see this project back in the capital estimates.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** I’m not sure of that. It’s in the mix to be considered for next year’s planning projects.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you for that answer. I will presume that if it’s not ready, it’s not going to come forward, but I appreciate the estimate of next year.

I wanted to also ask a question relative to the Stanton hospital technical upgrades. Has there been any change in that particular project from the Capital Estimates that we saw last year to the estimates we are going through this year?

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is really the last year of the technical upgrades. The change the Member is referring to, I believe, is that there were a couple more years of upgrades on the books in ’08–09. I don’t have the information with me, but the decision was made to continue with upgrades in ’09–10 for $800,000. Until we get the master development plan finished and we understand what the bigger picture around Stanton is, then that would be the time to fold in what would be remaining of the technical upgrades, if any, into the master development plan project for the renovation of the hospital.

**Ms. Bisaro:** It’s difficult to ask questions under this new process, but I am given to understand there was a fairly large reduction in the amount of money that is earmarked for the upgrades in this particular capital budget year compared to last year. I guess I just would like clarification from the Minister or from the deputy minister that the reference was made to putting things back in, in terms of technical upgrades once the master development plan is done. I would like to know if what is going to go back in is a minimal amount of money or a fairly large amount of money; i.e., $500,000 versus several million.

**Mr. Aumond:** We have, I believe, taken the technical upgrades over the last several years at Stanton. Over $10 million of upgrades have gone into the hospital over the last number of years, to the point where I think everybody is generally satisfied as to the technical operations of the building. With respect to the upgrades it is where it needs to be.

In ’09–10 we’ll be finishing the last of the major overhauls to the elevators and the biomedical waste handling and temporary storage areas. What needs to happen in the future, under the master development plan and with respect to technical upgrades, at this point I am not sure. But a decision was made. Rather than continue to pick away at upgrades that don’t need to be done right now, we would wait until we have the master development plan completed and then fold it into the project and undertake them all at the same time.

**Ms. Bisaro:** I thank you for the explanation. I look forward to seeing more expenditures for Stanton upgrades at some point in the future.

I just want to make a general comment. When we made general comments, there was a response from one of the witnesses relative to the fact that we prioritize projects, giving them a number 1, 2 or 3, I gather. I think it was referencing projects other than the ones we are actually discussing.

The fact that we evaluate projects in terms of need is, I think, excellent, and I commend the staff for the work they do there. One of the difficulties I experience as a Member looking at these projects is not knowing how to prioritize one project over another.

Just a suggestion that if it works, perhaps they consider prioritizing and putting a number on a project to indicate the priority, whether it’s a priority 1, 2, 3 or 4. It might assist us in understanding how decisions are made, whether projects come forward or not, or why one project is moved forward ahead of another one.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clearly, this is a new arrangement process. We’ll be doing a review of how the process worked and how best to present the information. In the substantiation sheets provided to committee, that type of information was provided. If it’s not properly laid out, of course we will be happy to look and make whatever improvements the Members deem appropriate.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Just one last quick comment. I guess I missed it when I was looking at the substantiation sheet, but it would help me particularly if that kind of a priority number was put into the capital estimate document or such other kinds of consolidated material we receive.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** We’ll be happy to consider that adjustment for the next go-round.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** We are on page 5-4, Health and Social Services, Health Services Programs, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $16.003 million.

Department of Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Health Services Programs, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $16.003 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to page 5-7, Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Community Health Programs, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $4.781 million.

Department of Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Community Health Programs, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $4.781 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to page 5-10, Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Program Delivery Support, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $3.690 million.

Department of Health and Social Services, Activity Summary, Program Delivery Support, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $3.690 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Going back to Department Summary, page 5-2, Health and Social Services, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $24.474 million.

Department of Health and Social Services, Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $24.474 million, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to the Department of Justice, page 6-2, Department Summary, moving forward to 6-4, Community Justice and Corrections, Activity Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $921,000. Before we go to Ms. Bisaro, we’ll just take a five-minute break.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** I’ll call Committee of the Whole back to order. Before the short break we were at the Department of Justice, Community Justice and Corrections, and on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question with regard to the Inuvik young offender facility. It is indicated that there are foundation issues with that building, which I believe we were made aware of last year. At the time that we considered the capital and the O&M budgets last year, there was a promise, I believe, to do an evaluation of that facility along with other Justice facilities.

I’m just wondering whether this Minister can advise as to the status of this particular facility, whether or not it can still be used as a secure facility, and if there’s a point in spending money on the foundation issues if it can’t be used as a correctional facility.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Aumond.

**Mr. Aumond:** We have, I guess, a first draft of the engineering report that indicates what the problems are with the foundation and how we can mitigate ongoing problems. We think we can fix the foundation. If we fix the foundation, that should take care of the issues that are impacting the facility today. I can only speak to a building perspective; I can’t speak to whether that facility would be useful for Justice or for the correctional program for the long term. Only Justice can answer that.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Thank you for the answer. I wonder if the Finance Minister would commit to passing this kind of a question on to the Minister of Justice, who isn’t able to be here, and if we could get that information back from some Minister of this House.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Chairman, I’ll commit that we’ll get the committee members an update on the status of the evaluation of the work that is being done on the facility usage for correctional facilities.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Community Justice and Corrections, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $921,000.

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $921,000, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I’m going to make a motion to report progress after we finish Justice.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Okay. If I can turn to page 6-2, Department Summary, Justice, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total infrastructure Investment Summary: $921,000.

Department of Justice, Department Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: $921,000, approved.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress.

Motion carried.

**Chairman (Mr. Krutko):** I’d like to thank the Minister and thank the witnesses. With that, Sergeant–at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out.

I’d just like to recognize Mr. Joseph Koshon from Colville Lake in the gallery. Hello, Joseph.

# Report of Committee of the Whole

The House resumed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 93-16(2), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2009–2010, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Motion carried.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

# Orders of the Day

**Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Rules and Procedures committee after adjournment.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, October 16, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers’ Statements
3. Members’ Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
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
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Minister’s Statement 80-16(2): Sessional Statement

Tabled Document 93-16(2): Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2009–2010

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Bill 15 - An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act

Bill 16 - Write-off of Debts Act, 2008–2009

Bill 17 - Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008–2009

1. Report of Committee of the Whole
2. Third Reading of Bills
3. Orders of the Day

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.