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Wednesday, February 16, 2011

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**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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Mr. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe)

Ms. Wendy Bisaro

(Frame Lake)

Mr. Bob Bromley

(Weledeh)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

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Hon. Floyd Roland

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*Premier*

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*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*

 *and Intergovernmental Relations*

*Minister responsible for the*

 *NWT Power Corporation*

Mr. Norman Yakeleya

(Sahtu)

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Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**

**Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, 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 1:32 p.m.

# Prayer

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Before we begin I would like to draw your attention to the visitor’s gallery to a face that’s probably familiar to many of you. Mr. David Hamilton is in the House today, former Clerk of the Assembly.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers’ statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

# Ministers’ Statements

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT 105-16(5):VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESSPRINCE WILLIAM ANDMISS CATHERINE MIDDLETON

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise Members of the Legislative Assembly that His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton will visit the Northwest Territories this coming July as part of their royal tour of Canada.

---Applause

Yesterday, officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage contacted the Government of the Northwest Territories to advise us that the royal couple was specifically interested in visiting our Territory while they are in Canada. We were delighted to hear of their interest in the NWT and certainly look forward to welcoming them this summer.

Details of the visit have not yet been determined. The GNWT will be working closely with Canadian Heritage in the coming weeks to plan the NWT portion of the trip and ensure the royal couple have the experience of a lifetime while they are here.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our successes, our culture, our arts and our languages with a proud and unified voice is one of the priorities of this Assembly. Our experience with the Northern House at the Vancouver Olympic Winter

Games last year proved that people have a great interest in the North. The people of the Northwest Territories know we live in one of the most remarkable places on earth. The upcoming royal visit presents us with an opportunity to share that with the rest of the world.

We know that there is already intense interest in the Prince’s upcoming wedding and that the royal visit will receive extensive national and international media coverage. A visit to the NWT this summer will allow us to showcase the best our Territory has to offer, including our world-class tourism opportunities, our diverse cultures, traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, and the huge economic and investment potential represented by our mineral, energy and other resources.

We are honoured to know that of the many places in the Commonwealth that the royal couple could visit, the Northwest Territories is near the top of their list. We are looking forward to hosting them in July and having the opportunity to introduce them and the world to what the Northwest Territories has to offer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT 106-16(5):VACANT HOUSING UNIT STRATEGY

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the government recognizes that improving the quality and cost of housing will reduce the cost of living in communities across the Northwest Territories. Today I would like to update Members and the public on the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation’s -- NWTHC -- Vacant Housing Unit Strategy.

Concerns have been raised with the number of vacant units the NWT Housing Corp has in its portfolio in certain communities. Primarily, these vacant units resulted from our aggressive capital infrastructure construction and repair program to deliver housing within the time frames set out under the Affordable Housing Initiative and Canada’s Economic Action Plan.

The NWT Housing Corp has taken action to address these concerns. As a first step, the NWT Housing Corp’s 2011-12 program intake has been completed. While we continue to work with potential successful clients, we are projecting that 82 vacant units will be allocated to prospective homeowners in the coming months through primary and secondary intakes of Housing Choices, as well as through the identification of gaps in our programs.

Second, the NWT Housing Corp has identified other solutions to fill vacant housing. The NWT Housing Corp has considered options and projected the potential allocations of units, on a community-by-community basis, looking at broader community needs and utilizing a number of options that will facilitate a reduction in the overall vacancy rate.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most significant of these options is the potential conversion of units to public housing. Demand for public housing across the Northwest Territories remains strong, and the need for public housing is particularly evident in these rural and remote communities where no current public housing exists. The best housing option for many residents in need in the NWT is public housing. Therefore, we are projecting the conversion of 37 of our vacant housing units to public housing before August 30, 2011, with an additional 12 units being used to replace existing public housing. Remaining units will be utilized based on community input for purposes such as RCMP housing, housing for staff, or sale to community groups.

We recognize that many communities have less public housing than they need, and in some specific communities there is no public housing program. Therefore, the addition of public housing units to our portfolio is not merely an option to fill vacant units, but is part of an overall GNWT approach to providing affordable housing now and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, our work to expand our portfolio of public housing must take into consideration that federal funding for the operation and maintenance of social housing is declining. We continue to work with our provincial and territorial colleagues to convince the federal government to address the long-term sustainability of social housing in our Territory and across the country. In addition, the Housing Corporation continues to improve its housing designs, improve energy efficiency, examine areas of program gaps as well as analyse maintenance requirements to lower operating costs and ensure the most effective use of resources.

Mr. Speaker, the past five years of housing construction has left an important legacy in our communities: adequate, suitable and affordable housing that can meet the housing needs of our residents for years to come and substantive progress on the Assembly’s goal of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

# Members’ Statements

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONRESIDUAL HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEMIN SACHS HARBOUR

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most Northerners are already aware of the cost of maintaining heaters and transporting fuel especially to small and remote communities is incredibly costly. Sachs Harbour in particular experience the largest cost of producing heat. This is why I am continuously surprised at why places such as Sachs Harbour do not have an excess heat recovery system in place.

In the past, the community of Sachs Harbour tried to maximize the waste energy such as used oil to generate heat. Unfortunately these initiatives have not been implemented well for a number of reasons.

When it comes to extracting heat from currently existing systems and technologies such as the community power generation facility, there should be no obstacles. If this government is seriously thinking about reducing greenhouse gases and implementing long-term plans to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel to generate heat, this government has no choice but to implement measures such as these.

Sachs Harbour can use thousands of dollars’ worth of fuel in one winter month to heat the facility. Due to the numbers, I cannot see this project not being economically feasible. Other communities that have had residual heat programs have for years had thousands of dollars per year savings. This technology has been around for decades in many NWT communities, so why not Nunakput communities? They have the highest operating costs. If the excess heat can provide heating for more than one facility then the cost of recovery for heat equalizes quickly.

Places such as Whati, Fort McPherson and Inuvik already have buildings near the Power Corporation with residual heat. Tsiigehtchic, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard are evaluating similar systems. The previous president and CEO of the NWT Power Corporation assured the government that it’s a proven technology. This government must place these alternate energy resources to places that make the most economic sense and not places that have the least amount of administration and logistical coordinating. Small and remote communities deserve their fair share as well.

I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONTU NEDHE CAREER ANDTECHNOLOGY SERVICE CENTRE

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

I am pleased to inform the House that next month a career and technologies services shop in Deninu K’ue School will officially be opened for the first time in 16 years. Thanks to initiatives set out by the Career and Technology Services Program, the industrial arts shop will reopen with all brand new equipment for the students to use for years to come, thus supporting the demand for skilled tradespeople in the North.

I would like to commend the principal and teachers of the Deninu K’ue School in Fort Resolution for all their hard work in making this all possible. Of course, credit should go to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the local district authority.

However, all is not well in this area. We still have students in Tu Nedhe that have yet to access career and technology services. More specifically, I’m referring to the Lutselk’e Dene School. The staff of the Lutselk’e Dene School were able to secure funding necessary to purchase equipment needed for the Career and Technology Services Program but do not have a building to house that equipment. Although there exists a building in Lutselk’e that can be turned into a shop to house this equipment, that building is the current community learning centre. The holdup of the provision of the career and technology services programming for students in Lutselk’e is not due to the lack of money for equipment and operations but due to a lack of space.

In Lutselk’e there is a new community learning centre currently under construction and the old community learning centre could be ready for use for a shop at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

Previously the Minister advised the GNWT would be decommissioning the old community learning centre rather than using it as a temporary shop. Mr. Speaker, the holdup on the decision to turn the old community learning centre into a shop is money to operate, maintain and provide custodial services for the building.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BEAULIEU:** The bottom line is that this building can still serve a vital purpose in the community of Lutselk'e.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment questions on this at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONRECOGNITION OF HAY RIVERRECIPIENTS OF APPRENTICESHIPAND OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION AWARD

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With an increasing number of professionals and tradespeople reaching the age of retirement, there has been a great demand for skilled workers and tradespeople in the North and, in fact, throughout the world. The Government of the Northwest Territories offers one of the best apprenticeship programs in the country and the number of students enrolling in these programs has reached a record high.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Hay River’s recipients of the apprenticeship and occupations honour roll and top mark awards for 2009-2010. The following students have received the honour roll award: Robert Bateman, 4th Level Automotive Service Technician; Jesse Duford, 1st Level Carpenter; Chad Carrington, 3rd and 4th Level Carpenter; Seth Barnaby, 1st Level Electrician; Trenton Daniels, 1st Level Electrician; Robby Thompson, 1st Level Electrician.

Mr. Speaker, this next group of students has received both the honour roll and top marks awards: Kjell Hunter for 3rd Level Carpenter; Sheldon Henderson, 2nd Level Cook; Darryl Buhler, 2nd Level Heavy Duty Equipment Technician; Gordon Elliott, 3rd Level Partsperson; William Bandura, 3rd Level Plumber/Gasfitter; Kim Tybring, Recreation Facility Operator and Aquatic Facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to all of these students for their outstanding achievements and wish them much continued success in their future. Thank you.

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

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONEMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN NURSING GRADUATES

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak about the issue of the northern grad nurses and the Minister’s lead statement from last week.

Nahendeh has produced many nursing professionals over the course of time, and I’m very proud of each and every one of them. Last week, Mr. Speaker, my constituent who is from a small community in my riding and is graduating this year from the Bachelor of Science in the Nursing Program was very dismayed by the Minister of Health and Social Services’ remark last week who implied that they need more training in different situations before they can practice and get jobs in our health care system. Outrageous!

The chief of that community called me, as well, to voice his deep concern that we say we will support our youth and students, yet in practice this may not occur. In jurisdictions all across our country, nurses that write the CRNE, the Canadian Registered Nurses Exam, are qualified to be registered nurses. Do we now have a policy that new grads in our system have to go to a Graduate Employment Program to be employed?

My colleague Mr. Ramsay brought up the fact that there are no or very little RN postings due to locum nurses. It is like they are permanent and there no opportunities for our new registered nurses as they graduate. What kind of policy is this? The policy should be that the locums are temporary until we have ready and willing northern trained nurses to fill these positions. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONFOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

**MR. ABERNETHY:**  Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I’d like to once again talk about the Food Rescue Program and highlight some of what was accomplished within the last three years.

The Donation of Food Act, which was put forward by my colleague Wendy Bisaro, was passed in 2008. This act ensures that those who donate food or who distribute donated food are not liable for possible harm unless it was a result of intent to harm or reckless behaviour. This act has allowed the Food Rescue Program to increase as it serves a pressing need within our community.

From the end of 2008 until December 31, 2011, the Food Rescue Program has rescued 390,000 pounds of food.

Of that, 225,000 pounds was received in 2010 alone. In 2010, Food Rescue donated 222,000 pounds of various food products. A breakdown of this includes some 6,600 pounds of meat, 22,000 litres of dairy products, 3,600 litres of juice, 950 dozen eggs and 2,900 sandwiches. Food banks across North America value each pound of food at about $2. This means in 2010, Food Rescue, along with those people and companies supporting it, has donated and delivered around $440,000 worth of food in the community that would have otherwise been unavailable or ended up in landfills. In addition, approximately 3,500 pounds of compost was produced.

I would like to highlight the work and thank all of the volunteers who have helped this organization be successful. They have all done a lot of work and are a great resource for individuals and other communities who are interested in doing the same kind of thing. I would also like to acknowledge the partners who have helped make this success possible: Central Mechanical, Matrix Aviation, Ryfan Electric, BHP Billiton, the City of Yellowknife, Diavik Rio Tinto, the Yellowknife Liquor Store and Bassett Petroleum, and I apologize to any that I’ve missed.

Mr. Speaker, the Food Rescue Program is performing a valuable service to the community and is seeking to expand further. Last year the program moved into a larger, but temporary, facility on Old Airport Road and the facility is already proving to be too small. Currently the board is exploring opportunities to expand.

Ultimately, Food Rescue has a long-term goal to establish itself somewhere on a permanent basis in a larger facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONSENTENCING FOR VIOLENT OFFENDERS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I addressed the issue of light sentences being handed out in cases of heinous acts of violence where, Mr. Speaker, the prosecutors and judges were well aware of an individual’s prior convictions. I also spoke about the inadequacy of treatment and programs for inmates in our corrections system.

Mr. Speaker, I’ve spoken to many inmates both while incarcerated and after their release that state the same thing: there is a lack of services available for them while they are incarcerated.

Just last week it was reported that we now have convicted criminals of violent crime asking judges to serve more time, and to serve that time in Alberta so that they can access better programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, something has got to be done to ensure we rehabilitate those that can be rehabilitated, which leads me, Mr. Speaker, to those violent offenders that have repeatedly been convicted of violent crimes in our Territory.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to protect public safety. Why are we not pursuing dangerous offender status for individuals who continually use violence against our residents? The predominant purpose of the dangerous offender provisions in the Criminal Code is public protection, and without a doubt our communities would be safer if this government would pursue dangerous offender status for those who it was intended for: dangerous offenders.

Mr. Speaker, in order to pursue dangerous offender status, the prosecution must establish two main matters beyond a reasonable doubt. First, the conviction be a serious personal injury offense, an offense with a maximum sentence of 10 years. Secondly, the offender must be dangerous to public safety, which is evidenced by repetitive behaviour and showing a pattern of persistent, aggressive behaviour towards others.

Mr. Speaker, with this available to us, why are we not pursuing dangerous offender status for those with a long history of violent crimes against our people?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I’ll have questions for the Minister of Justice at the appropriate time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONDEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the people of the Sahtu for standing up and telling the government when we’re ready to sign the devolution AIP we will decide as a people to move on this agreement. More importantly, we will decide how we want to work and live with each other in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu people from Deline, Tulita and Norman Wells met a few days ago in Deline to talk about the devolution table. Actually, Mr. Speaker, a leader and elder from one of our communities made a statement saying that will this be our Custer’s last stand with the governments. Only time will tell, Mr. Speaker.

The Sahtu people came to the table, saw what was on the table and said we’re not ready to sit at this table, we will not sign this agreement today. There is more work before we will sit down with the government.

Mr. Speaker, both the Premier and I heard the Sahtu people speak about their concerns. Not all communities were at the meeting. Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake chose to stay at home and take care of their own houses.

Mr. Speaker, this devolution agreement does impact the Sahtu Land Claim. For example, it clearly states in our Sahtu Land Claim under chapter 22.2: will no longer be in force, if this devolution comes into effect. We want to know who will look after our interests. Already this agreement is making changes to our land claims. There are some obligations that will be transferred from the federal government to the Government of the Northwest Territories. This has caused some serious concerns for the Sahtu elders. Mr. Speaker, especially when a promise is a promise, why do promises keep changing?

Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu do not support any establishment of any super boards. We’re okay with the regulatory process that was set up by the advice of our elders. Most of those elders are buried today, Mr. Speaker. It is Ottawa who has the problem with this process here; they wouldn’t work with our board. Days of issuing permits are long gone. When will Ottawa recognize our Aboriginal rights and our Aboriginal title?

Mr. Speaker, I’ll have questions of the Premier at the appropriate time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONABORIGINAL COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I’d like to speak on the Aboriginal Court Challenges Program that’s in place in this government that we seem to hear very little about. Mr. Speaker, in light of the situation we find ourselves in here in the Northwest Territories in trying to define and challenge who has what rights, I think this fund has been put to use.

Mr. Speaker, the fund provides for an application to apply to receive funds to pay for legal expenses by way of individuals, non-government organizations, in regards to seeking application before the court in regards to the protection and definition of Aboriginal and treaty rights for Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I for one feel that these dollars have to be allocated to the appropriate organizations so that they can fight for their rights. More importantly, defend themselves in a court of law so that we can clearly identify what those rights really mean, than having just someone stipulate, don’t worry, we’ll take care of your interests, your rights are being protected. At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the fund provides for an applicant to apply to receive funds to pay for legal expenses. Mr. Speaker, we have learned from history since 1921, whether it’s Treaty 11 or looking at the Norman Wells Pipeline. People have learned from these treaty experiences, which was because of government and non-Aboriginal people wanting to have access to lands and resources in the provinces in northern Canada that they signed these so-called treaties. Yet, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the ink is dry, their commitments and obligations under those treaty applications are being rescinded, or worse, told sorry, that’s not what the intention was or that’s not what that means.

Mr. Speaker, that is definitely the situation we find ourselves in here today with regard to the devolution agreement that’s been presented before this House and signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Justice exactly what is the status of this fund, but more importantly, what it is going to take for Aboriginal organizations to access these funds to have their rights adhered to and upheld. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONMEDICAL TRAVEL CONTRACT

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will speak to the recently awarded GNWT medical travel contract. Apart from the slap in the face that our local travel companies received as the contract was moved south, the decision has had a negative effect on our economy. A local northern small business will close its doors and three employees will be left without a job.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we should be doing everything we can to encourage and increase our economy, not reduce it. In all likelihood, Mr. Speaker, as a direct result of this contract award, the NWT government will be losing revenue; from lost business and income taxes and from lost federal transfer payments as some of the employees and their families move out. We’ll be increasing expenditures as we pay income support for the others.

I need to express some of the concerns that I have with this contract award. Firstly, I was appalled to learn that it was let as a tender, not as a request for proposal. A tender does not allow for any creativity on the part of the supplier. It is low price no matter what. I was under the apparently mistaken impression that this government is trying to reduce our medical travel costs. If that’s the case, why would we not tap into the creativity and knowledge of travel professionals? Give them the opportunity to present a proposal, to think outside the box, to help us find solutions to reduce our costs?

Secondly, through the tender process, bidders struggled to get timely responses to questions, had to resubmit bids because of an error in the first request for tender document, and had to deal with numerous addendums to the tender. At every step, the changes indicated that Stanton was opening things up to accommodate southern bidders; unknown southern companies and an unknown system change.

I think it highly unlikely that Stanton considered the effects that using an out-of-territory agency would have on medical travel operations. There are unanticipated costs that will be borne by the medical travel office under this new system: the cost to get authorizations to the South by fax or scanning and e-mailing; the cost to print invoices, itineraries, and other documents that come back from the South; and the cost in staff time to educate southern agents about our northern carriers and our unusual routings.

I’m no stranger to the travel industry. Booking northern travel is not like the South. Travel from many of our communities requires much more than point-to-point computer bookings, knowledge a Toronto-based agency would certainly not have.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** The medical travel contract is a service and people-oriented agreement. The buyer -- that would be Stanton Hospital -- should take that into consideration when evaluating bids. A tender can’t do that because the tender has only one criterion: the price. On the other hand, a proposal is judged on many things: service, track record and competent staff being three of them. I suspect that we will soon be hearing of difficulties in the medical travel office: inefficiencies, delays, extra workload for staff. I don’t wish for it but when it happens, I will try not to say I told you so.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONHOUSING NEEDS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding the Minister’s good catch-up work described in his statement today, inadequate housing and the delivery of our housing programs remains a huge issue today. For everyone -- workers, parents, children, elders -- the home is the foundation of health. No one can participate fully in society without a place to store and cook food, to sleep, bathe, do laundry, homework, and host friends.

Adequate, accessible and affordable. The latest core needs survey tells us that things continue to grow worse in all these areas. Just having a house isn’t enough. Issues of overcrowding, poor condition and high cost are almost as crippling as the lack of a home.

The affordability figures are startling. Recent figures indicate you must have household incomes of $74,000 to $107,000 to rent privately or own and operate a residence in communities such as Ulukhaktok, Fort Liard, Wekweeti, Fort Resolution and Norman Wells, and even Yellowknifers face high costs as well.

What does this mean? It means many people must live in public housing. It means that, no less than health care, housing must be viewed as a social program with government supplementing costs because real costs are simply beyond many people’s means.

This brings in the administrative side of meeting social needs. While we see progress on rental arrears, local housing authorities continue to suffer budget penalties because of gaps between rents they are expected to collect and those they can realistically collect. For example, one LHO with improved collections of outstanding rents is still being penalized $300,000 per year for uncollected rents. The uncollected amount comes off the next year’s funding. How does that work for bookkeeping and sustainable programs?

No matter how much money LHOs collect, their costs don’t go down and the need for housing only grows. Viewed as a social program, rent collection has nothing to do with an LHO’s responsibility to deliver programs. Removing funding from the next year’s budget does nothing but worsen the situation. When delivering a social program, negative bookkeeping helps nothing. These are difficult issues and I’ll be asking the Minister questions, time permitting, today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ONREINSTATEMENT OF MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR NWT SENIORS’ SOCIETY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Seniors’ Society has worked with the Department of Health and Social Services for over 15 years to ensure dignity, independence, participation, security and fairness for seniors across the NWT. As the population of the Northwest Territories ages, the NWT Seniors’ Society is an increasingly important resource for elders across the NWT. It is the only volunteer agency representing the individual and collective interest of all seniors in the NWT.

Its first multi-year funding agreement with Health and Social Services was in 2006 to 2010 and helped the NWT Seniors’ Society fulfill its mandate and offered some stability to their organization. To get that, I can tell you that I, at the time, relentlessly lobbied then-Minister Michael Miltenberger to consider that option, which he finally did. Multi-year funding is beneficial to the Seniors’ Society and, of course, to all NGOs. It allows them to play the delivery role of programs and get the most mileage out of our short territorial resources.

Past governments have supported the Seniors’ Society. Ten years ago documents were tabled in this House recommending some of the actions that the NWT Seniors’ Society works to implement today. These actions include strategies to prevent elder abuse, promote volunteerism, improve income support, coordinate services for seniors and improve housing. These things are among the many factors that contribute to seniors’ health and well-being.

The NWT Seniors’ Society is instrumental in connecting seniors and the support that they definitely need. They have a proven track record of getting things done for the right people who need help the most. Let’s recognize their important role in improving the quality of life for our seniors and reinstate the resources that are needed.

Later today I will be raising the issue with the Minister of Health and Social Services to act swiftly on reinstating a multi-year funding agreement with the NWT Seniors’ Society which has been the hallmark of the last Assembly. I think that issue needs to continue to go forward and recognize the respect and dignity the society needs by our government’s direct and honest support.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

# Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to recognize three members of the National Energy Board: the chairman and CEO, Gaetan Caron; board member, Georgette Habib; and to show there’s life after being a clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. David Hamilton, board member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to recognize today Mr. Patrick Chicot from Kakisa. Patrick’s here with our Pages that are working very hard for us from Kakisa and will be returning home on Friday. I will be recognizing the Pages tomorrow.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you’re enjoying the proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

# Oral Questions

## QUESTION 459-16(5):LUTSELK’E SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SHOP

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement I talked about the career and technology services in Tu Nedhe, both Fort Resolution and Lutselk’e. I have questions for the Minister of Education pertaining to the situation in Lutselk’e. Can the Minister clarify why the current community learning centre facility cannot be maintained temporarily for a career and technology services trades programming until the Lutselk’e Dene School expansion occurs?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** As the Members know, there is a community learning centre going up in Lutselk’e. The existing building that is in place right now, I guess it has been surplus to the community on the CLC, the community learning centre. The money that’s been operating with the existing building will be transferred to the new facility. If the community wants to take over the facility, the operating cost of the building will be on the onus of the community. That’s part of the reason.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’d like to thank the Minister for that answer. I thought that the building was going to be decommissioned. There is a critical need for tradespeople and opportunities for the people in Lutselk’e to be employed at the mines. Does the Minister think that if there’s not enough money in the budget for the local district authority that the Department of Education would be able to assist in the operation and maintenance and custodial services to provide in the old community learning centre to be used as a shop?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** As I indicated, the money that will flow with the new community learning centre will happen. The Member is asking for additional funding. We provide funding to the local DEA to provide programming in CTS and different areas. At this point we don’t have the additional dollars to put into the system. This is an area we can look at for next year’s planning session. At the same time, the funding that has been in existence is being transferred with the new building.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Can the Minister commit to giving direction to the staff to work with the local district education authority to come up with the costs to operate the old community learning centre as a shop for the career and technology services?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I can have my department work with the DEA on this matter. The Member has brought this to our attention on a couple of occasions now. We’ll definitely work with it and with the Member as we move forward. I’ll definitely agree to having my department work with the DEA.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister do that for the 2011-2012 school year? The beginning of the 2011-2012 school year?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Those are the things that we need to look at: what’s out there right now, what are the options. We need to get back to the department and find what we need to work with. This is an area that we need to look at in more detailed information and we’ll see what the outcome will be.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## QUESTION 460-16(5):MEDICAL TRAVEL CONTRACT

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I’d like to follow up on some of the questions and statements that I made in my statement.

I talked about a request for tender and that it does not allow for -- I didn’t mention this -- full-cost accounting of the service that is being sought. There is no opportunity for the buyer to do company reference checks, to consider the ability of the company’s staff in light of the work being contracted for. To get a full value of our money on such a contract, I believe we ought to be using a request for proposal. My question to the Minister is why Stanton Territorial Health Authority did not use a request for proposal for the medical travel contract.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the Member’s concerns in this regard. It should be made clear that the local businesses were given all preferential treatment available under our government policies to support northern businesses. With all that considered for about a $250,000 contract, there was a difference of over $100,000. So there was quite a substantial difference in the prices and, secondly, it should be made clear that while we are having discussions about government policies, it’s really important to make sure that we don’t suggest that any staff has done anything wrong. Stanton staff have been under attack in the House and I have to tell you that all government rules were followed and especially in this contract process.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it’s a legitimate discussion for us to discuss what more could we do to give preferential treatment to northern businesses, but for this contract all the rules were followed, the staff did all the right things and if the Member suggests that maybe we should give everything to a request for proposal, we could do that, but that’s a separate issue.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this was handled as a tender because that’s how it was done previously. This was not a new process. They were not looking for new ideas. It was a northern business that earned this contract last time as a tender and so it went out as a tender for the second time. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you. I think the Minister missed my point. I have no concerns with the process. I never once mentioned the process. My concern is that a request for tender does not get us the evaluation of the contractor that we should be getting. It doesn’t allow us to look at all aspects of the service that we’re asking for. I know that the northern agencies were given preferential treatment, that was made very evident to me and I have no concern with that.

It’s been about a month now since that contract has been awarded and I now understand that some of our medical travel staff are experiencing some problems with this new contractor. I’m told especially slow and lengthy turnaround time to get itineraries for travel bookings. So I’d like to ask the Minister how are things working out with the new contractor. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. The Member has a valid point. If she would like the government to consider that all of these things get done by a request for proposal, that’s something that we could look into, but that would be within the responsibility of departments in charge of contract rules.

Secondly, the Member is saying that she’s heard of problems. I’ve not heard of any problems with people booking medical travel. If the Member has a specific question, I’d be happy to follow that up, but I’ve not heard from the Member on that issue prior to today and I’ve not heard from anybody else who is suggesting that there’s any problem with the way the program is delivered. Of course, as a Minister I’d be happy to hear any of that at any time and follow up as I always do. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for the response. I guess it disturbs me somewhat that Members have to tell the Minister how to be creative and that we have to tell our staff what to do. I would hope that they would be constantly looking for ways to save money, and in my estimation an RFP is far better than a tender.

To the Minister not having heard any concerns, that’s great. Maybe there aren’t any, but with a new contractor in any program area, I think there should be constant monitoring in the early days. So the Minister told us that we were going to have a seamless transition a little while ago. I’d like to know if either the hospital or the department has asked the staff for an evaluation to date, are they happy with the new system, has their workload increased, are things more or less efficient than before. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. I believe the system has been in place less than a month. I believe it went into effect at the end of January and the Member mentioned in her question that she’s hearing that there are problems. I’m not aware of that. I’d be happy to receive that information from her and I’d be willing to commit to taking a look to see how we are delivering that program, because obviously when we get somebody to deliver a program on our behalf, we want to make sure that the work is being done right. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister I would like to say that I would hope that when we have a new contractor, we would be proactive and we would be checking up to make sure that things are working okay. I appreciate the Minister’s commitment to do some sort of an evaluation. That was my next question. So I wish her to confirm that either she or the hospital will do a brief evaluation of the contractor and the service to date, and will she report those findings to the House? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. As I indicated, the contract has been in place less than a month. I believe it came into effect at the end of January. I believe it’s a two-year contract with a renewal clause. At the appropriate time I would be happy to commit to an evaluation. Having said that, I’m not sure if a month is enough to do an evaluation on something. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

## QUESTION 461-16(5):EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN NURSING GRADUATES

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to follow up on my Member’s statement on northern grad nurses. I mentioned that I received a copy of the letter to Ms. Lee from one of my constituents who was really dismayed and took offense to the remark in the House by Ms. Lee. I just wanted to get some clarification, questions. Is there an actual policy or directive of government that graduated nurses that have designated RNs must take some additional training to be employed in our system, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, his constituent wrote to me on February 14th at 10:23 a.m. and I responded to her at 11:25 a.m. on February 14th. I stated to her that given the questions and concerns that the graduating class has expressed and some of the confusion that might have created because of the discussions being held here, that I have asked Department of Health staff as well as Human Resources staff to go into the classroom and meet with the new grads so that they get full and comprehensive information about the employment opportunities available to us. We are, as a government, fully committed to using and hiring all of the nursing grads. We have done that before and we will continue to do that, but we need the students to work with us, because there are many jobs in many different places in different communities and different practices.

So let me just state, clearly our nursing program is a very good program. We graduate highly qualified, skilled, competent grads out of that class. We hire those grads, but nursing jobs all over the Territories are different. A nurse’s job at Stanton is different from a nurse in Jean Marie River or Fort Good Hope or Inuvik. Being a nurse in charge in Aklavik is different from being a nurse in Smith. So at no time did I say that those nurses are not qualified to do the job, there are just so many different jobs that a nurse would take on and we do have programs that would have them be practice ready, which is different. So I think it’s important that we treat our nurses well and we respect our nurse grads and we do that. I have indicated to the staff that we need to meet with them so that they have all the information and not go by what’s in the media clips coming out of this House. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you. The media clips that come out of this House are taken with seriousness by all our constituents and people throughout the North because what’s said in this House is reflected sometimes in policy and in how we administer our government. So just given that, Mr. Speaker, if anything, given the seriousness that my constituents have taken with it, the chief of the community has taken it very seriously as well, and I think, if anything, if there was an error in her statement and she offended people, I think the Minister owes an apology. Thank you very much.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. Media clips are taken seriously, but they are not comprehensive and they are not always accurate, which is the reason why I’ve asked our staff to go and meet with the grads.

Mr. Speaker, the Graduate Nurses Employment Program is a successful program. It’s one that nursing grads could benefit from. We have currently four graduate nurses employed at Stanton. In 2009 and 2010 there were 10 graduate nurses placed at Stanton and seven in 2008-2009. This is a successful program that allows the grad nurses to transition into a nursing position. They don’t have to go through that program but it’s one of many programs that the government has put in place to transition the nurses into a full-time nursing program. So it’s to their benefit. They don’t have to take that. At no time did I say they were not ready to take on a job. I’m just saying they have to be practice ready for the jobs that are available and we are here to help them.

I want to commit again that we are committed to hiring northern grads. We ask them to work with us and take full advantage of all the programs that we have available.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** When we say things in the House it is recorded in Hansard. That’s exactly the words I have in front of me, which says, “They need more training before they can be put into practice settings. They wouldn’t be, I don’t think, ready to apply for a job that’s available on the website.” That’s the kind of thing that really shocks them and I think it’s outrageous. The chief of my community thinks it’s outrageous that the Minister would say something like that. Once again, if anything, I know that the Minister is taking great lengths, between her and her department, to meet with the graduating nurses, but I believe she owes the people who took offence an apology.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I didn’t hear a question there, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## QUESTION 462-16(5):ABORIGINAL COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It’s in regard to the Aboriginal Court Challenges Program. I’d just like to ask the Minister of Justice, as he’s the person who oversees the program, what type of intake have we had in the program. How is this program being promoted in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We had some intakes into the funding that’s available but there hasn’t really been much interest over the years. We do advertise it. We have it on our website as well. The Aboriginal organizations, if they want to access it, we have on our website the list of criteria, what’s involved, how much money is available. It’s out there.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I’d like to ask the Minister if he’d like to formally submit a letter to the different Aboriginal organizations and non-Aboriginal organizations in the Northwest Territories to make them aware of this program. Can the Minister personally submit letters to the different appropriate organizations, Aboriginal organizations and non-Aboriginal organizations to make them aware of this program? Will the Minister consider that as an option?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is an area that we can look at. We can reach out to the communities. It’s on the website but we can contact the communities and regions so that they’ll be aware of it. I just got a note that it’s been accessed 13 times over the last decade. That’s related to the previous question the Member was asking.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I’d like to ask the Minister when the last time an evaluation and assessment was done on the program. Taking into consideration and looking at the dollar amounts that are in there, I believe, looking back over the time, there haven’t been any major changes to the program. I’d like to ask the Minister if they are considering doing an evaluation and assessment of the program to see if there are changes needed to it.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is an area that we can look at. We need to find out the status of the programming where there’s been access 13 times over the last 10 years. Why is that? The program itself, we as the Department of Justice can look at the overall program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I’d just like to get some direction from the Minister. I know this is a program for the Northwest Territories but it does require that at one point you can appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada regarding funding. I’d like to know if as part of the review that I put forward to the Minister, if he would also consider reviewing the programs we have and look at the federal programs to see if there’s the possibility of correlating our programs with the federal program in case there are additional resources needed for these type of court challenges, but they can access additional funding through federal programs in conjunction with our program.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We can definitely explore what programs are available to us from the federal perspective. With the Aboriginal Rights Court Challenges Program there is money in place to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. It does exist. The Member is talking about additional, possibly from the federal level, that we’ll definitely explore.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

## QUESTION 463-16(5):DANGEROUS OFFENDER STATUS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ve got questions today for the Minister of Justice. Recently and over the last few years there’s been some high-profile cases of repeat violent offenders getting light sentences even after 16, 17, 18 violent crimes. I’d like to ask the Minister of Justice if he’s aware of what constitutes becoming or getting the status of a dangerous offender.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The dangerous offender status or designation is the responsibility of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada under federal jurisdiction. If there is concern that the Member is addressing or bringing forward, then by all means we can receive the detailed information and share with our colleagues at the federal level.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Given the fact that we have such a high incidence of violent crimes and repeat offenders of those violent crimes, I’d like to get a better understanding of why we’re not seeing applications made for dangerous offender status for habitual violent offenders in our Territory.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is an area that if issues arise or have been addressed to our Department of Justice, we seriously take them into consideration. We need to work with the federal government as well. It’s under their jurisdiction when it comes to dangerous offenders, that designation. Any issues or complaints that are being brought to our attention in detail, then we will definitely share them with the federal government.

**MR. RAMSAY:** My understanding is that in the provinces and territories the Attorney General or deputy minister of Justice must give consent to an application. I’d like to ask the Minister of Justice if under his watch that status has ever been given to an offender here in the Northwest Territories.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** That detailed information I need to get. I don’t have in front of me that information. I’ll get that information for the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to ask the Minister of Justice if we cannot review cases where individuals have been incarcerated, as I mentioned earlier, 15, 16, 17, 18 times for violent offences, if we cannot review files of that nature in an effort to try to get dangerous offender status on those offenders if they reoffend.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is an area that we may have to explore with the federal government. Again, it’s under jurisdiction of the federal government. I do take the Member’s note that this is a concern to the Member and...(inaudible)...counterparts as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

## QUESTION 464-16(5):DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Yesterday the Premier and I, with staff members, met with the majority of the leadership in the Sahtu. We talked about the devolution. I appreciate the people in Deline for hosting us and thank the Premier for taking me down to Deline.

I want to ask the Premier, as he heard the leadership speak on devolution and the Sahtu’s position in terms of going forward we want to work together, however there are some serious concerns with the present draft AIP as it stands now. I want to ask the Premier about chapter 22, whether that chapter will be altered or ceased in terms of the benefits. If we sign on and go ahead with this agreement, chapter 22 in our land claim will no longer come into force. This would now be the GNWT’s section. I want to ask the Premier what type of other assurance we have that our land claim will be protected.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for rising on the issue of the agreement-in-principle. We did travel together and took part in the meeting. I must say that I viewed the meeting as a glass half full. I’m not sure if the Member was looking at it as half empty. There are challenges and issues that were raised at the meeting. As we had opportunity to speak with them, we recognized that challenge. There are issues around the agreement-in-principle that as I spoke to the leadership and heard from the leadership that we feel we can work forward on by signing the agreement-in-principle. They feel -- and we respect this -- that they need to bring in two of the other districts to finalize their position. We were asked for support and we look forward to that.

The agreement-in-principle states in many places the protection of land claims and the existing processes that are established. The section that was raised, as the Member has highlighted, was one that is a provision I believe we would have to sit down and talk with them about through this transfer and there would have to be a meeting and agreement in place on how to proceed with that. I’ll have to get more detail on that as we go forward.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I was of the view that glasses are always half full. Certainly our glass would be full if we did sign on to this agreement here.

I want to ask the Premier in terms of us in the Sahtu getting ready. We need to look at some very serious concerns with this draft AIP and how it’s going to affect our land claim and our governments in terms of going forward. The leadership has asked the Premier, and I want to ask the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues, about continuing to move on this file here with the Sahtu to look at another opportunity to have more discussions in the Sahtu with the whole leadership at the table where we can then talk about this AIP in the future with how to proceed going forward, working with the GNWT. We’re looking for funding.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** As I responded earlier at the meeting, the leadership there was represented by the Norman Wells group, Deline and Tulita. They asked that we support them in the next meeting. They’re aiming for March 7th and 8th, I understand, to bring Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake into the meeting so they can deal with some of their internal matters around the districts and how they are represented at a regional level. Then I understand they’d be having a decision shortly after that as to signing the agreement-in-principle.

We’re continuing to work with them and, as I stated at the meeting, we’re supportive of their request for additional funds to host that next meeting, so we’re looking at seeing how we could support them in that.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, certainly the leadership was happy again to have the Premier there and listen to the people. I want to ask the Premier, in terms of going forward with the Sahtu, they certainly want to make sure the communities were not going to be excluded in the management or administration of public lands and resources and other interests that could be pushed out or overlooked. We want to know if this government here is serious in terms of how do we implement the strong chapter 6 of this agreement where it talks about true partnership, because right now we are not seeing it here. We want to ask the Premier on that issue.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I respect the Members who rise on issues and present a certain case on behalf of their constituents in communities.

In the matter of partnerships and working together, I think we can point quite clearly to a number of big pieces of legislation that this government has been working on that we have worked hand in hand with in developing legislation. I would say this is one of the first for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Look at the Wildlife Act that’s being worked on, worked in partnership co-writing the legislation. Look at the Species at Risk Act. That’s another piece of legislation that has had partnership, true partnership from Aboriginal organizations in writing that. You look at the Water Strategy that we’ve undergone since we started the regional leadership approach, that they have been working hand in hand with the Government of the Northwest Territories on a Water Strategy for the North.

When you look at section 6 of the agreement-in-principle, there is clear intent that we need to establish the mandates and how we will negotiate with one another in that jurisdictional area of sharing. We’re very open to that and, in fact, that is why it’s in this agreement-in-principle, because we have, in the early days, worked with the Aboriginal groups and governments to put that kind of language in this very AIP. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to look at true partnerships, you know, the Sahtu would have already signed this agreement. We are not there yet. We need to really look at this, look for what it is. Chapter 22 will be impacted in our land claim, those issues that were negotiated in 1993-94.

Mr. Speaker, that’s what I’m asking this government here when you look at this deal, in terms of going forward, we want to ask, again, the Premier here in terms of how do we look at establishing true partnership. It’s not there yet. How do we do that? In chapter 6 it points to where in the protocol agreement, then we can work together in terms of putting this deal satisfactorily to both parties.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I guess I can agree with the Member on the fact that we’re almost there. We’re getting there in the sense that at the recent meeting we had, there are issues that came up around quite a number of issues, whether it’s day-to-day programming we’re involved in as a government, some of the self-government discussions that are ongoing, and then the agreement-in-principle pieces as they stand themselves. As I’ve committed to the leadership in the Sahtu, that we would support them in the next meeting of March 7th and 8th, and would be ready to be in attendance there, as well, if the request was made, when they have the whole group of the Sahtu.

In fact, in further discussions that have happened since then looking at the protocol work that was initially done and the principles of that protocol work and seeing if that’s another avenue that we could initial off as we go towards the signing of the agreement-in-principle in the hopes that they would join us in coming to the tent and help us with this work. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

## QUESTION 465-16(5):RESIDUAL HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEMSFOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member’s statement today was the excess heat in the Power Corporation in Sachs Harbour. Mr. Speaker, will the government give small and remote communities, especially in Nunakput with the highest operating and logistical costs, their fair share and seriously evaluate the use of excess heat recovery in the system? Is it possible for the government to help the community out to get the excess heat? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for that question because it gives me an opportunity to say that the Power Corporation is always interested in working with communities in trying to extend the benefits of our Corporation into those communities. In fact, there is some work that’s being done, for example, in the Nunakput riding of Ulukhaktok and looking at the plant there and the work that needs to be done at that, and looking at the past work and some of the heat distribution work that was done then. We’re looking at that.

For the community of Sachs Harbour in particular, if the community would like to go down that, we would invite their request in correspondence, and I’d take that as an initial step by the Member here asking that. We would gladly be prepared to sit down with them and talk about what it would take to look at having residual heat in that community. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** I already take that as a yes and I thank the Premier.

In the community of Sachs, Mr. Speaker, the fire department is right beside the Power Corporation. It’s about probably as far as from me to the Premier. What we’re trying to do is get the excess heat system put into the fire hall so we can be able to have a heated fire truck. Mr. Speaker, I really look forward to working with Premier and the community to get this project underway.

Mr. Speaker, just on another note, will the government stop allocating the project and resources such as excess heat recovery systems to the communities that have at least administration and logistical coordination, and prioritize them according to the community at the highest cost to generate the heat? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I’ll have to look at Hansard to figure out what specific part. We’re working with communities who have come forward and have done a fair bit of legwork. As I’ve said to the Member, we’re very interested in working with communities. I know that Municipal and Community Affairs has worked with communities and the Arctic Energy Alliance and communities have come up with energy plans and we’ll work with them. As the communities have worked with MACA, the Power Corporation, again, is open to looking at these requests to see what can be done and working with them on their energy plans as well. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, I really look forward to working with the Minister and the Power Corporation to get this project started. If we could have a timeline before the end of sitting, that would be good for me. Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** If the Member could help set up communications with the community, I would gladly speak to the chair of the Power Corporation and inform him of our discussions here and a commitment to have an initial discussion about what it would take and what’s required to move this forward. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## QUESTION 466-16(5):REINSTATEMENT OF MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR NWT SENIORS’ SOCIETY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement today I talked about multi-year agreements and I highlighted the one between the NWT Seniors’ Society and the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, multi-year agreements certainly outline and develop a stabilized funding source and it takes significant stress off NGOs, which should be doing the work that they always intend to rather than filling out long, protracted agreements year after year.

Under Minister Miltenberger, at the time, it was a great step forward for NGOs, and I had hoped that it would have been the hallmark moving forward. Mr. Speaker, my question to the now Minister of Health and Social Services is: is the intent of the Department of Health to renew the multi-year agreement with the NWT Seniors’ Society? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government and the department, in general, support multi-year funding arrangements, but right now our department is under fiscal pressure and we are reviewing all of our arrangements with NGOs. While we are going through, we are not able to commit right now to multi-year funding, but I want to assure the Member that we do support that policy. We are just having to review what we are doing right now. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Any multi-year agreement does not put any funding situation into stone. It certainly recognizes there are changes in government and, therefore, there would be a need to change the agreement to reflect the circumstances, perhaps even the fiscal circumstances the government is under on that day. What stops the Minister specifically from funding a multi-year agreement with the NWT Seniors’ Society, recognizing there may be special clauses to recognize fiscal circumstances the territorial government is in and they may have to re-evaluate? At the end of the day, you could still sign a multi-year agreement providing them the support and dignity this organization deserves. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** As I stated, GNWT and the department does support multi-year agreements when the funding allows. Of course, we would not allow for multi-year agreements on things that are proposal based. Right now, as I stated to the Member, the department is engaged in budgeting analysis, we are under pressure, and we are reviewing all agreements and for that reason we are right now just doing one-year agreements. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** On one hand the Minister says she supports this, but then on the other and she says she doesn’t. Mr. Speaker, administratively, would the Minister agree that it makes a lot more sense to have multi-year agreements in place rather than doing the same work year after year? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did indicate that I do, in principle, support multi-year agreements, but right now we are reviewing our arrangements and agreements with various groups. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. To be clear then, the Minister is saying in this House that she won’t support a multi-year agreement to the NWT Seniors’ Society which has an excellent proven track record and are able to fulfill all requirements spelled out in the agreements with the Department of Health and Social Services. Is that what the Minister is saying or is she intending to review the possibility of them having a multi-year agreement?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, absolutely that is not what I’m saying. We do support multi-year agreements. We have not discontinued multi-year agreements indefinitely. We see the merit in that and we will continue to do that, but for right now we are reviewing our agreements with various organizations to see how we are spending our funds. So that’s where we are and we will make decisions about multi-year soon. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## QUESTION 467-16(5):SUPPORT SERVICES FORRECENT IMMIGRANTS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is working in concert with the federal government to attract new Canadians to Yellowknife. It’s not surprising that newcomers will need help in orientation and service to make a successful transition, settle down and hopefully become residents. Unfortunately, recently the ECE immigrant settlement coordinator position became vacant, leaving people at a loss. The federal government, though, has an immigration officer in Yellowknife who, funnily enough, will not accept inquiries from the public, again leaving immigrants without a source of guidance and support. Not what we’re looking for, Mr. Speaker.

I’d like to ask the Minister of ECE how is it possible that the one federal person in town could refuse to deal with the clients that are here because of the federal/territorial program we put in place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is an area that we need to find out what’s happening. We did have a position in place but now it’s vacant. There is a toll-free number that people can access. We did send out notices and e-mails to all the relevant stakeholders to notify them that this is the contact information, contact person. So the information is out there, Mr. Speaker, but I will find out the situation about the concern that’s been brought to our attention. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister’s comments and information that some mitigation is happening here. My understanding is that immigrants can’t even get past security to visit the federal immigration officer on matters on immigrant settlement support. Until we re-staff our position, this person is obviously the sole source of knowledge on settlement support programs. Until this position is re-staffed, will the Minister call upon our federal partners to fill in and let people past the front door of the Greenstone Building to seek the support they obviously need? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, we will consult with our colleagues at the federal level and see what the status is on the situation. We need to rectify the problem. If there’s an issue, then we need to follow through with it. So I will follow up with our federal counterparts. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you very much for that commitment from the Minister. That’s good work. I want to state, too, that I realize that this has happened fairly suddenly without much notice on the part of the person in the position. I also understand that the recent incumbent, however, may have resigned because the workload was too much and the office couldn’t keep up with the demand. Given our special effort to attract new Canadians to our communities, we must, in good faith, give people the support they obviously need and want in order to become residents. Being a year now, will the Minister commit to reporting to the committee on this matter so we can assess program success and needs? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This particular position, I need to gather more information from the college itself because this is a college position. I will take the opportunity to meet with the standing committee if they wish to do so. My office is always open to briefing the committee members. I will gather this information. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m happy to visit with the Minister further about this. I’m not sure it’s a college position. I guess given that people are left hanging right now, can I trust that the Minister will be in touch with our federal partners quite soon on this to fill that need? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, the question has been asked in the House. I did commit to it, so we’ll follow through as soon as possible with the federal counterparts. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

## QUESTION 468-16(5):EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHERN NURSING GRADUATES

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and I’d like to continue my barrage of questions. It was on the northern grad nurses and the Graduate Placement Program. She has indicated in Hansard something that really upset the students and I’d like to ask the Minister if she’s willing to apologize to the grads publicly in this forum and explain what she had meant by that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, there was a lot said and I tried to explain what I meant, but obviously I think I should go right to the source. What I would like to do is if they are interested in meeting me, I would like to meet with the class so that I can talk to them as a Minister about how committed we are to recruiting and retaining northern grads.

I was there when they were a first-year class, and four years later they are graduating and I want to be able to meet with them. I want them to tell me about their concerns. I will have my staff and HR people, if they will come with us, so that we can explain what options they have available, because I don’t think the communication on media clips here is helping the situation. I’m not going to presume that they want to see me, but if they are willing to meet with me, I’d be happy to meet with them perhaps after the session is over, given the schedule. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I think that’s an outstanding offer by the Minister and I just do want to add when she had first met with the grads about two or three years ago, they were really pleased about the support that the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services had for the grads. Once again, I’d like to get the Minister’s commitment that she will make the offer and will go over and meet with the graduate students this year. Thank you very much.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, absolutely. I would even commit to the Member that his constituent who wrote to me, I will personally write her and ask her if I can come and meet with them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## QUESTION 469-16(5):SUPPORT SERVICES FORRECENT IMMIGRANTS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In listening to Mr. Bromley’s question, it ironically was quite close to a matter I dealt with this morning. I had a constituent who came to my office from I would define an African community, and they talked about how difficult it is and challenging here in Yellowknife when we have a Nominee Program and broader, larger efforts to attract new immigrants to the North, but they find that the service levels are quite low. Many of them have said that they’ve got approximately in the range of 200 people here from the African community, but many of them have left their families in Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, what does the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment have set up to provide a service centre that could help the immigrant community bring their families here, help them with jobs, training, education and support so we can fully have them participating in the community in a productive manner? In some cases many of them get stuck driving taxis because they have little to no options. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We do have the Nominee Program and also the staff to deal with that matter. We realize that there are people from all races and from all different countries, as well, that are coming to Canada, also coming to the Northwest Territories. So this is an area that we continue to monitor, but we do have people that deal with those individuals that may have questions, that may have an application process and we’ll do what we can to assist them through that venue. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. Well, one of the problems that they’ve highlighted is that there’s no real service centre. Where once we’ve got them here, it’s, like, what do they do or where do they seek further training and education about getting jobs? I mean, it’s great to attract the immigrant community or even the new Canadian community to Yellowknife in the North, but many of them are finding it difficult to get jobs. So the challenges of training, education, support and even drawing family here to the North becomes a significant problem continually for them. Does the Nominee Program have a service centre support mechanism that can help deal with many of these particular issues? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. This program that we deliver through the Nominee Program, it is available to those immigrants in the Northwest Territories, and we do provide various programs, as well, to those individuals, such as a Skilled Worker and Critical Impact Workers Program, Entrepreneur Self-Employment Business Program, through various interdepartmental as well. I work closely with the Department of ITI to assist in those areas to fill and also give them the opportunity to work beyond just being a cab driver. So that information is available to them through our department. Also, there is a website as well. So the information is out there. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. Many good people come to the North to help contribute and what we’re finding is we’ve got engineers, teachers, even veterinarians who are stuck in these entry jobs and not getting the access to tap into their potential of what they could provide and contribute to the North, and I think they’d add to the fabric of who we are. Would the Minister commit to working with the nominee office to ensure that they expand both public education and service support to this type of community? That way when we do get them here, they can work and ensure that they’re being productive in the way many of them have been trained but have not been able to access. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. This is an area that we have explored and are working towards that. This is a national issue where individuals come in with their doctor’s certification but it’s not recognized by different provinces or different areas. We have an understanding between the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers that we need to recognize some of those credentials that are being brought forward from other parts of the country. So, Mr. Speaker, we are working with it nationally and provincially, and also at the territorial level. So we continue to work on that. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, would the Minister commit to re-evaluating the support levels at the nominee office to see if they could offer the types of services I talked about and in turn what they would do is help support the transition and development of the credentials of the skills I talked about? For a fact, Mr. Speaker, a lot of people bring great training to Canada and to the North and I would hate to see it slip by and someone’s intended cherished career never gets utilized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. I will provide the Member with the information that is being provided to those immigrants, whether it be the training program, the programs that are available to them and various other programs that I’ve highlighted, so that those individuals are comfortable living in the Northwest Territories and going beyond what’s out there. Recognizing their credentials, that’s an area that we are still exploring and we are working towards. So I take the Member’s notice and we’ll take it into consideration. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## QUESTION 470-16(5):PUBLIC HOUSING NEEDS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are a follow-up on my statement earlier today on public housing. First, I want to confirm this government’s philosophy towards housing. In face of the fact that renting or owning housing is beyond the means of most people in most communities, doesn’t the government agree that the government must meet this need by the progressive redistribution of public funds in recognition that this is a social need? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation recognize our obligations to provide public housing to residents across the Northwest Territories. We have over 2,400 public housing units in our stock and with all the other units that we have, we have over 4,500 units that we have been responsible for getting on the ground to provide housing. So obviously this government, our Housing Corp in particular, recognizes its obligation to provide housing to residents in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Well said to the Minister. The second fact is this: no matter how much rent an LHO collects or doesn’t, people still need housing. Piling up these annual funding penalties does nothing but reduce LHOs’ ability to meet that need. Since housing is a basic social need, how does the Minister propose to meet reality and close the gap between what LHOs should and can collect so that service to all doesn’t suffer? Mahsi.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. We can work closely with some of our LHOs that have found themselves in a bit of a deficit and we have a Deficit Recovery Plan we’re working on with the LHOs. We do ask the LHOs to collect 90 percent in rental arrears or rent revenue up to 90 percent. The accumulated deficit of all our LHOs across the Northwest Territories at this particular time is $2.4 million. The accumulated arrears of all tenants of LHOs across the Northwest Territories at this particular moment are $13 million. So we have $11.6 million that these LHOs could be using to put towards their deficits and put back into their housing stock. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. There’s quite a bit that could be explored in that statement, but I appreciate that those are the facts. The Minister will get no argument from me on the need to collect rent. People who can pay rent must pay it, but the reality is penalizing LHOs for uncollected rent does nothing but dig LHOs into debt, because the reality is all rents can’t be collected, despite best efforts. How does the Minister again propose to get assessed rents in line with the reality of rental collections? Mahsi.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. We are working with those LHOs that find themselves in deficit and we’ll continue to work with them. With the support of this government and this committee, we have identified funds that go towards alleviating some of the LHOs’ deficits and that’s something that was just recently approved and we have identified more funds in future years, because we recognize that there are some uncontrollables that we have to work with that the LHOs are trying to overcome and we recognize the responsibility that we have as the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to help these LHOs. Again, we also have been trying to educate residents across the Northwest Territories on the importance of rent and paying their rent. I think the message is starting to get out there.

I would expect that we will see the situation improve. We have been dealing with the situation that had come to a head through this transfer we had just recently. We’re starting to identify all the outstanding issues and we’re starting to deal with them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired. I will allow the Member a short supplementary. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister’s response there. I think we do need to look for progressive solutions, perhaps setting collectable rents at 5 or 10 percent more than the previous year’s actual rather than 100 percent, building in incentives that reward success. I’m hoping that the Minister... I guess I ask if the Minister will come to us soon with some of the specifics to respond to this dilemma.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We look forward to any opportunity to brief committee on some of the initiatives that we’re working on. Also in the course of our business here, we have private meetings where we can inform the Members, especially in their constituencies, some of the initiatives that we’re working on. I will commit to keeping all Members informed and up to date on all the progress that we’ve made with working with the LHOs and their deficit recovery plans.

**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 responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Bob McLeod.

# Tabling of Documents

## TABLED DOCUMENT 139-16(5):PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD2010 ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled 2010 Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

## TABLED DOCUMENT 140-16(5):OUR THIRD YEAR 2011 – WORKERS’ SAFETY AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION2009-2011 CORPORATE PLAN

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Our Third Year 2011 - Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission 2009-2011 Corporate Plan.

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

# Notices of Motion

## MOTION 35-16(5):SUCCESSOR STRATEGY FOR THE ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 18, 2011, I’ll move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the 16th Legislative Assembly strongly urges the Government of Canada to announce the successor strategy to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnerships Program immediately, to ensure that the partners can continue to train Aboriginal Northerners for employment in the mining, transportation, construction and petroleum exploration sectors.

**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: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members’ Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments’ Interim Response to “Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future”; Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts Over $5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010; Tabled Document 133-16(5), NWT Main Estimates 2011-2012; Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to Committee Report 3-16(5) Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act; Minister’s Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights; and Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

By the authority given me as Speaker by Motion 31-16(5), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

# Consideration in Committee of the Wholeof Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: tabled documents 4, 30, 38, 62, 75, 103, 133, 135; Bills 4, 14, 17, 20; and Ministers’ statements 65-16(5) and 88-16(5). What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to continue with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment main estimates.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, we’ll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. At this time I’d like to ask the Minister of Education if he will be bringing in any witnesses.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that the Minister may bring in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in?

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Dan Daniels, deputy minister of ECE; Mr. Paul Devitt, director of strategic and business services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We’re on page 10-20, Education, Culture and Employment, grants and contributions, grants and contributions, total contributions, $164.874 million. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I’m not sure if this is still the right page, Mr. Chairman, but I have some more questions about the alternative schooling. Could I still ask it on this page?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen, are you seeking unanimous consent to go back to page 10-17?

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That’s okay. I can ask the Minister these questions on the floor of the House tomorrow. They’re about the alternative schooling in Hay River. I can do it then, if we’re past that point in the budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen, I think you can also ask your question under page 10-19, education authority contributions, which is basically talking about program funding for education authority. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I have the committee’s approval then, to ask about that.

Mr. Chairman, why is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment significantly reducing funding for students in the innovative and highly successful programs that our partners and ECE have otherwise been celebrating staff and student accomplishments? Why are we significantly reducing that funding for the alternative schooling program as disclosed yesterday that the program in Hay River is looking at a $200,000 reduction? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This alternative school programming, as we stated in the past, has been successful in various areas. We needed to look at the overall funding, the number of students that were attending in various schools and the funding that they were receiving, and at the end of the day, I guess, the end product, how many students are successfully completing the program. Based on the evaluation that’s been done, we decided that they would continue getting funding and the funding would be based on the alternative programming that would be offered and also the funding to offset the costs of the students that are in the program. We will continue to offer funding with a slight decrease in certain areas and some would have an increase as well. Mahsi.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, between the program in Fort Smith and in Hay River, the two larger communities in the South Slave, and with the South Slave Divisional Education Council, between the reductions to the two schools it’s a total of $428,000. Where is that money being re-profiled to? What’s the department doing with the money that they are not going to be putting into this program? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, some of the money that’s been identified or reallocated to other programming to offset the costs of, I guess you would say, higher costs to operate. The money has been expended in other areas as well. Mahsi.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, this particular initiative seems like it’s been particularly successful and falls very nicely in with the Aboriginal student achievement goals of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Chairman, what would it take to have these two programs... I’m particularly concerned about Hay River, but they are part of the same educational division. What would it take to have these two programs grandfathered at their current funding levels? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I’ve already written to the school boards that at this point in time we’re not considering grandfathering. However, we are providing funding after the fiscal year based on the students attending the programming. In addition, if there are additional expenditures that may occur, then there can be a substantiation. We can provide additional funding to offset the costs specifically for the students in the alternative programming. Mahsi.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** The funding required to continue to operate these alternative schools, the argument could be made for a critical number of staff and a critical level of resources, the same kind of argument that we made when we passed the motion the other day that Mr. Yakeleya brought forward when he talks about the number of students in grades 10, 11, 12 in the small communities. There comes a point that even with a small number of students, you do need a certain level of staff and resources in order to make the program work.

Mr. Chairman, what was the reaction of the DEAs when and if the consultation took place regarding the reduction of the funding for these alternative schools? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I will get my deputy to elaborate more on the reaction, but I can share with the Member that when we first initiated this discussion we did state that there was going to be some funding changes. We did consult with the superintendent as well. Of course, their argument back also was the higher costs to operate, but we did an evaluation of the program and this is how much the overall programming is costing the organization. If there are additional substantiation costs, well, give us that information. We are awaiting that information, if there are additional costs. But if I can get my deputy to just elaborate more on the reaction from the DEAs. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:**  As mentioned in the House yesterday, we have had some reaction from one of the school boards and a couple of DEAs, in particular, that have expressed their concerns to us about changes in the funding mechanism and they have expressed a request for us to consider grandfathering their programs. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, we put these local governing authorities in place in the community level, thinking that they will provide us good feedback on what is an effective way to expend ECE dollars to get the best results for the students. I would like to ask the Minister: has there been an analysis done showing what the impact is going to be of these reductions in the funding, especially when you consider that if these students do not get these credits that they need to conclude their high school diplomas, that they will probably be coming back into the system at some point to either have upgrading or to get their GED or in some fashion, and that is also a cost to this government? I’m not saying it’s not a worthwhile expenditure, but has there been a cost-benefit analysis done of how these alternative schools help the students that are still at high school age or relatively close to high school age versus if they have to come back into the system at some later time to achieve their high school diplomas? Thank you.

**MR. DANIELS:** We did have a consultant that looked at the different alternative school programs that are in place across the different schools boards and part of the focus was on the amount of credits that students were completing. That was part of the consideration in the formula, because we do recognize the benefit of the programs. A number of them were not attendance based, so we had to come up with a different approach on how we could fund those programs because they’re not attendance based with a focus on course completion. So that was where we put the emphasis on with the formula. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That’s all the questions I had on that for now. I’m not happy with the answers, I’m not satisfied with them. I think the government is making a mistake by reducing the funding to these worthwhile projects, one in Fort Smith and the one in Hay River. Like I said, I’m not satisfied with the response, but I will pursue it at another time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mrs. Groenewegen, a comment. Next I have Mr. Yakeleya and Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are we on page 10-19?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We’re somewhere between 10-18, 10-19 and 10-20. Take your pick.

---Laughter

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thanks for the flexibility, Mr. Chair. I wanted to ask a question on 10-19 on the NWT Teachers’ Association Professional Development Fund. We make a contribution to this development fund for teachers as part of their Collective Agreement. Now, I’m very happy that the department has initiated a mandatory cultural orientation week for teachers in the North every year. Is this part of their Collective Agreement funding?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. No, it’s not.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** So where do we find the funds so all the teachers in the North can take a few days to learn about the specific cultures in that specific community so they get a better sense of who the children are in the community, where they are working and who the people are? Shouldn’t this be part of their Collective Agreement? Where is the money coming from?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When we initiated this, one prime example, of course, is the orientation that the Member has alluded to. That initiative has been under the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative funding. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I find it very strange taking money out of the Aboriginal achievement funding to fund these professional teachers to take a course, an orientation course to learn about the students that they’re going to be teaching throughout the year. Shouldn’t they take it out of their own fund or through the Collective Agreement and leave that Aboriginal funding alone for what it’s supposed to be for? Why did this happen? Why are we taking money out of the Aboriginal achievement funding to do something that the teachers should do already in their professional development schedules?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When we initiated this Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, the cultural orientation was a big factor and we wanted to pursue that through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative because it does cover the teachers, the students, the parents, the grandparents and the elders in the schools. Then there’s the NWT Teachers’ Association, as well, that falls under professional development. They can easily access professional development in that area, as well, but this is a specific area that we’ve highlighted and targeted with cultural orientation. We felt that it’s important for our department and the NWTTA have their own agendas and mandate, but we initiated this process as a department. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. No argument from me to see the importance of this orientation for the teachers coming to the Northwest Territories. My point is that the NWTTA, I’m thinking why take money out of the Aboriginal pot? I think that should be done under the Collective Agreement in their professional development, because it’s just as important as some of the programs they have to take throughout the year to increase their skill or their ability to teach and using the computers or writing or reading or anything. You don’t see them taking money elsewhere. So I think we could have been stronger with the Professional Development Fund rather than just taking it out of the Aboriginal achievement funding. There’s always a lack of funds in that area. So I want to ask the Minister about working with the teachers. It seems like it’s too easy for me. Is this going to happen in the future again? Like he said at one time, is this one-time funding? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is an area that has been targeted, but the groups had the recommendation of the people of the North. They highlighted specific areas. One of them was the cultural orientation, another one was the laptops, another one was to deal with absenteeism. We gave funding to the school boards to deal with those important matters at hand. So we’ve captured different angles and this is one of them. So the students are also benefiting from this particular piece of work that’s before us, Mr. Chair. The teachers need to get to know our cultural perspective, the language and the students. The students are out there on the barren land or On-the-Land Program with the teachers as well. So directly and indirectly the students are also benefiting. The community is benefiting. The whole Northwest Territories is benefiting. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** My point, Mr. Chair, is the funding here that’s been established, $1.6 million. My point is that this fund has been here for a couple of years, 2009-2010 was $1.4 million, we didn’t have any cultural orientations, not until we started pushing it in this House, in the communities. All of a sudden, okay, let’s do it, but where do we find the money. Now everybody thinks it’s the best thing since sliced bread. Everybody is benefitting, no doubt about it. I’m just saying why take it out of the Aboriginal achievement funding? This should have been done a long time ago. That’s what I’m pointing to.

I’ve got no question in terms of seeing the benefit in the Sahtu, but it’s like Peter taking from Paul to pay Mary sort of scenario. I mean, that’s the way you look at it, and that’s what I’m saying. The teachers should have had this in their fund in the Collective Agreement, but all of a sudden we find some money for them to take a cultural orientation but it’s out of the Aboriginal Achievement Fund. Those dollars are for the students. That’s my beef. I want to ask the Minister again, is this a one-time initiative? That’s what I heard. Now correct me if that’s not the truth.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The NWTTA has had funding in their budget to cover the orientation. Whether it be final for the fact that teachers in the Tlicho TCSA have been to the barren land almost every year, actually every year to introduce those new teachers and returning teachers to the land and the people of the land. They have done that over the years. This is nothing new.

We felt that as a department that we want to make this mandatory. The professional development available for teachers through NWTTA can be used to go to conferences and whatnot, but our vision, our goal was to establish an initiative such as the Cultural Orientation Program that will clearly highlight that it’s mandatory for Northwest Territories teachers to take those on-the-land programs and for them to be exposed. The money has been earmarked for that through Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative because this is our initiative. It’s not an NWTTA initiative as mandatory through Cultural Orientation Program. We’ve initiated it, we’ve highlighted the money.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a few questions. I checked Hansard from yesterday and I was a little confused with the answers I received relative to the funding for the Food First Foundation and where the funding that they’re not getting is now going. I was advised that there were some concerns that were identified. The deputy minister indicated that there were some concerns identified by some of the schools relative to the previous years over this current year’s project. One of the things was that there was an increased workload placed on the schools to administer the program. But then the next thing I thought I heard, or previous to that, was that the money that is in this budget year going to First Food Foundation is now going to go directly to the schools and presumably for the same thing. I was advised that there are nutrition programs they can use it for.

I’m having a difficult time understanding that if there is nobody to administer this money for the schools and if when it was administered it created a burden on the schools, if we now just give the schools the money without anybody to help them administer it, are we not still placing a burden on the schools? I think I asked yesterday but I didn’t really hear an answer. How is it the schools are going to use the money out of this $400,000 that they get? Are they being advised that it has to be used for nutrition? Can they use it for anything that they want? Or is the intent to have this $400,000 used basically for the same purpose in 2011-2012 that it’s being used for in 2010-2011? There are three questions there, but basically I want to know from the Minister or the deputy minister what this $400,000 is going to be used for. If it’s given off to each individual school, do they have criteria under which they have to use it or not?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify that the $400,000 that is going out to the schools is in the current year for 2010-2011 and it is sunsetting at the end of March of this year. That money will not be available past March 31st of this year.

**MS. BISARO:** That’s clear but I don’t think I heard that yesterday. When I asked yesterday what the $400,000 is going to be used for in the 2011-2012 budget, I thought I heard that that $400,000 was going to the schools. Could I find out what the $400,000 is going to be used for this coming budget year?

**MR. DANIELS:** The $400,000 sunsets, so it’s not being reallocated to any other purpose. It was a one-time fund for the 2010-2011 year.

**MS. BISARO:** I’m struggling here. I understand that this money sunsets but there is no reduction in the ECE budget of $400,000 that I can see. In fact, my bottom line for the budget is that their dollars go up. So how is the $400,000 which is sunsetting, how is that amount of money going to be used within the ECE budget?

**MR. DANIELS:** The overall department increases come from a number of other initiatives that are either new initiatives or forced growth. That’s where the increase in the overall department’s budget comes from.

With respect to the funding that was going into the Nutrition Program, it was actually funded through our income security budget, which we’ll be dealing with.

**MS. BISARO:** That’s fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next I have Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to follow up a little bit with the alternative schooling and in particular the Phoenix School. Am I correct in gathering that their funding is decreasing by about $200,000, about 50 percent of their allocation in 2011-2012?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. In September 2009 the current formula was approximately $666,000 for Phoenix. The proposed is... Right now the current would be $439,000. There’s a difference of just over $200,000.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I understand from Mr. Daniels that the schools were assessed on number of graduates and so on. I believe we’ve graduated 30 students from this school and 20 are projected to be graduating this year. Was that in fact the numbers used in the analysis of this school?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The numbers that we were looking at were the course credit completions for students that were in the alternative schools. So it would not have just been the graduates, but the credit completions of the students that are in the alternative programs.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Is there a category of schools that increases in funding as a result of this formula? Is it perhaps those with smaller numbers of students increasing funding? How is it that some schools are increasing and some are decreasing?

**MR. DANIELS:** With the formula that we developed, we look at the course completions and some of the ones that are... Where the budgets have been increased based on formula, yes, that’s based on credit completions where they’ve been having some success in terms of getting students through the alternative method of schooling. Then there were other factors that were taken into the formula including the cost of teachers to support the students in those courses or programs as well as some administrative cost, and any costs associated with rent because some of the programs are delivered outside the school environment.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that detail. So if costs of teachers were higher, would you get more funds or lower funding?

**MR. DANIELS:** The number of teachers that are required for students enrolled in these programs, if there were more enrolled in these programs or more that were completing course credits, that could affect the number of teachers that are required for the program. So that could affect the amount that would be required to deliver the alternative programs.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I guess basically I have some of the same concerns as Mrs. Groenewegen about this new approach. In the case of the Phoenix School it just seems like once they’re hitting their stride and getting successful and really starting to put out the graduates, and I believe our graduation rate has not been doing well, it’s sort of like a school that struggles and finally finds its stride and we start to penalize them and knock them back. I guess I’ll just leave it at that comment. Great if the Minister can assure me that’s not happening, but that’s the sense I’m getting. I hope the Minister will take these remarks and give this another good look.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** More of a comment, but would you like to respond, Mr. Lafferty?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. We did take a good look at the overall evaluation that’s been brought to our attention. Based on the students taking the accredited programming, we’ve identified -- let’s say I can use the Phoenix School -- the operation costs we’ll cover and the number of students that are enrolled. The overall cost for a teacher to deliver those programs to a number of students that we’re going to cover. We also stated that if there are additional costs that they can substantiate, then we’ll seriously look into that as well for additional costs. That’s what we’ve done. We’ll continue to work with the school boards at that level. We need to closely monitor that. If there’s an increase in students, then that will have an impact on the funding criteria as well. We’ll have to monitor that.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister’s remarks. I guess this is a 33 percent reduction to the Phoenix School. I’m taking from the Minister’s remarks that we’ve been overfunding this school, based on the costs that the department estimates they should have, by about 33 percent. That’s quite a disjuncture there. I guess I’ll be interested in seeing how this pans out. I think this has been a good analysis, if that is in fact the case and we are not causing the number of graduates to decrease and course completions to decrease. I’ll leave it at that for now.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Like I said before, we will continue to provide funding based on the students and based on the operation of alternative school programming. We’re focusing on the students and providing funding for operations costs. As I stated, if there are additional costs as required on the students, then we’ll seriously look at those areas as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Next I have Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ve got some questions on page 10-19 based on the $148 million education authority contributions. The second sentence in that section says: “Enrolment-based formulae are used to determine the majority of payments.” I’m curious if the Minister could tell me a little bit about the formula used as part of this $148 million to determine how much money is allocated for inclusive schooling to each of the individual schools and authorities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you. There’s a percentage of the overall allocation. I believe it’s 18.5 percent that’s allocated towards inclusive schooling. That’s part of the overall formula.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Daniels. Anything further, Mr. Abernethy?

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In talking to some of the school boards, I was under the impression that there was some negotiation going on between Education, Culture and Employment and the school boards to bump that percentage up to 20 percent. For a while I thought it sounded like it might happen, but then it didn’t happen. Is there any reason why we didn’t move up to the 20 percent allocation for inclusive schooling?

**MR. DANIELS:** Right now, I think it’s more a matter of overall resourcing that’s available. We are providing funding for inclusive schooling that goes beyond our statutory requirements at this stage in terms of a percentage. We have been reviewing, through the Program Review Office, funding increases in the education area that are related to inclusive schooling as well as the pupil-teacher ratio.

**MR. ABERNETHY:**  In talking to the school boards, the increase of 1 percent to I guess it would be 19.5 or 20, would be significant to the school boards across the Territory. It’s not just a Yellowknife issue, it’s a territorial issue. It wouldn’t result in significant money per board or school but it would make a significant difference, and I know, although they’d really appreciate it, I know what’s already been allocated, that little percentage would be significant to them. Will the department continue to pursue that to see if an additional percent could be added to this particular formula so that we can get them a little bit more money for this particular area?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, inclusive schooling is also being looked at by a committee. It is in the works. There are changes that will be coming down and then we will definitely notify the Members. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:**  Also in this area, I mean, we want this $148 million to go as far as it possibly can by way of programming and helping to educate children. In my general comments to the opening remarks I talked about infrastructure. I know this isn’t infrastructure, but as I indicated then, infrastructure drives spending and Sissons School and Mildred Hall... Mildred Hall, we could probably reduce the operations costs of that facility significantly just by finishing the renovations that we started and finishing the back side of that building and putting in the better quality windows and more insulation. By investing some infrastructure dollars into Sissons we could really reduce the long-term, ongoing O and M costs in that facility and, therefore, have more money to focus directly in on programming.

By way of a comment and an encouragement, I’m encouraging you to get Mildred Hall and Sissons back on the planning schedule so that we can get the required renovations done to those schools so that over time we can maximize the benefit of these $148 million by way of programming for children in our schools Just a comment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Next on my list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, I want to ask the Minister, on page 10-19 again, on the NWT Teachers’ Association Professional Development Fund. When is the government set to have another Collective Agreement negotiation with them?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I believe the negotiation is up and coming in 2012. I believe that is the expiration date. That will be before us as we move forward. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the mandatory cultural orientation for all teachers, if this item would be an item that could be part of the Collective Agreement on a going forward basis.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, it could be part of the discussion. It would be between the parties that will be negotiating. It’s noted. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to that discussion. I’m not too sure if we’ll be around to see how it goes, so I look forward to the Minister’s remarks and that to see how far it carries.

I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the education authority contributions, on the O and M to the education authorities, Mr. Chair, the Minister alluded to stating that a number of computers have come into the different authorities and are greatly appreciated by the authorities. I’ve also noted that in the Sahtu in 2005-2006 I think we had about 150 computers in our schools. In 2010-11 that number bumped up to 450 or so in that area. I want to ask the Minister, in terms of funding and support for these computers, you know, they break down and they need servers to be fixed and things that go along with maintenance of computer use. Are the education authorities funded to look after the use of computers as part of their formula funding?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the annual O and M contribution to the education authorities is, of course, we provide funding and then they use it at their discretion where their priorities lie. If it’s laptops or computers, then it will be at their discretion to utilize that funding. This laptop we’ve initiated as an initiative under the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and it was a one-time deal. We just wanted to highlight some of the key aspects that came out of the discussion and we’ve initiated that discussion and then we pursued it. If it’s the wish of the DEA or DEC to highlight or set priorities on their computers or different areas of interest, then it will be at their discretion. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The Minister is correct that the DEA does have the discretion as to where they spend their O and M. In saying that, we have about 450 computers in the Sahtu that certainly need support, IT support. Right now there’s none in terms of unless the DEA takes a little pot here, takes a pot here, and there’s different programming that they also need to be funded. There’s no dedicated dollars going to IT support in the Sahtu schools and that’s something that I want to ask the Minister if that’s a true statement that there is no IT support in our schools for computers unless the education board themselves have to be very creative in terms of how they support schools and their networking systems by taking the money in different pockets, but there’s no general IT support funding for the schools. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, there is no specific category for IT support. Again, the money that we allocate to the education authority, they can utilize the funding if they feel that it’s a priority to support more in the IT area. Again, it’s at their discretion. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, with today’s technology and the younger generation and the learning that’s been more and more advanced in terms of the technology out there and we’re now asking our students to participate in the world of information and knowledge and work, especially in our smaller communities where the numbers of 150 computers jumped from 2005-06 to 2010-11 to 450 computers in our schools and there’s really no dedicated IT support for our children or our schools and we are struggling, the communities are struggling, the schools are struggling to find the funding to support the children in their use of the computers in all our five communities in the Sahtu. Is the Minister going to ask his department if there’s a chance that they can put a dedicated budget line item in the future on IT support where we continue to give the money to the health boards and say you go ahead, you decide where you want to spend the money?

Mr. Chair, there are so many needs in our small communities that it’s like putting a piece of bone on the floor and everyone wants to get it. It makes it hard. So will his department look at what kind of dollars it will take to have this type of support in their agreements with the authorities?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We’re talking about the whole Northwest Territories, it’s not just one region. Especially further up north, it’s got its challenges as well. The funding that we provide to the education authorities, we need to work with that. We continue to work closely with the school boards because of our IT services, as well, and have the educational link to the Internet. We are exploring different avenues, as well, Mr. Chair, about our whole fibre optic and Web band and broadband connectivity. So this will be part of the discussion that we could have with other departments as well. Even at the federal level. So we do take note of what the Member is referring to. So this is an area that we could possibly explore and see where it takes us. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I look forward to the Minister’s discussion paper or analysis in terms of IT support in our communities. Again, the Minister is somewhat correct in terms of giving the O and M money to the educational boards to decide where the priorities are going to be spent, but when you have 450 computers in the Sahtu region and no IT support to upgrade, to facilitate smooth operations of our computers in our schools, our schools again are hit with a tough decision as to where do they spend the dollars. It’s not fair that these computers are then asked to be brought into our schools to keep in line with the technology of today and for teachers to help the students to learn but there’s no funding to back it. It’s all well said and done, but I’ll look forward to where the Minister can put some serious dollars and say this is what we’re going to do with the computer support in our communities and not ask the education boards to make one less decision as to not having to worry about the computers. They could put money on some other valuable programming and services to the communities. So I hope the Minister can do something in that area. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, indeed, there are tough decisions that need to be made by the school boards and also by ECE. Again, it may not be a priority of the board, I don’t know. Because we have to hire teachers, we have to hire subs, we have to hire the staff and do programming for students, those are also priorities as well. So I have to respect the priorities of the school boards, as well, but this is an area that we need to discuss further, as I indicated earlier. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Next on my list I have Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My questions are on the cultural organizations and I know that there have been requests put forward to the Minister from the cultural organizations in my riding, asking for an increase in regard to the funding they receive that doesn’t really keep up with the costs of inflation and trying to retain staff. So I’d just like to ask the Minister, have they looked at the possibility of increasing the contributions that are being derived for cultural organizations in the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The information that I have is 2009, 534 and then 2011-2012, 554. From 534 to 554. So there has been a slight increase and we continue to monitor these and other programs that we offer to the organizations. Mahsi.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can the Minister tell me if he knows for a fact that there has been an increase in core funding for cultural organizations?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the information that I have, I’ll probably have to get that information to the Member. I’m not sure if we have the actual information that the Member is referring to, so we’ll provide that information to the Members. Mahsi.

**MR. KRUTKO:** The other question I have is around the area of official languages and funding in that area in regard to the review that took place and the recommendations that have been put forward to this House. I’d like to know from the Minister and the department are we going to see any increases going forward in regard to the implementation of those recommendations and the proposed changes to the structure and delivery system of the official languages, and more importantly, the language organizations and operation of official languages in the Northwest Territories.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** That would fall under the next business planning process. With any recommendations that are brought forward to the attention of this government, obviously there will be incremental costs. So those are the areas that we need to look at and it will be before the House in due time. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty, and I noticed this is mentioned too on the bottom of page 10-17. Sorry, continuing on, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was looking at 10-18 in regard to the funding sources that are there for Aboriginal language broadcasts, official languages, Aboriginal, French. But again, it’s in the next budget, I guess. We’ll have to wait and see, but I think that because there have been quite a few recommendations put forward, that there are going to be needs for more resources to implement all those recommendations. So it will be good to see exactly what those amounts are, but more importantly, moving on some of those recommendations. So I’ll leave it at that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Just for clarity, I was referring to the $1.1 million additional for official languages mentioned on the bottom of page 10-17. Does the Minister have anything further in response to Mr. Krutko?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Not really, Mr. Chair. Just that it will be part of next year’s budget as well. At the same time, we are implementing some of the recommendations that have been brought to our attention within our existing funding and some of the funding that’s before us in the House here today. So gradually we’re starting to implement those recommendations, but next year will be even a bigger move to include in the overall budget as well. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, committee. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to ask the Minister if he’s gotten anywhere with the education authorities’ O and M contribution funding to have elders in our schools. I know that’s been a longstanding issue for me. I’m hoping he will give me a good response.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I can definitely give you a good response, Mr. Chair. This is part of the plan for the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. There is also the Aboriginal Languages Strategy that has been before this House. Implementing those is part of the discussions we are having, and elders in schools. This money that has been allocated, $148 million, that’s for the school boards. They have to set their priorities, but there are other initiatives on the way and it does highlight the elders that the Member is referring to. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Would we then see the elders in our schools this fall? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We are still working on the ASA forum to wrap up by May. So more than likely, we may not see it this fall because we still have to work with the budget process. The working group is from last summer and the fall. Definitely that’s one of the targets that we’ve been discussing at the regional forums. The Member has raised that issue with us and it is part of the discussion in the regions. Almost all regions have raised elders in schools, so definitely that will come out in the package, I’m sure. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The issue with the elders, it looks like it’s going to be another year longer. We’ve been talking for a couple of years on this. It seems so simple, yet we make it so complicated to put elders into our schools. We talk about our culture; we talk about tradition, supporting seniors or elders. Somehow when it’s in our government system it makes it very difficult, because there are so many rules and regulations that prevent an elder from coming into our school to teach, to get them in the system. Certainly this system shows me that it doesn’t really support our elders. We say it’s nice, we say it’s good, but we certainly don’t do it. That’s my point here. A lot of these elders, we want them in our schools. They come in voluntarily, but then the federal government hits them because if they earn pay, they get a reduction in their pension cheques. The elders also complain to us that the teachers are there, they get paid, so we should also get paid for passing on the information, knowledge. Not like the old days. A lot of these elders also pass away. We say we wish we had them in there.

I like what the Minister is saying, but not too much because it’s next year, the year after. So I’m going to have to wait, I guess, until the new government comes. I sure hope these words that he’s saying can be put in strongly by his department so the elders can actually go in the school. Why it takes so long, I don’t understand. Put them in the school. You want our kids to stay in school and help? We have it right there, but we’re not doing it.

So I sure hope the Minister can sit with his officials again and figure out a way to do something, because they certainly work fast on other issues. The system supports them. But not for our elders. That’s a shame of this government here, this department. That, I truly can say. We can’t say much. It’s like beating a dead horse in terms of trying to put elders into our school. I’ve been up here how many times? Next year it’s this, it’s this. Still can’t see them in our school system.

I’m passionate about it because a lot of good elders passed away in our communities that should have taught in our schools. I do support the Minister to work as much as he can to make this a reality. I thought for sure we were going to do it within this government, within this Assembly, but that’s not the case. So again, I’ll just say to the Minister you’re the man, make it happen. You’ve got the power. People are going to support you. It’s our education. It’s our culture. You can do it. But it seems that we have to wait longer again.

I want to thank you for listening to my frustration. Hopefully we can do something.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I guess this is also my passion. I’d love to have those elders in the school. We have to work with it with the school boards. We have asked for different options on how we can work around the system where their pensions are not clawed back. I don’t have control over the federal pension. We have to pay these elders if they want to work or else they’re not going to work. Of course, they’re penalized for that. We’ve been trying to work around the system of how we can work with them so they’re not penalized. We talk about possibly a gift to them at the end of the school year. Those are areas. Also going through maybe the local band for us to contribute to them and they can pay the elders.

I know Members addressed this to us on a number of occasions. This is not an easy process. It is taking some time. We are not giving up on this. I know Nunavut has also initiated this process but they’re still struggling with the same dilemma that we’re faced with. It’s not just us, it’s other jurisdictions as well. We are still exploring those options of how we can get around from penalizing those elders.

We want them in the schools very badly. As the Member alluded, we are losing our elders. We need to fully utilize their services and their expertise, their experience. We want to do that. That is our commitment as the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We’ll continue to push that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We’ve been discussing Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, grants and contributions, pages 10-18, 10-19 and 10-20, for the sum of $164.926 million. Let’s just agree page by page here. Page 10-18, agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 10-19, agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 10-20, agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Page 10-21, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, information item, education and culture, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 10-23, Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask the Minister if there was a greater demand for apprenticeship and occupations. I notice that there’s a slight increase in the budget from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012. I’m wondering if the demand would have required a greater increase had the department met the demand of all of the other departments and agencies where an apprenticeship, even private business, I guess, everywhere where apprentice could be placed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The slight increase on that budget line reflects more of forced growth because of collective bargaining increases. We have had some increased investments in the Apprenticeship Program in recent years to help pay for the increased uptake of apprentices. We have the highest number of apprentices now than we’ve had in any year prior. We’ve also had some increases added to the budget to help pay for the increased costs associated with the training. The school fees, for example.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Does the department refuse any requests from private business or other departments to bring apprentices on? For example, the local housing organizations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I’m sure that the information that the Member is sharing, we’re not aware of if any individuals have been declined.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I was asking if the department has declined any other department or private company from a request to take on an apprentice. Like I said, I used an example of an LHO. Right now we have a dire need for tradespeople in the small communities and we have tradespeople that are getting to the age where they could potentially be retiring within a four-year period. We need to bring apprentices on in order to accommodate the future needs of tradespeople in the small communities. My request is if the housing associations and authorities were to request tradesmen right across the board, I believe there’s 19 housing associations or authorities, maybe 21, but each of them have tradespeople and I’m wondering if every tradesperson that is a carpenter, oil burner mechanic, or plumber that even works for the government, as an example we could start there, have an apprentice attached to them.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be hard to say but I don’t believe that every tradesperson that works in the different organizations would necessarily have an apprentice attached to that tradesperson.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Just shifting gears a bit into the career and employment development. I noticed a fairly substantial increase. I think that’s very positive. Maybe a 30 percent increase in the budget here. I’m pleased to hear that. Is that increase due to employment programs in the small communities or is this increase something else?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. That category would be due to the new initiative, the Small Community Employment Support Program.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’m very pleased to hear that. I have a question for the Minister on the same area, employment development. I’m wondering if the Minister or the department has an employment development strategy for each of the small communities like… That’s good for now. I’ll ask that question now.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We don’t have the specifics in place yet but we are developing a framework to work on that within our department to work with the small communities.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Does the department, in looking at working this area of career and employment development, use the NWT Vital Statistics to determine where greater amounts of effort have to be put? I’ll give you an example: if we have communities with employment rates of approximately 70 to 80 percent, I’m suggesting that there doesn’t really need to be a strategy or anything, and obviously the economic wheel is moving fine on its own and the process is getting through without any difficulty. With employment rates in the 30 and 40 percent, as is common in the small communities, I’m wondering if the department is using those stats and making decisions that affect this budget area.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The stats that we use could be part of the tools to determine the funding for these small community employment support initiatives. Then other information that we also gather and collect determines the funding as well. As I stated, we are developing a plan for the small community employment support programming.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’m wondering if the department has done any work with other departments in the sense that... Let’s use the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Maybe a more common one could be the Housing Corporation or possibly Public Works and Services or any of those works departments. I’m wondering if the Department of Education, Culture and Employment works with any of those departments in the creation, using, like, I guess I use the term sort of like a critical mass I suppose, to use the various things that have to happen in the small communities and around the small communities. An example, if the Housing Corporation is trying to fix 10 homeownership units and is attempting to put $50,000 or $60,000 into these units, then would this department work with them to ensure that they could develop an employment program out of something like that that could be not just one summer job but rather a long-term job? Because there’s lots of work in all the areas if you’re going to clean up all the waste sites around Tu Nedhe. Environment, as an example, there would be lots of work for operators and whatnot. I’m wondering if the department discussed these employment items with other departments.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Again the framework that we are working on would consist of industries, Aboriginal governments, and it could also include the departments as well. Mahsi.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is sufficient in this area for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next on my list I have Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have similar questions to Mr. Beaulieu. We seem to have the same challenges in our ridings, especially where we are seeing high pockets of unemployment in excess of 45 percent. Yet investment in regards to training and apprenticeship positions and allocations of those programs and where they seem to be expending a lot of those dollars are at the large regional centres where you look at where the people are being certified and whatnot. In most cases the larger centres, where you basically have people that are getting into the trades, people that work with different employers and whatnot and also large projects by way of capital infrastructure are in the larger centres, but yet, Mr. Chairman, I think that we also have to re-profile the dollar expenditures on where there is highest need, such as the high needs by way of unemployment statistics.

I think that something that sort of shocked me is that government employees, regardless if they are P1, P2 or P3, are paid less than the different levels from, say, $60,000 for a P1 to basically $85,000 for a P2. A $20,000 difference simply because the class that you have been hired under and the reason for that is probably because of the education levels are different from a P1 individual that is, say, somebody that is basically P2 or P3.

Again, I think it is important that we have to ensure that we invest these advanced education dollars to ensure that we have capacity in our communities. I think, also, that you have to reflect on the employment, full-time job opportunities and the in-migration and out-migration, and in-migration by way of this different staffing you are talking teachers, you are talking settlement administrative officer are basically trained professions where we still have a high dependence of importing a lot of that workforce.

Again, we have to invest in the communities to ensure that we have the capacity to take on those positions. More importantly, offer the residents in our communities those opportunities and take advantage of those opportunities by ensuring that we are investing in career and employment development and investing those dollars correctly in regards to the $45 million.

I would just like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing to basically re-profile these dollars on where we see high unemployment levels and where we basically can invest those dollars to ensure people are getting the adequate training and support they need to take advantage of the northern economy and job opportunities in the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This particular area has been brought to our attention and it is part of the reason why we have initiated the framework to identify where it is highly needed, apprenticeship training and employment in small communities, and it consists of industries, Aboriginal governments and corporations, bands and also the departments. We need to identify those needs in collaboration amongst the groups and identify the highest needs in certain areas. We have heard that so we are developing the framework to respond to what the Members are saying. Mahsi.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regards to the area of adult post-secondary education, we have adult education teachers in our communities, but in Fort McPherson we also have a program called Success in which what they do is they take students that have dropped out of the school system, are unemployed or on income support or whatnot, and reroute them through another program where it is being federally funded through the band in Fort McPherson. We are seeing some major success by way of that program, which is duplicating or doing the same as what adult education should be doing in our communities, but yet they don’t have students in adult education but the Success program is booked with students that have fallen through the cracks and dropped out of school at some point in their lives but now they are reintegrating themselves back into the education model and working themselves back into the workforce.

I would just like to know, how often do we re-evaluate these programs in our communities and the possibility of re-profiling those programs and restructuring them to meet the needs of the communities and programs that do work and are showing success, that we are able to either duplicate or in some cases re-profile some of these adult education dollars so that we can try to hit the majority of people that are going to require those additional resources, especially in the area of upgrading, and are basically people that have dropped out of the education system and are not trying, as young adults, to get themselves back into the system. I would just like to know if that is something that the department is doing and looking at re-evaluating that program in regards to adult and post-secondary education.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, we are doing an overall review of the ALBE Program right now and we want to have some final word on what the linkage could be. We are also working closely with Aurora College. I have met with the board, I have met with the president and identified the concerns that the Member has raised and also other Members, that we need to do more than just ALBE Program in a community and to strengthen the ALBE Program that we have. I have seen some changes just since last year. I have been through small communities, community learning centres, every time I have opportunity to visit a community. I like to visit the schools and also the community learning centres as much as I can. My recent visit to one of the communities, they were doing an ALBE basic education programming, but at the same time there was language being taught in the classroom as well, aside from the ALBE Program, so reintegrating those programs as well. I think we are going to see some more changes, more program delivered at the community learning centres. Mahsi.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I think that we have to get better use of our facilities in communities such as adult learning centres and schools wherever possible, if that means sharing space or sharing a service centre such as a computer centre, and I think that we have to be able to get as much usage out of these facilities, especially in most cases, you know, the schools are shut down in the summer, pretty well locked down in most cases, and the same thing with the adult education centres. I think that is a perfect opportunity, especially for children that are struggling and if we can find a way to get them into summer programs and assist them so that when they go back to school in the fall time, hopefully they can catch up and give them those skills that they are going to need to realize that they are successful at whatever you want to do. Just put your mind to it and put a little more effort into it.

I think that we have to get more mileage out of our infrastructure in our communities and, wherever possible, joint share resources regardless of what federal dollars we get either through band funding or dollars we are able to acquire through federal funds through the unemployment insurance funding or even looking at funds that come by way of federal infrastructure funding.

I think we are realizing the importance of having a qualified workforce when it comes to these large projects, regardless of whether we are talking pipelines or even if we are challenged with filling just the positions in the area of the mining industry. I think, if anything, because we do have a young population, that we are going to have to find a way of getting as many people into the system but taking advantage of the infrastructure that we do have, because we cannot continue to build infrastructure. If anything, we have to get better use of that infrastructure.

So I think it is something that we have to be aware of going forward, but also make as much use of those facilities as we can while they’re in our communities and not have them locked up for any long periods of time simply because it’s the end of the school year or whatever. We have to use those facilities whenever possible. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I totally agree with the Member. This is an area that we have explored and we are currently working the college as well. Community learning centres fall under the college, but there have been talks about the schools -- the schools are open during the school year but closed during the summer -- how we can take advantage of that during the summer months. There have been talks about different programming over the summer months so there can be continuity.

One obstacle that’s also in the way is the union issue where teachers, once they finish school they’re off over the summer, but there’s talk about maybe possibly hiring individuals that can teach just over the summer months. Those are some of the areas that we are exploring, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Next I have Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had many of the same concerns that were raised by Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. Krutko. I think we have the opportunity to really support those apprentices in our small communities, in particular, that can help us to address many of our goals. I think it would be good when developing this policy for apprentices or reviewing it or supporting it further to consider, and possibly best presented by way of example, the oil burner mechanics are rare and yet there’s a huge opportunity for fuel savings that can be a huge impact in small communities where employment is low and incomes are low. That sort of thing. The sorts of things that we’re having decreasing demand for as, for example, biomass systems enter communities more and more. Those sorts of skills that go with that. I’m not the best qualified to say that, but I think looking in that direction can make this a more effective policy. That’s just by way of a comment.

I wanted to ask briefly about the Student Financial Assistance program review. Have the terms of reference been developed for that and will we have an opportunity for some input to that? Maybe I’ll start with that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The review will be undertaken once we go through this budget, once it’s approved, and the terms of reference will be drafted up. Certainly, the Members should have some input into the system as with the students. I’ve stated in the House that we will be reaching out to the general public and the students, because we need to hear specifically from the students as well. By all means, if Members can contribute, that will be great. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that correction too. Will the planning for the review take place in 2011-12? Is that when the terms of reference, for example, would be developed and so on, or is that anticipated to start in the current fiscal year? Thank you

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the SFA review and also the terms of reference, the terms of reference will be drafted up. We are looking at ‘11 and ‘12. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I want to touch base with an ongoing perennial topic of interest the Minister has heard me and the Standing Committee on Social Program bring to his attention on several occasions and that’s the development of these programs for renewable energy technicians and sustainable community administrators. At one point I was interviewed by a contractor doing a study on that and that was probably six months or more ago, but I’m wondering where things are at, if there’s some action being taken to develop those programs. I think the Minister’s aware that we have $60 million slotted for energy concerns that would fall in line with this and, obviously, the City of Yellowknife is spending tens of millions of dollars in this area. You talk to the Association of Communities, they’re marching along in these sorts of areas. If I can get an update on that from the Minister. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, yes, we did follow through when the Member raised that issue in the House and also through the committee. We shared that with the college, Aurora College, and they are exploring and reviewing the different programming pertaining to sustainable energy. The Member also touched on other areas as well, biomass and oil burner mechanic and renewable resource energy tech. Those are areas that have been highlighted by the Member and the college is currently exploring that. We’re also exploring through the University of the Arctic as well. We just had a recent trip over there with the college and they have some information that they’ve received from them. Definitely, they are looking into that, Mr. Chair, through the University of Alaska. That’s an area that we will continue to push. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’m tempted to ask when we’re going to actually see something on the ground, but I’ll protect our budget discussions here and maybe bring that up at another time.

Just with Aurora College, I believe the Yellowknife Campus, we must be just about into our last year of a lease. I’m wondering when that lease runs out. The Minister has probably told us, but maybe he could remind me when that lease runs out. Let’s just start with that. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The lease is due to expire around the end of August 2012. That’s an area that we are working with and we need to have a plan in place early this fall. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Obviously this is very imminent and we’re into that fiscal year with this planning here. Has the department confirmed that it’s possible to extend that lease at least for the window of time we think we need to decide what we’re going to do on the infrastructure side? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, we will need to extend the lease because it will take some time to plan towards the infrastructure, the capital planning process. Those are the discussions we are currently having and we’ll be talking more on the lease extension. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I assume the lease will probably be at a higher rate than currently. Without being specific about amounts, I’m just asking if the department has planned for that greater expense in this budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** The current lease will carry us through the ‘11-12 budget year and we will need to come forward if there are any proposed changes to cost in our future budgeting process.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That’s really it, Mr. Chair. I got my budget years mixed up there and I realize August ‘12 is after the ‘11-12 budget year. So that’s it for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to first ask relative to apprenticeship and occupations, I know that the department works in conjunction with the Mine Training Society and they are doing a great job of providing training and jobs basically for many of our young people. I am somewhat concerned, though, that the funding, the federal funding for that program restricts applicants to Aboriginal persons and I’ve had several inquiries from constituents whether or not there is any space within the Mine Training Society for P2s as opposed to P1s. I’ve been advised that if there’s space, that P2s can get in there, but that’s a pretty hit and miss proposition. Both times I’ve been informed that the constituents have tried and have been advised that the program was full. So I would like to know from the Minister whether or not there is any consideration on the part of the department to hold, basically pay for, one, possibly two spaces or seats at the Mine Training Society for P2s. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The Mine Training Society does deliver programs on behalf of the federal government through ASEP, Aboriginal programming. So there is a priority for Aboriginal, of course, because of the title and it is federal funding, but my understanding is that others can also apply for training programs, the Aboriginal Skills Employment Program. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** I’ll try again. Mr. Minister, I know that the program is funded by the feds. I do know as well that it is supported by the Department of Education, but also know that when non-Aboriginal students apply they are on a very low priority and it totally depends on whether or not there’s any space. My understanding is that there’s some waiting list of about 20, I think, persons trying to get into the next application for the Underground Miner Training Program. So if anybody wants to get into that and they’re non-Aboriginal, they don’t have a hope.

I also know that as much as a year ago, I think it was March of ‘10 in a presentation to one of the standing committees, De Beers indicated that there needs to be spaces in the training programs for P2s. That’s one of the things that they cite as a challenge to the northern hiring for them as a company. So I understand that it’s a federal program, but what I’m asking for is for this government to make it a priority to enable one or two P2 residents to be able to take the mine training that Aboriginal students do, not with the federal funding but with GNWT funding. Is that a consideration anywhere in the realm of possibility for this Minister? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** With the current funding that we provide, not funding but the in-kind services to the Mine Training Society, that’s our partnership towards that organization. The overall funding that they receive is from the federal government and there are certain criteria that they do follow, the Mine Training Society, but this is an area that we can definitely discuss with the Mine Training Society.

As you know, their program is also sunsetting next year at the end of March 2012. So that’s an area that we are also voicing our concern about, as well, with the federal government, to possibly expand or extend the programming. So we’ll do what we can with the federal. But we as a department can sit down with the Mine Training Society and discuss this further with them to see what kind of options are available. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. Two or three Members recently met with the Mine Training Society. They are totally desirous of having the opportunity to provide training for P2 candidates. They agree with the diamond mining companies that we need to have more candidates take the training and they’re funding, yes, it’s only Aboriginal, but, Mr. Minister, what I’m trying to say is, will you consider putting some money into the Mine Training Society Training Program so that P2s would have an opportunity to get a seat there? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, this is an area that, like I said, we need to look at. We’re not sure if the Mine Training Society is going to survive the end of next year and we need to explore those options as well. We can look at it and see where it can take us. We haven’t really identified funding in this budget to allocate a certain amount of dollars towards this Mine Training Society because that wasn’t a part of the plan, but I realize there will be a motion coming forward and working with them and also the federal government, but I can commit in this House that this is an area that we need to discuss further with the Mine Training Society. If we need to allocate funding, then we’ll plan on that. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister and I appreciate your commitment to look at it. I do want to just add that I know of at least one young person who couldn’t get into the Mine Training Society Underground Miner Program and has since moved to Manitoba. So we’ve lost our 22 or $25,000 annual payment for that young person.

I wanted to also ask a bit about the adult basic education programs that are run in pretty much all of our communities. We as Members did get a bit of a report from the Program Review Office quite a while ago, but it did have some telling information about adult basic education programs. You know, there’s really no evaluation of those programs. Students register for a short period of time and then don’t come back or they may take one course because they have to, because that’s what income security is telling them to do. They may take a course and then not finish it because they get a job or they get disinterested. There are all kinds of things, but students are not staying, or most of them are not staying for any sort of reasonable length of time.

I wondered whether or not that review by the Program Review Office had any impact on the planning for the department for the ‘11-12 budget year in terms of adult basic education. Have you looked at the value of the ABE programs that we currently deliver, with a view to maybe making them more efficient? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The adult literacy and basic education, as the Member indicated, is a review that is being undertaken right now. The final report is due later this spring, 2011. Coming out of that, of course, will be recommendations and if we need to make changes, then that will reflect on the budget as we move forward. So, Mr. Chair, the program review will be completed later this year. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. It’s kind of unfortunate. The information I saw was almost a year ago now and yet we have not taken any action. So it’s a little disappointing.

On another note, I do want to ask a question with regard to the territorial Nominee Program. My understanding is that it’s a three-year pilot project. I think I got that information from a document somewhere and I wondered at this point whether or not the department has done any kind of an evaluation of the success of the program. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is right; the funding is in place for about a three-year period of time. The uptake on the program has not been extensive, as we initially projected it might be. Right at the time we launched the initiative is when the economy went down. So we haven’t had as much demand for the program as we initially anticipated, but we are getting requests from employers and from individuals who are going through the nominee process. We recently had an individual who went through the nominee process and it did prove to be accelerated compared to what they may have gone through had they not gone through the nominee process.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for that information. It’s good to hear that it sounds as though perhaps it is a better process than what we had before. I just wondered if the uptake has not been what we expected, whether or not the department has considered enhancing the advertising for this program and trying to make the general public more aware that the program is there, or even if it’s targeted advertising. That’s it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that we need to advertise more. We are doing that currently with the website and working closely with employers, as well, to identify those individuals. We may have to be fed up a bit within our department that we are aware of that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-23, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education, operations expenditure summary, $45.908 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-24, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, $33.493 million. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just with the college contributions, Aurora College to deliver adult and post-secondary education in the NWT. Just before Christmas on a constituency visit to Wrigley it was brought to my attention that there is no actual Aurora College facility there in terms of computer and/or training materials. The leadership were saying how are we going to advance education skills in the community if there is no equipment there. I did ask the Minister’s office how they do deliver Aurora College services in Wrigley and I think the answer was they use school facilities and some band facilities. I think the best way to do it is to have some on-site equipment. I don’t know how much it will cost, but to deliver programs and services, adult education and those things, it’s necessary in this day and age. We do have the necessary IT infrastructure for it. I’d like to ask the Minister, in a small community like that or even other communities, what strategies are in place and what kind of facilities are available to deliver programs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I think the Member touched on that already. We utilize school facilities or other facilities in the community for the time. As you know, the federal government has allocated community learning centres to three communities just last year and we’re hoping that other communities will be identified as well. We’ll clearly continue to make that noise. The small communities that do not have community learning centres or an establishment that we can utilize or certain on-site equipment, this is an area that we need to continue working with either the school boards, the community, and there’s also a lease that we can possibly work with to access space in the communities where necessary.

I realize the challenges in the small communities. We’re fully aware of it. We’ll do what we can as a department to work with the communities to provide those services or strengthen the service that we provide currently.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** It’s absolutely important and imperative that the facilities are there to everyone to improve the sustainability, the workforce background and basic adult literacy is fundamental to this in the smaller communities. If we don’t have the facilities there, how exactly are we going to do that? Right now I think the only option is... I don’t know how often they do it, but someone does have to come in from Fort Simpson and/or a larger centre and scrounge around for equipment. I think the better strategy is, and I would certainly urge, that Wrigley get on the high priority list for identifying equipment and facility needs up to and including a community learning centre initiative if and when it happens again. What other types of strategies does Aurora College have in delivering adult literacy programs and/or upgrading programs in small communities like that?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** For those communities without those establishments, and small communities, we are exploring different areas, whether it be expanding on the mobile training that is similar to what we have in the Beaufort-Delta. We are currently exploring those areas because it has been very successful to date. It is producing talented individuals in the community. We want to tackle those areas. That’s where it’s at especially with the small communities without the establishments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question on this page. The Community Skills for Work Program talks about funding to support adult basic education and job-related skills for income assistance clients and other individuals. I was curious why this is listed here under advanced education. Is it a college program? Is it funded as a college program or is it funded through income security? It just seems a little out of place in this section.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the funding does go to Aurora College to deliver community skills for work programs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-24, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, $33.493 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-25, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, information item, advanced education, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-27, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, income security, operations expenditure summary, $38.823 million. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don’t know, the Minister can correct me if I’m wrong, but I thought the income security guidelines and procedures were going to be reviewed. Because this particular winter and many others I’ve had lots of inquiries, most particularly with the seniors’ home heating subsidy to help low-income seniors pay for the cost of heating their homes. It’s often done just before December, but sometimes the most common one that I’ve had is because there are additional householders living with them and often it’s the case of a daughter or granddaughter or a male that’s living with the senior because they need assistance in living.

I’ve got this one particular case where the daughter does not have income tax and hasn’t done it in a while. I just want to know how firm they are on that. Is there an alternative or way around it? For various different reasons it’s going to take another month or so for her to get her income tax statements completed. In the meantime, the senior does need the fuel. Is there another way around addressing this situation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. In those situations, especially pertaining to income tax, we do allow individuals to provide that documentation, because it is important to provide that documentation. We allow up to May to provide that information.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** So does that mean she’ll get her fuel in May, when February is the coldest month? I’m not too clear about that. I’m just wondering, the documents as they’re in the works, is there an alternative in the meantime? Can she file a statutory declaration that she did not work in 2010? There must be another way around this.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do try to be as flexible as possible. If there’s something that’s outstanding like a tax return, we give people until the month of May. We do try to find other ways of responding to the needs of clients where they might have some documents that are outstanding.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Okay. In this particular case I’ve been dealing with the Minister’s office and they haven’t really been that flexible on it. I kind of question the deputy minister on that and I’ll be glad to resubmit my inquiry in support of my constituents in that matter. We’ll leave that for now.

Then I have another instance where a nephew does not actually live with the elder. He might stay over one, two or three times a month, yet frontline workers are saying that person is actually a resident in that household but he’s got no fixed address. He’s one of our young people who loves to travel. He spends two or three days a month. What’s their definition of a household, somebody that lives in the household? This senior was actually approved for fuel subsidy and the frontline worker said no, I saw a nephew there so the nephew is living there. He lives in the household so we want all his documentation if he worked or not last year. We’re, like, that person doesn’t live there. So what’s their definition of who lives in the household and how strictly do you enforce it? Does that person have to be there 20 days a month? How do they determine who lives in the household when their whole family knows that person doesn’t live there at all. It’s the same like me. Sometimes I get friends or cousins that stay a day or two but they’re not really living in my household. I’d like to know the department’s stance on this issue.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. If individuals are living there, they are considered as part of the household income. If they are temporarily there for short periods, then they will have to base it on a case-by-case basis. We’ll reassess the elder that the Member’s referring to and we need to get, we just have to follow the paper trail, the policies that we have in place, because once we open that up there will be a lot of people that will be using it as the drifters and, of course, some people are making good money, as well, and we don’t want them to take advantage of the elders as well. But this is an area that’s been brought to our attention on numerous occasions and we’ve been working with our policy how we can be flexible. May was another one that came up. This has been brought to our attention so we are seriously looking at it as well. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I was just trying to get some clarity in how the department determines who lives in the household. Is it 20 days out of the month or is it 15 days out of the month? Because I know in this case it was, like, two or three days out of the month, and it’s not every month either there, Mr. Chair. What drives their policy or who makes those decisions and how do they determine it? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** It’s really not a number in terms of minimum number of days or anything but it would be more of trying to determine is that the normal place of residence for an individual. If not, where do they typically spend the bulk of their time? If they’re not normally a resident in the household, then we could look at that and not include the individual. But if that’s their normal place of residence for carrying out their normal daily activities of eating, sleeping and other daily activities, then we would consider them a resident of the household. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Staying with somebody for three days doesn’t make them a resident of that household, Mr. Chair, and I would take objection to that. You really have to have a look at the program guidelines and procedures. It’s really unfair to the elder, because the fact of the matter is, like, February they usually get their fuel delivered in December and up until now they have to use whatever little old age security pension that they do get and it’s tough in the communities, and somebody determining that somebody who stayed there for two days is a household member. Who makes that determination? That’s what I’m trying to say.

Most particularly, in this case, the senior was approved and then they changed their mind. If there are clear guidelines and procedures, then I think that we can avoid a lot of this. It just does not make sense and it’s not fair in this case, Mr. Chair. I don’t know how they’re going to address it. I continue to press the matter with the Minister’s office on this one. In fact, this senior is actually disabled and they’re saying they’re waiting for her to come to their office. She’s got no access to vehicles or anything like that. That’s incredible that the staff is unwilling to do home visits to check on this matter. This is the kind of stuff that frustrates myself as the MLA and community leaders and the whole family. I continue to press the matter. I know that this is not the nephew or whoever’s household. Passing through town doesn’t make it their normal household. I have to use my dismayed word again there, Mr. Chair.

Anyway, I’ll continue to press the matter and I’d like the Minister to really review the income security guidelines and procedures, especially for home heating subsidies, and there are many other grey areas out there that have to be reviewed. Yes, they’re trying to do the policy thing, but it’s a senior at home that’s suffering, Mr. Chair, and they’re broke and family members are doing their best to use whatever income they have to help that person with fuel. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Minister. Where’s the policy?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I already did commit in this House that I will be looking at this. If we need to change the policy, we’ve always changed our policies in the past so it can reflect on what the Member is referring to, and if there can be home visits, that’s an area that we need to look at as well. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Next I have Mr. Bromley, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The same sort of thing, I’m finding a lot of constituency work related to income security clients that, because of the way we deliver the programs, we are dealing often with disadvantaged people and the bureaucratic requirements are amazingly onerous, I have to say. I would be challenged with the hoops they have to jump through in terms of repeatedly submitting the same paperwork. The examples I’m thinking of, though, if you’re not on income support for a month or two, then you have to resubmit all of the applications and papers all over again and try and meet deadlines. This, like I say, is onerous. Everything is on file already. Their birth certificates and SIN don’t change, obviously. Often clients are made to apply for employment insurance or even housing when it’s clear that they won’t get EI and they won’t get housing, that’s very clear, and yet they’re made to go through these hoops. These are extremely onerous and the system just seems so rigid that they end up losing their support for a month and that just exacerbates and it ends up, you know, the snowball rolling down the hillside and getting bigger and bigger when what we’re really trying to do is help these people get out of poverty.

By way of a question here, when was the last time the delivery of income security was reviewed and are there plans for that in the near future? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The last time was 2007, I do believe. We made some changes to some of the subsidy programming. We may be up for a review as well. Like I said, our policy is always changing, so we clearly hear from the Members that there are certain areas. There is a poverty discussion that’s on the way that will definitely have a reflection on our income security framework as well. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate those comments from the Minister. I think some big gains were made last time. I think, probably, the main structure is there. It’s more at the delivery and it’s sort of like we’re hearing about our businesses, the red tape that seems to be involved is becoming a barrier. I’ll leave it at that. I appreciate the Minister’s intent to consider our comments seriously, because I think some tune-ups could be done here without too much kerfuffle, and I’m happy to sit down with the Minister and go over some of the details of the barriers clients are encountering.

I want to move on to the child care user subsidy program and ask what is the budget for this as proposed and what is it during the current year and the previous year. If I could get those numbers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it’s approximately $150,000 for the year.

**MR. BROMLEY:** If I could just get that repeated and confirmed that that’s the same for the current year, the proposed year and our previous fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. DANIELS:** Yes, I believe the budget for the child subsidy is about $150,000 a year and it is consistent with what it has been in previous years. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** What is the understanding of the Minister in terms of this amount meeting the need for this service?

**MR. DANIELS:** We have been responding to the demand for the program within the budget. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that information. That wasn’t actually what I asked. I was asking how this fits with what the understanding is of demand. Thank you.

**MR. DANIELS:** The child care subsidy is really used for parents who are working or maybe people who are attending school. It is an income assessed based program so it is... The budget that we have available is meeting the demand from the clients based on the utilization we have seen in the past three years. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Are there other sources, other programs for example on the education side of the department that provide child care subsidy?

**MR. DANIELS:** This program is for the users, for individual applicants, so it is the only program that we have that is actually for assisting parents with the costs of accessing child care. We do have child daycare support programs that go to the operators that help subsidize their costs to keep some of those costs down, but for direct access to an individual, this is the only program that is available in that regard.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Just for my clarity, for example, in the student financial assistance we don’t really provide child care subsidies through that program. Is that correct?

**MR. DANIELS:** Student Financial Assistance program has some adjustments that are based on family size, however, there is not a specific element for child care. Students who are on student financial assistance or maybe on other funding sources can apply for the Child Care Subsidy Program to meet their child care needs. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate all that information. What I hear is a real need for additional child care out there and I am also aware that in some jurisdictions where they provide child care there is a real benefit to society in general. Has the department considered broadening our provision of child care? I realize that we are in crunchy financial times right now, but is that something the department has looked at through just their work with policy and potential for expansion? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are going through a financial crunch, but this is something that we can definitely explore for next year’s budget. We have already identified the $150,000 and Student Financial Assistance program, of course, with a number of family members, but this is an area that we can explore further. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I heard somebody estimated that if we provided child care for all in the Northwest Territories it would cost us something like $18 million a year in the line of the Quebec model, but we would probably get that back through other economic benefits, so it would be interesting to explore some of that.

I guess my last question is, the Minister, again, is aware that we have been interested in having a milk subsidy. Obviously he was able to get our support last year with the $400,000 support for nutritious foods and now that is disappearing. I think the interest still remains high on that. I don’t see it in here. The Minister continues to say he is continuing to consider it, but I am wondering if he is planning to recommend that the Minister in the next Assembly give serious consideration to that repeated request and note that the will of the House has been defied by himself repeatedly here during the term of this Assembly.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** That is an area that is sunsetting and I can do that, I can make a recommendation to the potentially coming up Minister, but that will be at their discretion if they want to move forward with it. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. The next on my list is Ms. Bisaro, but before we go to Ms. Bisaro we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to going on break we were on page 10-27 and next on my list was Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to echo some of the comments that have already been made. I want to first talk about the income security reform that’s been mentioned. I think we talked about it the other day, but I see this as a great opportunity to do things cross-departmentally. I was pleased to hear the Minister mention the Anti-Poverty Strategy and that that’s kind of in his sights, I guess, as they look at income security.

I look at the description from the business plans and it says that the department administers a range of programs addressing cost of living issues, encouraging homeownership, ensuring access to health education, et cetera. I mentioned the other day and I’ll mention it again, I think that the relationship between income security and housing is one that is probably the most difficult for our residents when they try to access either income security or housing. They are co-related, they have to exist together.

Mr. Bromley talked about some of the red tape and the difficulties that people encounter when they’re filling out forms. I echo those sentiments. I’ve had the same sort of comments from constituents that it is not an easy process to get either income security and/or housing. I’ve spoken before, it was some time ago now that I made a statement about the lack of a customer service attitude within income security, the whole division. It’s not everybody, but certainly I think it’s something that does not exist. We have too many of our clients who are approaching in kind of a weakened state, for lack of a better way of putting it. They are not treated to good customer service. I think our staff sort of expect them to be a little more on the ball than maybe they are and very often I think they are totally intimidated by the whole process of filling out forms, no, this isn’t enough, you have to go back and get me more. I just think that similar to my comments about the Department of Human Resources, I think it’s every department in the government, but this area of education is one that should be very much client service and customer service-oriented. I just encourage the Minister and the department to look at that.

Customer service doesn’t only show itself in the staff. It also should be evident in our policies and procedures. That’s where Mr. Bromley was going with his talk about forms and so on. We need to enable people and encourage people and make sure that we treat them as a client, because they are. They are an internal client, but they’re a client. We have to treat them like we would want to be treated if we were going off to do the same job.

I wanted to go to Mr. Menicoche’s comments about the home heating subsidy and the difficulties there. It’s my understanding that we are establishing appeals committees in our communities, I think. At least in our regional centres. That would be something where I would think that the situation that he’s encountered with his elder probably could be dealt with through an appeal if necessary. Again that’s one more step that people have to go through. However, my question to the department at this point is: have we got the Social Assistance Appeals Committee set up and how many and where and what have we done with establishing them yet?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. To date there are 22 committees that have been established throughout the Northwest Territories. A total of 80 people have been appointed to date.

**MS. BISARO:** That’s good to hear. Twenty-two committees. We have more than 22 communities. Are we going to have an appeals committee in each community or will there be some serviced regionally?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Some of the committees are also covering more than one community. Those communities that may not have an appeal committee per se are covered through these different committees.

**MS. BISARO:** Just one final question. Is this job of establishing appeals committees now done?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We tried to get appeals bodies going in each community but some are being covered off, because we couldn’t get enough interest in some communities so they’re being covered by other communities. If the interest does come forward that a community that does not have its own appeal committee in place right now, if they come forward we will certainly pursue that in terms of establishing an appeal committee if there’s interest.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Daniels. Next on my list is Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is in the Child Care User Subsidy Program. Financial assistance to parents that help child care so that they can go to school. I’m wondering if the threshold of income... I guess my first question is what is the income threshold in order for students to access. I’ll just put some context to that. I’m wondering if two students on full student financial assistance would be over the threshold.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The subsidy is based on the needs assessment of those individuals.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Needs assessment I’m assuming is income tested. I’m wondering if the income testing is fine. Is there any consideration for the cost of daycare or child care in that particular instance?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We do factor in those costs that the Member is alluding to. Part of the assessment.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’d like to ask the Minister to review the financial thresholds on this subsidy program. I think it’s too low. I think that students that are in Aurora College from my home town are struggling with this policy. Daycare or child care costs are about $50 per day and I do not believe that they’re netting enough money to pay for that. So there’s something wrong with the system when what they’re netting from student financial assistance is lower than their daycare costs. It’s almost equivalent to their daycare costs, I would say. Individuals are forced to work part time. Which is okay, I don’t have an issue with students finding part-time work; however, with the part-time work it puts them over the income threshold. My assumption is that the income threshold is very low. I’m wondering if the Minister has any plans or incidents where this is an issue other than me bringing it up here today.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I did state in the House that with the existing policies there have been some changes. Whenever an issue or a concern has been brought to our attention we’ll seriously look at it and if we need to make changes to our policy, then by all means we need to sit down and inform the Members that there will be some changes coming. This is an area that we as a department can also look at.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** The area of income assistance, I was wondering when the last time the department looked at the -- I forget what the term is -- but you’re allowed to earn so much money. Unearned or earned income. The earned income thresholds. When was the last time the department looked at the earned income thresholds?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program has been always administered as a needs assessed program. More recently we did look at the senior’ home heating subsidy as one program under the income security area which is based on income thresholds and that one was modified a few years ago.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I wouldn’t advocate for income assistance to be increased to make it easier for people to stay on income support, but in the cases of need and cases where we want people to work their way off the system I think that increasing the earned income threshold would be a positive move towards getting people off of income support.

My third question is on the seniors’ home heating subsidy. My issue is a little bit different. It’s more of asking the department to review the adult children supporting aged and disabled family members, whether they be grandparents or parents. Right now the alternative is to move some of these elders into a home, because some of them are getting to a stage where they’re starting to forget things and not really safe to leave them alone to cook for themselves and fend for themselves. Generally day-to-day operations many widows and widowers are running households by themselves at this point. They are homeowners and they have adult children living with them. They are providing some support and so on. What I’m asking the department to do is look at the positives of that type of thing; the money that the government saves overall.

Putting someone in Woodland Manor in Hay River is a very substantial cost to this government. Although it’s to another department, it’s a very substantial cost to the government as a whole. However, having adult children living with the aged is a cost savings to the government because that person’s needs are taken care of by that adult child. However, because their income is taken into consideration, the children don’t want to stay at home and take care of their parents because their parents are going, well, if you’re here, in cases where they have to be anyway, they’ve got no choice, they lose their seniors’ home heating subsidy. My question is: would the government do some sort of feasibility assessment, or whatever we want to call it, an evaluation of actually exempting incomes of adult children that live with the aged in supporting them through their day-to-day life and see if that would be a possibility? We have many situations like that where had it not been for those adult children, many of those elders would be in homes. Very expensive. A very expensive proposition. And then, of course, I guess their homes would be either unutilized or that adult child would take over the home. But this is something that is saving the government a lot of money but it’s not as common as it should be, because it’s pretty simple. It’s like a policy and heating fuel is very expensive. It’s very hard for them to afford it. Then the burden is on the adult child to do all these essential things for their parents or grandparents.

In addition to that, they have to then fork out some money to cover the costs of operating the unit, because the government will then claw back or not provide this particular subsidy because of the adult child’s income. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, as I stated, these are areas that we continue to look into. To some degree, we have to be cautious of how we approach different areas of policy changes where if we allow adults to live in their parent’s or grandparent’s place, the individual could be earning a good wealth of income and others will follow. I’m just afraid of elders’ abuse, directly or indirectly, in the household, because it will be rent free for them. I can imagine in all the communities elders living in a household, they might have grandchildren living with them for a number of years and, to some degree, it may be best for some people, but some elders want to stay alone as well. But if an elder wants to stay alone and their adult kids want to move in at their own cost, I guess those are just some of the fears I would have. As I stated, we can look at this and see what we can come up with as a department. We need to work closely with the communities and also with the Members. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Next on my list is Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too would like to talk about the seniors’ fuel subsidy program. I have to agree with Mr. Beaulieu. I think that we have to be realistic here and find ways of allowing for exemptions in certain situations where people are elderly and they’re into their 90’s. Maybe use 90 as the age level. That anybody over the age of 90 can have a family member or a relative living with them, because you’re talking about the well-being of seniors. I mean, if they’re 90 years old, they are going to need… I mean, I dealt with this situation similar to Mr. Menicoche in regard to a 96-year-old gentleman, his wife is 92. They’re independent. They own their own home. They’ve lived there all their lives, yet when family members come to visit, in most cases they come and spend the summer with them when the kids are out of school, grandkids and whatever. They go through this situation every year.

For me, the stress and the turmoil that you put these elders through, that’s elders’ abuse. I think that we should maybe look at allowing for certain exemptions to take place when you have people in certain status by way of mental ailment by way of dementia, by way of respite care, by way of there are certain elements they may require that 24-hour home care, which if the family can provide it, it’s a benefit that you keep them there than having to send them to a long-term care facility, say, in Inuvik or having to fill a bed in a dementia centre or whatever. But if you can save the cost for the simple cost of heating their homes, it’s a cost savings to government.

I’m wondering if we can seriously consider looking at the exemptions that are offered and look at age as one of the categories that you consider for an exemption and that you allow those circumstances in those elements that I mentioned. That if you fit that category or class of person, age will be one, the other would be the ailment and the other one, you’ll be allowed to have someone live in the home regardless if it’s a family member or a relative who will be able to take care of the elder. Again, I mean, I know there used to be exemptions allowed in the past and, again, it seemed like they have disappeared, but I think we have to find a way of taking the stress that’s being put on our seniors, especially the ones who have lived out their lives in their own homes, basically have paid for it, they own it, they basically maintain it, but yet they’re at that age where they’re fragile.

I think we have to be realistic here, and we know who those people are. Those people receive the property tax exemptions. Those people are the ones that have been on the list year after year after year getting the benefit of the fuel subsidy. But because of a simple situation, like I say, someone comes and spends the summer with the family, which we all have family members. When we travel to our different communities, we’d like to have families spend time with their grandparents or their parents while they’re still with us. I think we’ve got to be realistic here and we have to allow for those types of exemptions to take place.

Again, I’d like to ask the Minister if that’s something that your department can seriously consider in light of the policies and regulations we have, to allow for these types of exemptions to be applied under those types of circumstances. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This is an area that we can seriously look at. When the Member touched on the age-plus, the 90-plus, definitely, those are the areas that we need to explore. There may not be that many elders so it might be workable. We need to look into that and we’ll come back to the standing committee if we’re going to make those changes. Mahsi.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I thank the Minister for that. I believe we do have to be realistic here.

The other issue that has come to my attention is the area of income assistance where you have individuals who, basically, for one reason or another, because they get medevaced to Edmonton and now we’ve got the 48-hour turnaround, those people have to get them out of Edmonton and back into their home communities, but these people are walking around with walkers. Then they go to income support to try to get support and they’re being told, well, sorry, you have to wait for a period of three or four months in order to get the benefit, because it takes that long to meet the criteria.

There again, we have to be realistic that we have situations where people need that emergency attention, especially when it comes to medical reasons in which, basically, medical professionals have basically instructed them that they have to be not mobile or basically have a walker or basically a wheelchair that they’re in. Again, myself and Ms. Lee had to deal with this situation in Aklavik, and again, the individual was told, well, sorry, you have to wait four months because of his disability.

For me, I mean, again, we have to be realistic. There has to be those special circumstances that people have to have access to these programs on an emergency basis and we have to allow that flexibility in our policies and programs. Again, that’s another area that I think we’d have to be cognizant of and consider.

I’d just like to maybe leave that with the Minister and see exactly, you know, is that something that we can also consider in light of the aged but also the people that are, because of medical reasons, require that attention regardless if it it’s because of being medevaced to Edmonton or southern hospitals, and now because we have another restraint we’re dealing with because you have to have a 48-hour turnaround and get these people back out of the hospital in Alberta, back to the Northwest Territories, back into their communities, because we are now under different restraints.

Again, that’s the type of stuff, I think, that we have to be realistic about and make sure that the time limits that we’re talking about, yes, we have to have time limits, but I mean, they also have to be realistic that in special circumstances we do have emergencies and we have to be able to comply with those emergencies.

Again, I’ve got patients who are basically going through cancer treatment and whatnot and they can’t go to work. The doctor told them, sorry, you can’t work, but they’re told, well, sorry, you’ve got to wait three months. But these people basically have a doctor’s note telling them you can’t work. Again, these programs, we have to ensure that they’re actually there for support, they’re there to help people when they need it, and more importantly, help the people that are the fragile, the elderly or the sick and lame people that we’re having to deal with.

Again, I’d just like to maybe ask the Minister is that something that your department again can also look at in light of these unique situations we’re finding ourselves dealing with.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, this area would allow for coordination between my department and also Health. The Member discussed the health-related issues, that there’s been a waiting time. We need to seriously look at our policy as well. The three-month waiting period is questionable, the 48-hour turnaround, and if it’s emergency cases, doctor’s note. So all those need to be taken into effect, but I will be working with my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, the programs that we have here to help people in need, I can certainly see the benefits of helping our elders as simple as possible, or helping the young mothers especially, or helping the child as simple as possible and also helping the seniors with some of their benefits from the federal government and also from the territorial government. What I want to ask the Minister in terms of what support we give to our people in the Income Assistance Program, has the department looked at the way we are dealing with people in terms of we are creating more dependency. Are we moving towards the interdependency or have we created a society of welfare dependants in the income assistance?

One of the biggest complaints that I get back at home is that we are teaching our young people, our people in general, to sit at home, lay on the couch, flick the TV off and on with their thumbs and in time to go over and pick up a cheque, because it is something that they are used to. We are not really helping them to be independent or self-sufficient. We may have good intentions, but is this something that the Minister’s department has looked at, has evaluated?

We are caught between a rock and a hard place and building the goals that we set out for and income assistance is a fancy word for welfare. So I want to ask that are we doing okay, are we doing good? Even though maybe our hearts and our minds are in that place are we really helping our people help themselves? Are we creating a stronger dependence on our system? I don’t know. Some people say it is a trap. So I want to ask, is his department really looking at the areas that we could be doing other things or not getting what we want. So I want to ask the Minister if he could shed a little light on my question here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chairman, I can shed some light on this particular matter. This area has always been a real challenge to balance or to strike the right balance between assisting those individuals that are on income support and pushing them towards or creating economic dependency.

There is a program in place with our department as well: Productive Choices. We have initiated, in the past, various programs so that we can get people out of their homes and work for the money that we provide to them, but there has been a push back. They went through their leaders and their MLAs and put more pressure on us to, sort of like status quo. I need a lot of support from the community leadership for us to pursue further with this. I am willing to do this as a Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and I feel that those individuals that have 10 fingers and 10 toes can be out there, employable.

It has always been that way with our ancestors as well, so I think that is the clear message that we always receive from our grandparents so we are more than willing to do that, Mr. Chairman, it is just that I guess taking the next step and working with the communities, so we do have the productive choices, and I like to see young individuals that are on income security to go out there and get some firewood for the elders or chop wood for the elders, or fishnet for the elders and so forth. Those are simple tasks that can be done and those are the areas that we exploring, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I guess we need to have more discussion as to what the Minister is saying. Certainly it has been noted that is someone said that certainly if they can get up and walk to the income support office they certainly can walk to work. We have certainly changed our lifestyles in our communities. There are some young people who are really trying hard to make a go of it in life, there are other challenges that they have to put up with. Income assistance is one of them. There are also other people out there that know how to use the system and they think now that welfare is a right for them. We have created a generation of dependent people on our system and it is certainly eating up our resources. We talk about the fuel subsidy program for our elders and so we make it very difficult for our young people even to get a load of wood for our elders and that is where we need to have some discussion.

I know what you are saying; we need to really take a hard look at if we are doing any favours to our younger generation or to some of the people who are in the Income Assistance Program. I see the benefit of the seniors. We need to really take care of our seniors really well, especially of the young mothers with the young children, especially the single mothers with young children, but there are lots of able men and able women that could be helping and working in the communities. So that is why I ask if this department sat down with the regions and said, what are the results of our Income Assistance Program?

If you look in Deline, it has been noted in a meeting with the Premier and I in Deline, the employment rate in Deline sometimes is about 80 percent unemployment. That is a high number for unemployment in Deline, 80 percent. This is where he is saying the programs are beneficial, but there are a lot of people that could work. We are creative in our progress. I guess we need a larger forum to have this type of discussion in terms of this Income Security Program to really help our people, otherwise we are just maintaining the status quo.

I know what the Minister is saying, I am not too sure if the information is coming back to us in terms of are we really helping the young people, are we really helping our communities, are we helping our recipients, because people are telling me that they are recipients there that are experts in using the programs. They know all the regulations and policies. I am very, very concerned that we are going to have a hard time.

Imagine if we just cut the Income Assistance Program tomorrow. That is going to force a lot of people out of their houses and doing something, I am just thinking out loud here in terms of how do we help our young people, really help our young people. I want to ask the Minister in terms of getting a good evaluation, a good, true picture of income security programs, especially the Income Assistance Program that we deliver in our communities. That’s it, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the quickest answer would be we can definitely explore this throughout resources, career centres in the regions. Also some students are in school who are on income support. One time an individual came up and asked about going to school and she said I have to go to school to get paid. I said don’t you go to school to get educated? It was more about getting money to go to school. So we have to create more incentives for them to change their lifestyle. That’s what we want to do. I’m willing to work with it, with the regions and MLAs. Sometimes you will get a lot of heat as MLAs and Ministers, but we have to do what’s right. Mr. Chair, I’m willing to explore this area. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We’re on page 10-27, income security, operations expenditure summary, $38.823 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have hopefully a short line of questioning. I am curious as to what type of PY reductions had occurred when the Public Housing Program was transferred back to the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The exact number we have is 10.75 public housing rental subsidy positions being transferred back to the Housing Corporation. Mahsi.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’m curious as to where those positions were cut. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, maybe I should clarify. I’m trying to figure out if it was small communities, regional centres or Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** What we do have are the regions and also headquarters. Headquarters lost three positions and the regions lost 7.75 positions. Mahsi.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** The regional positions, were they necessarily in the regional centres of Smith, Hay River, Simpson, Inuvik, Norman Wells? Were they in those communities specifically?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** That’s correct, Mr. Chair.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** So no positions were cut in communities that we refer to as small communities. I could take that as correct. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was one position in one of the other smaller communities, Fort Resolution, that went from a full-time PY down to a half-time PY. It was based on caseloads once the Public Housing Subsidy Program was transferred back to the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I guess I’m going to ask the department a question as to how many clients were being served for public housing only, I guess. I’m trying to figure this out because my understanding and I haven’t been able to actually talk to the income support officer because he’s not comfortable working for the government and dealing with this through the MLA, so I’ve been talking to other people. I’m trying to find out if the caseload actually did change. I’m wondering how many people were actually dropped from the caseload when the public housing was transferred back to the Fort Resolution Housing Authority.

**MR. DANIELS:** The figure was around 2,000 altogether. I don’t have a community-by- community breakdown but that is the overall figure. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Maybe I’ll ask the Minister if they could provide some details pertaining to Fort Resolution. My understanding is the majority of the people in public housing remained as clients with the client services officer. My understanding is the volume of the work per client may have gone down, but the actual client load... It’s based on client load, as the deputy indicated. I don’t think they have the information here, but I’d like to ask the Minister if he could provide me with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Minister, can you provide that information?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Yes, we don’t have the detailed information here, but we’d be more than willing to provide that information to the Members. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. We are on page 10-27, income security, operations expenditure summary, $38.823 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chair, if I could get your support to turn back to 10-24 for one question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-24? The Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to 10-24. Committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a clarification. I note the drop in funding for literacy by about $125,000. This is a key program. I’m wondering if I can find out where that cut is happening. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That’s a reallocation to reflect where we’ve been spending money. There was an evaluation of the Literacy Strategy a few years ago in which there was a recommendation that came forward to ensure we have a position dedicated to supporting the Literacy Strategy. So, fortunately, the money is being used to support a literacy coordinator in the department. So that’s where the change is being shown. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** For the record, I’ll read out the totals again. Advanced education, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, $33.493 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Let’s go to page 10-28, income security, grants and contributions. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just a question with regard to the amount for student grants. We’ve got $9 million here on page 10-28 and then on page 10-27 student financial assistance is almost $12.4 million dollars. So is student financial assistance costing us the $12 million plus the $9 million? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The $12.395 million is the total cost of student financial assistance. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The $12.395 million is the total cost of the Student Financial Assistance program. It includes staff and the grants the Member referred to, as well as the allowance for the loan fund.

**MS. BISARO:** That’s good. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 4, 2010, this House recommended that eligibility for the Student Financial Assistance program be expanded to include students taking full-time secondary school upgrading programs in preparation for post-secondary education. I’m wondering if the Minister has incorporated that into the program for student financial assistance 2011-2012.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. That motion was brought to this House. It was a direction to our department to provide funding for upgrading. We currently don’t provide funding for upgrading, but we are working closely with the communities and there are other funding sources out there. We provide SFA, student financial assistance, for college and university programming.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’d just like a little more explanation on the Minister’s comment there on how this motion is being addressed in programs.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** With any motion that comes forward we look at it and see where it can fit within our programming. At the same time we, as it stands now, will be reviewing the SFA programming and that will happen this year. This is an area we can look at as an option. I’m sure we’ll be hearing from students out there from the communities. It has been brought up before in this House as well as at question period, so I’m sure there will be community members that will be raising those issues. It has been addressed and we’ll definitely look at it in due time.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’m happy to hear that this will be included in the review of student financial assistance. I’m wondering if the Minister will commit to providing us with the other information he referred to, the other ways that this is being addressed through community programs.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We can provide programming information that we do have. Programs such as the Labour Market Agreement or other specific programming that we can highlight to the Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-28, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, income security, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, $9.240 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister about the student grants for post-secondary education. Does the Minister have a sheet that he can give the Members showing how these grants are distributed to the northern students and which students, not which students names but how much is distributed each year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t think we can provide names but we can provide which community they are from.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I really don’t need the names. I’m very happy if you can provide by region or community. I’ll be happy to get those. I also want to ask the Minister if under this item here, is the department administering the USEP program for college entry for Aboriginal students.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This is a particular program that falls under federal, the USEP program. We don’t deliver that.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-28, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, income security, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, $9.240 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-29, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, information item, income security, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-30, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, Student Loan Revolving Fund. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wonder in looking at the numbers on this page, our loans receivable over the last three years has gone up almost $1 million a year. The loans granted have gone up I guess by about a hundred a year. In looking at these I just wonder whether or not this program is sustainable at the pace at which we are increasing. I know we increased the borrowing limit for the Student Financial Assistance Fund sometime in the last year or so. I guess bottom line is, will this be part of the student financial assistance review, and second question is, is this fund sustainable as we go forward?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this will be part of the student financial assistance review and we do set aside an allowance each year. On that basis I would say that it’s sustainable, but as the Member pointed out, the fund is growing.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-30, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, Student Loan Revolving Fund.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-33, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, details of funding allocated to education authorities.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-34, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, education authorities, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-37, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, Aurora College funding allocations. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister about base funding. I think two of my communities in the Sahtu are not eligible or not receiving base funding at the Aurora College operations facilities. I want to ask the Minister if this is an oversight. Tulita, Deline, Fort Good Hope receive base funding. Norman Wells and Colville Lake do not receive base funding for Aurora College programs like the other communities. I wonder why this special treatment for Norman Wells and Colville Lake.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The college also tries to, where they might not have base money for programs, identify where they might be able to come up with other sources of funding to make program delivery available where they might not have a base amount for a particular community. So there might be some of the other contribution money that we provide to the college. For example, the Community Skills for Work Program or other program initiatives that are available in ALBE, for example.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** It’s very disturbing to know that two communities in my riding have to look for alternative funding for what Tulita, Deline and Fort Good Hope receive base funding for. Two other communities that operate Arctic College programs have to look at alternative funding. Why can’t they receive base funding like any other community that receives base funding? Why the special treatment for the two communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This is an area we should look at with the college. Why some communities aren’t getting base funding, we don’t really have that detailed information with us as to why. I’ll commit to the Member that we’ll look at this area and get back to him.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I appreciate the Minister committing to look at it. I’m hoping we can go one step further to make Norman Wells and Colville Lake communities that will receive base funding like any other college in my region and establish some base funding for those two centres. I appreciate the Minister’s commitment to poke his head in there and start digging around to find out what’s going on.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty, that’s a yes again. Okay. Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a couple of questions here. The first is in regard to programs that the college offers. The Minister will have heard questions and concerns raised by other Members in the House earlier about the nursing programs which the college offers. There’s a concern that federal funding is ending I think in March of 2012. The NP educator program, the masters program, and the Introduction to Advanced Practice I believe are all delivered through the college. I’d like to know from the Minister whether or not these programs are going to be able to continue. Is this federal funding sunsetting as I think I’ve been advised and, if so, what is the Minister doing about it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I think there was a commitment in the House to collaborate with health and education departments working together to identify what our options will be at that time.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that there’s going to be some work done. The Minister said at that time, so does that mean that we’re going to wait until 2012 to do something or will there be some work that’s done in the near future and when can Members expect some kind of a report on these programs?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This was addressed in this House. There was ongoing discussion between the two departments. The discussion will continue to find what those options will be. As soon as we find a solution, we’ll definitely get back to the Members. I can’t really give you a specific date as to when, but as soon as we hear, that will be far more in advance than next year’s 2012.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. It’s good to hear that we’re doing things now and not waiting. I have one other question and it relates to the space that the college currently occupies and the lease that they have and that the lease is ending. I think this has been mentioned maybe not this week but certainly over the last year, that the department has known that the lease for the college is going to be ending in a year or so. There were certainly some investigations done as to some potential sites for the college to move. About a year ago I think there was a possible solution and yet here we are a year later and there hasn’t been any action on any kind of proposal for a stand-alone campus here in Yellowknife. So I need to ask the Minister why it is that we spent a year basically running in place and not taking any action towards replacing the current location for the college with a new one. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Since last year, we went through some options and we shared that with the Members and with the various school boards as well. Those options have been pushed forward, but there are other pressing matters that are before us as well within the GNWT. We are not giving up on this. We are also continuing to examine this through our next capital planning process. So this is geared for next year because the lease is expiring next year, so we need to plan. We have been planning this fall for an extension. So we will be exploring those areas for the next capital planning process, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next I have Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a similar question related to the Aurora College campus here in Yellowknife and a stand-alone campus. Has there been any assessment done on potential savings in the long run for actually having a stand-alone facility as opposed to renting the several buildings in Yellowknife we do to act as a campus? Specifically I’m interested in finding out if we can maximize our dollars by actually having a stand-alone facility over the long term and focus more money in programming rather than excessive rents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I did highlight that we need to plan for next year’s capital planning process and this will be part of the process. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Okay. For the record, obviously I think a stand-alone campus in Yellowknife is important. I think it will save us money and I look forward to seeing any planning that’s done in the future. It would be nice if we had a little bit more data now. This has certainly been something that’s been on the conversation block for a long time. If there is no answer there, I’ll just go to the next question.

The Social Work Program at Aurora College, it’s a diploma program and we’ve got links to a southern university where people from here can then go down there to complete their degree. Has there been much thought or any thought about changing the program in the Northwest Territories so that it’s a social work degree program, so that we can keep our students in the North for the duration, the completion of their degree?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When I recognized those social work students in the gallery, I did have the opportunity to meet with them out in the foyer as well. This is an area we are all working with the college and with southern institutions that currently deliver diploma programs and also degree programs. Some students, of course, told us that they don’t want to leave the community. They want to finish their degree here in the Northwest Territories. I did share that with the Board of Governors of the college and also the president. Mr. Chair, this is a discussion that we’ve had and we will continue to move that forward. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you for continuing to look at is as you move forward, but I’m curious what, if any, assessment or analysis has been done to date about that program and the suitability of a diploma program in the North as opposed to a degree program. Actually, I don’t even think it’s a diploma, I think it’s a certificate program here in Yellowknife with a tie-in to the South. Has any analysis been done in partnership with Health and Social Services about the value and potential benefits? There is a chance that if we had a degree program, we could also increase our enrolment at the Aurora College program here in Yellowknife. So what kind of analysis has been done to date to test the feasibility or question the feasibility of changing it to a degree program?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Since it was brought to our attention, we shared with the college immediately, because it was the wish of the students and we haven’t conducted a feasibility study as of yet. The program that has been requested, we need to explore further, do our research and work with the southern institutions who can best deliver that program. We do have various partners in southern institutions, so we will be conducting those studies as well. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, since I think our first year of our term I’ve raised the concern that the Early Childhood Development Program produced child care workers that were not meeting federal standards. The Minister is aware of that. I’m just wondering, has anything ever been done to try and beef up that program to meet those standards. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Deputy Minister Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** We are in the process of reviewing the Early Childhood Training Program to see where we can make some changes to the program that’s being delivered through Aurora College, and to see what type of changes should be made to meet the needs of the operators here in the North, as well as to make sure that the standards are standards that would be recognized anywhere. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’ll take that as a no. I would urge this department to get that work done this year. There’s no need to wait for a review of our child development programs. This is a straightforward program in Aurora College that’s not up to standard. We don’t need to wait for a big, drawn out program next year to do this review. We simply need action, as we’ve been saying for our entire term, to get this up to standard. Will the Minister commit to doing that this year? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, we are working towards that and I understand there is a review that is being undertaken. We will be sharing this with the college as well. We did share with the college when the Member raised that issue a while back along with other courses that he’s highlighted. This has been addressed and we are working with the college and within our department as well. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for the Minister’s remarks. I wonder if the Minister could provide me with material on how it’s been addressed to date. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We can provide that up-to-date information of our correspondence with the various parties. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next I have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may not be something that’s directly the responsibility of the department, but maybe the Minister could deal with the college on this. One of the things that we’re finding just in general in the workforce is that a lot of the students that are completing the courses, they’re going into all kinds of different work environments and I’m wondering if there could be some sort of course that is preparing these students for work environments that they will encounter as they graduate from these programs. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Since this is under the direction of the college, I will be more than willing to share that with the Board of Governors. I will be meeting with them. At the same time, I guess, some of the programs have also had practicums, but this information will be shared with the president and also the college itself. Mahsi.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Maybe just to put a little context to what I’m referring to, I know that some students are coming out of the college and graduating. Even sometimes in between year one and year two, they’re running into tough situations in the practicum or in the early stages and are not able to handle the varying types of management that is out there. So if the Minister is going to have a discussion with the Board of Governors, then that’s the context I am referring to. Something that is going to prepare them for the various types of management that they will encourage as they come out I think is essential. They are all going to have essentially the same types of education when they come out, but they won’t all have the same type of work environment when they enter the work field. So it would be good to prepare them for the various types of work environment that they will encounter. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I agree with the Member. Every student goes through a transition, whether it be practicum or wanting to be successful in management areas. We will be sharing this with the college. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, I want to ask the Minister through working with the Board of Governors if they would work with high schools in small communities to implement a trade program in the school. I know the school in Tulita is working hard to see if they can get some funding. It’s over $100,000 to do a small trades program in Chief Albert Wright School. They are having a hard time to fundraise. Aurora College has a trades program. I wonder if that’s something that the Board of Governors and this Minister could look at creatively in conjunction with high schools that want to have trade programs in their schools. There are a lot of young people leaving our schools and they really want to go into the trades program. There is really nothing there for them in the communities in the Sahtu. It would be helpful if the Minister could look at something like that. That would be beneficial to the people in our communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. As we know, in the Northwest Territories trades are in high demand. We have to focus on those students who are currently enrolled in high school. The college itself, they may have discussed it as a Board of Governors. I have to verify that with them. At the same time, within our department I did say we are looking on Trades on Wheels, similar to the Beaufort-Delta. I’m hoping that someday we’ll be in the Sahtu region, Deh Cho and other areas as well. So those are the key initiatives that we are discussing within our department with other potential partners as well. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I certainly hope the Board of Governors would make some concrete move in terms of working with our high school in our communities to implement a trades program within their term as governors. I hope Aurora College can do that for the people in our communities.

I also want to say that I hope they look at putting a trades school into some of our communities. I know this mobile program, Trades on Wheels, as the Minister talked about, but we need something more than mobile. We need something permanent, especially our communities that are against the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline route where there are some resources. That could be some of the industry that could be coming into our regions to extract some of the resources. We need some people out there that could have a career in some of those companies that are working in our region.

I want to ask the Minister in terms of the Teacher Education Program, is the Minister and his department encouraging teachers who are finishing the program, that this government is going to stand behind them to make sure they get jobs in the North in some of the small communities and they would be priority when they graduate from that program and we’ll have jobs for them in the communities?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Of course we want those teachers back in our communities, back in the North, those students that are studying down south. We’ll do what we can to work with those individuals so they can be hired through DEAs and DECs. DEAs and DECs hire their own teachers. I have to respect that, as well, and I need to work with them. So I’ll continue to do my part to hire as many teachers that are coming out of the system, showing them where various areas they can go to or contacts. So, Mr. Chair, this is an area we can work with, with the department. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Is that also the same type of support he’ll give for the other programs we offer at Aurora College? We are looking for a social worker in our community. I’ve already talked to the Minister about this. We’ve been waiting to get a social worker in one of my communities in the Sahtu. Is this the same type of support you’re going to give to the social workers in Aurora College?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We support all the students. We want them to be successful. It’s not only our department, it’s across departments, so I need to work with my colleagues. There is the Nursing Program and social work programming, teachers in our system. Those are the areas and professions that we want to place in our schools, in our nursing stations in our health care system. So it is our priority to work with them to push them in that direction. At the end of the day, it is their decision, Mr. Chair. So we’ll continue to push as a government. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The students I know from Sahtu, there is quite a significant number that went to Aurora College programs this year. Some went to other institutions, post-secondary institutions. We’ve provided them a lot of support. The communities support them. We need them back in our communities. I don’t know if the Minister had a quick hand in this in terms of getting some support into our communities by offering the practicum back into my community.

I talked earlier in the House about someone who was doing some programming in Grande Prairie and now there’s a possibility of her doing her practicum back in Tulita and work with some logistics with some support from this department and the Sahtu educational board. That’s the type of leadership we are looking for in our department. That’s what we’re looking for: getting our people back into our communities to be a good role model. So I do want to thank the Minister for whatever support he offers to me in that area.

It’s not a done deal yet, but it’s something that gives me some hope to open up some of the doors to support our young people. If we provide the support there for these young people, these nursing, social worker, teaching, we have to have the infrastructure there to bring them back. Some of these students that come out of these schools, they fight really hard just to get back into their communities while other students come out of their institutions down south and we open the door for them. We even throw the red carpet out for them to come to our community.

We’ve got to do the same thing with our students that we send out. We’ve got to also help them out there. That’s what I’m hoping to look for. Make sure we treat them all equally and fairly and especially with our northern students who are finishing these programs. That’s what they want. That’s what I’m asking this Minister to make sure that the mechanism is there to support our students. Once they finish the first year, second year, third or fourth year, that there’s an opening in the community for them. I just want to say that. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, yes, we will be working with the community DEAs and DECs. It is the community’s decision, as well, to hire those individuals, so we’ll be working closely with them and other professions as well. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We’re on page 10-37, information item, Arctic College, funding allocations. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to 10-38, information item, work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-39, again, information item, work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 10-40, work performed on behalf of others, information item.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The NWT ice patch study I see is not being renewed this year. The study was to help decision-makers in the development of effective management strategies for archaeological sites, wildlife populations, traditional economies at risk of impacts from our changing climate. I’m wondering, we’ve spent, obviously, over $100,000 on this study. I don’t recall seeing any results from that. Is this something the Minister could provide? Could the Minister provide Members reports from this work?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, yes, that was a really good project in the Sahtu region and we can definitely provide that information. We do have that information. We don’t have it here with us but we’ll share it with the Members. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** If we can move back to page 10-7, department summary, operations expenditure summary, $285.895 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that we’ve concluded the Department of Education, Culture and Employment?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, I’d like to thank the Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out. With that, I will rise and report progress.

Clarification. Mrs. Groenewegen, I believe that when we moved into Committee of the Whole, the direction was we were going to deal with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Clarification; is that the direction? What’s the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will now rise and report progress.

# Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

# Orders of the Day

**PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan):** Orders of the day for Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 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
* Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project
* Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members’ Compensation and Benefits
* Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
* Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
* Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments’ Interim Response to “Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future”
* Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts over $5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010
* Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012
* Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to CR 3-16(5): Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act
* Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
* Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act
* Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
* Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act
* Minister’s Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights
* Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement
1. Report of Committee of the Whole
2. Third Reading of Bills
3. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:04 p.m.