



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, February 17, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, 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, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:37 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 21-16(3):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES SUPPORT
FOR THE FUR INDUSTRY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues today that despite the global economic downturn we are experiencing, sales figures from the January Fur Harvesters Auction sale indicate that demand is still strong for Northwest Territories fur sold under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur label.

The total value of fur sold in January was \$90,000 CDN with marten, fisher and beaver pelts fetching the highest prices. The top price paid for marten was \$161 per pelt with an average price overall of \$103. The best price paid for NWT beaver was \$63 with an average overall price of just under \$24.

These prices give us reason for cautious optimism as we look forward to the upcoming March sale.

Mr. Speaker, these strong results are a reflection of many years of promotion, support and training facilitated by our government to Northwest Territories trappers through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is, in fact, one of very few governments in the world that actively supports the harvesting and marketing of wild fur as a fundamental component of a modern and thriving economy.

By linking time-honoured traditions and practices with an increased understanding of today's markets and its demands, we have been able to ensure and maintain a high level of product excellence. We have seen the quality and demand of Northwest Territories furs at auction increase. Fur from the Northwest Territories is now recognized as some of the finest wild fur in North America.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Fur Harvesters Auction completed a number of trapper training workshops in Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution and Fort Liard. The turnout for these annual sessions was excellent and the information and training provided was well received.

Similar sessions have been held in other areas of the Northwest Territories in previous years. Next year, the communities in the Inuvik region will be provided similar trapper training workshops.

In recent weeks we have also taken steps to broaden consumer demand and markets for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs. With support from the federal government's Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development program, SINED, we have been successful in looking beyond our traditional market base in Canada, Europe and the United States, we are now promoting Northwest Territories wild fur at fur and fashion tradeshows in Beijing, Hong Kong and Milan.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing support and success that the Northwest Territories fur industry has experienced in the international marketplace has and will continue to be reflected in the benefits that are being returned to our trappers and their communities.

It bodes well for our government's strategic priority to pursue growth and diversification in the Northwest Territories economy, but most importantly for the trapping industry in the North, which was almost completely devastated just a few short years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 22-16(3):
ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
INITIATIVE

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, graduation numbers from across the Northwest Territories continue to rise, and while we don't yet have the graduation rates confirmed for 2008, I am pleased to say that the graduation numbers are up again. This is worth celebrating, but there is still work to do in supporting our Northern students to achieve their full potential and succeed in education.

Data gathered by ECE over the last 10 years shows a steady increase in graduation rates for all NWT students. In 1998, 39 percent of NWT students graduated compared to 57 percent in 2007. In 1998, 20 percent of aboriginal students graduated compared to 65 percent of non-aboriginal students. Ten years later in 2007, 44 percent of aboriginal students graduated compared with 70 percent of non-aboriginal students. The gap has narrowed slightly but we must continue to further improve these results. Although the NWT has the highest graduation rates for aboriginal students in Canada, we have more work to do.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has begun work on an Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative to find the root causes and solutions to eliminating this gap in student success.

We already know some of the barriers to student success in the NWT. Our students are absent from school an average of one day a week, more than 30 days a year. A student who misses two days of school a month, or 20 days a year starting in Grade 1 will have missed the equivalent of a full year of schooling by grade 10. A student in that situation would not be working at a grade level that he or she could be working at and would be reducing their choices and options that can affect their future. We all need to work together to find ways to get our students to class so they can maximize their potential.

Mr. Speaker, literacy is also an issue in the NWT. Our students need opportunities to focus on their literacy skills, not only in the classroom, but also at home and in their communities. The recently released NWT Literacy Strategy focuses on literacy development in early childhood, and in youth. The work of the Literacy Strategy will be well aligned with this initiative.

The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is coming at the right time. The Dene, the Inuvialuit, and the Metis all have a strong commitment to improving the educational success of Northerners. The Council of Ministers of Education Canada will be meeting with national and regional aboriginal leaders later this month to find solutions to the same achievement gap at a national level.

Creating good schools and an environment that values learning and rewards hard work cannot be the sole responsibility of educators. It requires the cooperative efforts of the entire community. The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative seeks to bring our communities together to build a better future for our northern students. As we move forward with this initiative, I look forward to sharing more of what we learn and how we are able to make positive changes. Mahsi.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 23-16(3):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Michael Miltenberger will be absent from the House today to attend the Ministers of the Environment meeting in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COST OF LIVING ISSUES IN TUKTOYAKTUK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk today about the residents of Tuktoyaktuk who are being burdened with the high cost of living. They are not able to benefit from some of the initiatives the government has taken to help our other communities. Recently, petroleum products division adjusted their fuel prices downwards to ensure that residents in smaller communities would see lower prices, just as residents from many larger communities are seeing lower costs at the gas pumps. However, a private contractor provides the fuel services in Tuk and he was resupplied by barges, Mr. Speaker, this past summer when the fuel prices were at the highest cost, at the highest prices.

Gas costs in Tuk are \$1.69 at the pump for a litre of gasoline. Home heating fuel is at \$1.44 a litre. In Inuvik, people are now paying \$1.27 a litre and their

gas truck is being resupplied by private contractor and is resupplied by trucks down the Dempster Highway.

The Minister can be pleased with himself that he reduced fuel costs in some of the communities. Another Minister can be pleased because he's predicting there will be a new energy source for closer communities in the future. That's all great, but right now the residents in Tuk are being hammered by very high costs; high power bills, high gas bills, high food bills. They don't see the government doing very much to help.

I have heard that there is a Strategic Initiative Committee on the cost of living which is chaired by Minister Lee. Perhaps the Minister should take some time to live in Tuk for awhile and maybe she could get some ideas on the community's high costs of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COMPARISON OF WINTER ROAD
MAINTENANCE IN THE NWT AND ALBERTA

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is about the condition of the highway from the Alberta/NWT border to Hay River. The Minister, when I told him I was going to do a statement on this, asked me not to mention the outhouses. It would be hard to mention them because I don't think there are any on that particular stretch of highway.

---Laughter

Much to my disappointment.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, from the border to Hay River, you can tell when you cross the border from Alberta into the NWT. I don't know if the roads are constructed differently, if they are made out of different materials, but there is a marked difference and I have heard that this is also the case if you are passing from Alberta into Saskatchewan. But, Mr. Speaker, I am not an MLA in Saskatchewan so I'm not going to worry about their problems.

When you come across into the Territories, the speed limit drops from 100 down to 90. That is one measure that we took to address the conditions. The shoulders disappear. They aren't even sharp shoulders. There are just no shoulders. And, Mr. Speaker, no more roadside turnouts either.

Probably most obvious is the condition of the road itself during the winter. Just this past week again,

the daughter of a constituent coming home for the weekend from Grande Prairie got to around the falls and hit an unexpected patch of ice. I saw the vehicle, Mr. Speaker, and it is obvious that it bounced from snowbank to snowbank like a pinball and the damage was extensive on the front and on the back and, by the grace of God, the occupants of the vehicle were not injured.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that accidents don't occur south of our border, but in the winter there is almost always this marked difference in the condition of the road when you hit that border. I am not sure of all the reasons, but we must do things differently in terms of our road maintenance.

I will have questions for the Minister about this during question period today. Do we have different plow trucks than they have in Alberta? Do we not apply certain products to our road that they apply in Alberta? I don't know what they put on the roads; salt, calcium.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we cannot control the weather, but I think we must do everything in our power to try to make our roads safe for the travelling public, and later in question period I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation on how we can enhance this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATION

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to follow up on some questions asked by my colleague from Yellowknife Centre during Committee of the Whole last week. Specifically questions on the lack of health professional legislation in the Northwest Territories.

Currently the number of health providers working within the NWT are not required to have an NWT licence. In some cases, such as chiropractors, massage therapists, and naturopathic doctors, there is no legislation or regulations that ensure that individuals providing these services are adequately trained to meet certain safety requirements before they can legally provide their brand of services in the Northwest Territories.

Last year I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services a number of questions on this topic. At that time, I was informed by the Minister that the department was investigating the feasibility of umbrella legislation that would accommodate various health professions rather than stand-alone legislation for each profession. That makes sense

to me. Other jurisdictions with similar challenges as the NWT currently have this type of umbrella legislation. The Yukon is one example.

Implementing umbrella legislation in the NWT should be pursued. Unfortunately we have an extensive list of legislative initiatives to pursue within the GNWT and the Minister indicated that although it's on the list of legislation to be pursued and researched, this particular legislation is not high on the priority list and we won't likely see it come forward during the life of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

I understand workload and setting priorities, however, we also have to acknowledge that things change. In December 2008, the Ministers of Labour across Canada signed an enhanced Labour Mobility Agreement that would be implemented on April 1st, 2009. In January 2009 the Premiers ratified the changes. The revised labour mobility chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade provides that any worker certified for an occupation by regulatory authority in one province or territory is to be recognized as qualified for that occupation by all other provinces and territories where that occupation is regulated. Without legislation regulating these professions, the enhanced mobility provided by this new enhanced labour mobility could make the NWT a less attractive place for these professionals to work as they can have their credentials recognized almost everywhere else in the country except the Northwest Territories.

To me the changes to the enhanced Labour Mobility Agreement are a reason for the Minister of Health and Social Services to reconsider the department's legislative priorities and move forward with umbrella legislation for health professionals. We can't afford to lose these professionals.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUR INDUSTRY IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about the traditional economy in the Sahtu region. Trapping is alive and well in the Sahtu region. The Sahtu region is quickly becoming recognized as the top region in the Northwest Territories for total value of fur being harvested. Thirty-eight percent of the total value of furs in the Northwest Territories comes from the Sahtu. The top producing community in the Sahtu is Colville Lake, followed by Fort Good Hope, Deline, Tulita, and Norman Wells. The total amount of Sahtu fur being harvested for 2008 and 2009 is estimated to

contribute up to half a million dollars to the local economy in the Sahtu region. Some trappers in Colville Lake will be earning over \$40,000 this winter and trappers as young as age 12 have earned income from harvesting fur this year.

The trappers in the region are the Kochon family in Colville Lake, followed by the Jackson and Pierrot family in Fort Good Hope. The top young trapper in the region lives in Colville Lake, but youth from all over the Sahtu have shown increased interest in trapping this year.

The Sahtu is home to the prize Anderson River marten, which is used across the world for making high-priced garments, including major fashion centres in the Far East, Russia, the Middle East, and Europe. Trappers in the Sahtu consistently get the top price for marten at the fur auctions.

ITI and ENR staff have noticed that a large increase of the youth that have gone trapping are due to the ITI Take a Kid Trapping program, which involves 51 students from Tulita, Deline, Fort Good Hope, and Norman Wells. The number of part-time and full-time trappers in the Sahtu are about 225, 20 percent being elders, 14 percent being youth under the age of 18, and 10 percent being female.

The top fur being harvested is marten, followed by fox, wolves, beavers, and wolverine. For example, Take a Kid Trapping program has been very successful in communities like Colville Lake where there's approximately 28 kids from Grade 2 to Grade 12 who are working in this program. Students who own their own traplines, students who are raising money to take trips to Europe. If the Sahtu region continues to do as well as they are this year, they are expected to break the record of harvest produced in terms of dollars.

I'd like to say that the Sahtu region and other regions like that, we certainly support people going on the land and that trapping is alive and well in the Northwest Territories, especially in the Sahtu.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak today about the Deh Cho Bridge project. For the second year in a row, this government has failed to mention anything about the Deh Cho Bridge in the Finance Minister's annual budget address. Like last year, I again find that this is a peculiar omission.

The Deh Cho Bridge project is the largest single piece of public infrastructure to ever be built in the

Northwest Territories. At \$165 million this is a project that one would think the GNWT would be proud of.

According to the government, this \$165 million bridge is going to reduce the cost of living. If it is true, why would the government leave that out of the budget address when the cost of living is the single biggest issue facing our residents?

With tolls being applied on all truck traffic, I still don't know or understand how this could ever be possible. Everything that is transported across that bridge will cost more when it lands in the North Slave communities and any other community that these goods are flown into.

The bridge is being built and because of decisions of the last government, we are going to have to, beginning in 2010-2011, take our \$1.8 million we currently use for ferry operations and ice crossing construction and maintenance, plus an additional \$2 million on top of that because of the price increasing to \$165 million, for a total of \$3.8 million indexed every year for the next 35 years. This doesn't include the cost of administration and collection of tolls, which is going to cost this government another \$700,000 to \$800,000 per year. With the recent economic downturn, the amount of truck traffic crossing this bridge may not meet the original financial projections, which would leave the GNWT having to pay even more for the bridge on an annual basis.

Questions and rumours abound on the bridge project. Is it going to be constructed on time and on budget? What about all the rumours of lawsuits, people not getting paid, and cost overruns? Where exactly is the GNWT exposed financially in all of these areas?

The deal itself was signed off on a Friday afternoon three days prior to the last election. A year ago, the Premier made a commitment in this House to do a post-mortem on how and why this decision was made. I have not forgotten about this commitment and I look forward to the Premier tabling this post-mortem in this House at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF
MR. LAURENCE CATHOLIQUE

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

This weekend in Lutselk'e, the community is very saddened with the passing of Mr. Laurence Catholique. He was only 52 years old, a very well-

respected man, who passed away well before his time.

Mr. Catholique was considered to be one of the spiritual leaders of the community. Laurence lived a very healthy life. He was a non-smoker, non-drinker, and he was a big help to many community members. He will be very dearly missed by the people of Lutselk'e, especially his father, Pierre, his brothers, Herman, Joseph, Henry, his sister, Mary Jane, and her family.

Just one month ago, I had an opportunity to spend a couple hours with Laurence and his father, Pierre, as they were driving around town and he was helping his father get some groceries together before he put him on the plane. As I dropped him off, I was thinking that for a 52-year-old man with such tremendous ambition it was hard to imagine anybody who looked so good for 52 and seemed to live such a healthy lifestyle. It's very sad. I'm very sad myself to hear of the passing of Mr. Laurence Catholique.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY OF
STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. HAWKINS: Today I want to draw attention to several long-standing concerns about the Stanton Territorial Hospital. First, Mr. Speaker, Stanton is a gem of our health care system and the quality of health care is not the issue. But as many people know very well, Stanton has had problems with cleanliness and poor housekeeping ever since it was privatized. New CEOs and new public administrators have been appointed and they have all come and gone over the years but the problem still remains. The present contractor is not able to find qualified employees and retain qualified employees to a consistent level to deal with this problem. As a result, the cleanliness of the hospital is left to deteriorate. Sometimes the contractor has been put on notice, but with a lack of results. Sometimes it has led to short-term effects with positive results.

However, that kind of performance is not acceptable at a hospital, Mr. Speaker. The public expectation out there is that a hospital is expected to be one of the cleanest places on the earth. But, Mr. Speaker, is that 100 percent realistic? I'm not here to say. But, Mr. Speaker, patients at our hospital expect the rooms to be clean and safe. The bottom line is they don't need to be put in additional danger because of dirty floors and washrooms and they certainly don't need to have a family member

show up to clean those bathrooms and empty those trash cans.

Perhaps Stanton needs to move back to an in-house service. Perhaps Stanton needs to terminate the current contract and find someone who understands these needs. Either way, Stanton needs to find a permanent solution, not a temporary one. I hope the Minister can tell me what they are doing to ensure that the health of our citizens is not being jeopardized.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the absence of effective security provisions at Stanton. There have been numerous incidents over the years where disturbed and sometimes violent people have caused significant problems and jeopardized the health and safety of our patients while they are getting much needed health care. Most recently, an inmate managed to get into a patient's room while he was looking for a washroom. I can't imagine how vulnerable and trapped this lady felt; a senior with nowhere to run.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine that this inmate was in her room disturbing her while she was there. The stress on her and her family was significant. Mr. Speaker, I hope that each and every one of these security incidents is carefully reviewed by the senior management team at the hospital and they certainly find actionable ways to deal with this so it is not repeated. Mr. Speaker, I'd rather be complaining about the lack of services here today and the lack of response today than hopefully someday that we never have to talk about how we could let this happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON KOLE CROOK FIDDLE ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: People in Nahendeh have been hearing a lot of fiddle music this winter. Today I would like to tell you about how learning to play the fiddle has provided recreation to our communities and it has helped our youth develop confidence from their achievements and leadership skills in helping others. I am referring to the achievements of the Kole Crook Fiddle Association that has got hundreds of youth interested in developing a passion for music and fiddling. This has come about through the efforts of volunteers, parents, teachers, students and board members. It was made possible by grants provided by the Municipal and Community Affairs, the NWT Art Society and the Dehcho Board of Education.

A fiddle has four strings and the Kole Crook Fiddle Association has a string of four programs. One

program is teaching tours. Two expert fiddlers have been touring this fall and winter and sharing their skills in 12 communities. There were six students in Kakisa, 38 in Fort Liard. In all there were 168 students involved. Some of these fiddlers studied during school hours and also at sessions with adults and in the evenings and on weekends. There were classes for both beginners and advanced students.

In November in Fort Simpson, the fiddle teachers were weathered in and students were lucky enough to have lessons every day for a week. On Friday they entertained at an assembly and on Saturday there was a fiddle jam and dance at the Bompas gym.

The second program is the annual fiddle jamboree. It was held in Fort Simpson last month. Six instructors taught 95 fiddle students who came from Wrigley, Fort Providence, Jean Marie River, Yellowknife, Hay River and Behchoko. Two nimble fingered students, Mr. Wesley Hardisty and Miss Elissa Hazenberg, who is paging for us this week, Mr. Speaker, participated as teacher aids.

Starting on Friday, January 9th, it was a week of classes, fiddle repair, jigging and a Saturday night fiddle jam and dance. There is also a highly anticipated fiddle summer camp that has been offered since 2003.

The fourth is training for trainers to help our fiddlers become teachers.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, colleagues. It seems that the Kole Crook Fiddle Association has struck a chord with our people. Success like this comes from people working together, teachers in our schools, volunteers helping with the events, parents encouraging their children, the fiddlers themselves and the hard-working board of association. I am proud that the government is funding this worthwhile program and equally proud of our parents and volunteers. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POLICY LIMITING DISPOSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that we humans are wreaking havoc on our environment, yet we persist in ignoring the effect that our actions are creating and continue with behaviour that only

hastens the demise of our world. Last Friday, I had the opportunity to attend the meeting of NWT and Alberta government Ministers and officials. I was reminded of the lack of commitment to the environment that exists in our society. Simply observing the refreshments provided for the meeting highlighted this for me. How? Disposable coffee cups and bottles of water.

There are small acts of conservation that this government can take in regards to the environment which will demonstrate our commitment to help Mother Nature. If we use my example of what we can do, well this can be done.

At any government sponsored event, whether it is a meeting, a conference, a ceremony, we should demand certain environmental and recycling protocols of the caterer or the organizers. The provision of coffee and tea must be accompanied by recyclable mugs or cups. Water supplies must be non-bottled and accompanied by recyclable mugs or cups. If the supplier of the refreshments cannot agree to these conditions, then I am sure that there will be another business happy to take over the provision of that service. This approach should extend to all offices of this government, Mr. Speaker.

We need a policy regarding the use of bottled water, a policy which covers all departments and all offices in all communities. We are fortunate to live in a jurisdiction which has some of the best water in the world available to us locally just outside our door, in most cases. There is no excuse and no need for bottled water anywhere in the NWT. I have been here more than 35 years, Mr. Speaker, and I have yet to experience any ill effects from drinking river, lake or tap water. How many other jurisdictions in the world can make that same claim about their water? Not many.

The use of bottled water is an unnecessary expense both financially and environmentally. GNWT departments must be directed to refrain from providing bottled water in their offices, at their meetings, at their conferences. A policy banning bottled water would be a small step towards environmental savings. Let's get started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COST OF LIVING ISSUES AFFECTING ELDERS

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak to two elderly ladies in Fort McPherson who are pensioners. Mr. Speaker, they are struggling to maintain their homes and also the

ability to maintain a lifestyle. Mr. Speaker, they have a fixed income in regards to a pension which is around \$1,000 a month. But yet, Mr. Speaker, they are not receiving any help from the Government of the Northwest Territories when it comes to seniors' fuel subsidies and also helping them maintain their homes.

Mr. Speaker, one elder told me about the challenges she's had since she has moved into her home which was built by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation in 1996. This elder has gone through four stoves, three fridges, washers and dryers, and yet, Mr. Speaker, she has to pay out of her own pocket. She also has to use her residential school payment to buy these utilities, again, finding out that they also came to electrical shortage failures in her home. Mr. Speaker, that is not safe. The Housing Corporation where this individual has gone time and time again for assistance that were not there to help.

Mr. Speaker, the other elder who spoke to me about how she is struggling just to maintain a lifestyle. Every month her power bill is around \$390. She has to get her own fuel because she's not eligible for the fuel subsidy. It costs about \$1,000 a month, not counting your other utility costs like water, sewer and also maintaining the home. Mr. Speaker, the frustration of this elder, you can see it on her face when she speaks of elders who are living in social housing paying \$20 a month and they don't have to take care of those operational costs. Yet, there is no assistance there for elders who are living in their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, this government has to do more to assist elders who want to maintain an independent lifestyle, who want to maintain their homes and, more importantly, maintain their dignity. Mr. Speaker, these are not the only elders I've heard from. There are other elders throughout the Northwest Territories and Mackenzie Delta who are struggling to make ends meet in regard to living on a fixed income as a pensioner.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, the elders want nothing less than what elders receive in social housing. They want to be able to maintain a roof over their heads and be treated no differently than elders in the same age in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the income support review was going to take place which will look at what the cost to this government is for an elder to live in public housing, which is around \$20,000 a year to maintain that unit, and basically

I'll offer a similar arrangement for elders living in their own homes. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister responsible for income support questions on this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Nahendeh constituents who are residing in Yellowknife but they call Fort Simpson their home. She may correct me on this but I believe she is the president of the Kole Crook Fiddle Association I spoke about in my Member's statement, Ms. Gerda Hazenberg and her daughter, Elissa. Welcome.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, again on this, this is the second day it gives me great pleasure to recognize my oldest son McKinley Hawkins. He's up in the office this week with me and at his insistence he had to come down and watch session in real live action. He was watching it on TV yesterday but he said he had to come down. If I may bear for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I was trying to decide why he was sitting on that side of the House and I thought, well, maybe he wanted to sit on the side of the House that had the money or maybe did he want to sit on the side of the House that he could see the pretty faces. I'm going with the second one. The handsome faces.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Welcome to everyone in the House today. Hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 132-16(3): DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I've got some questions today for the Premier and it gets back to my Member's statement in regard to the Deh Cho Bridge project. Much has been made about the decision to go forward with the Deh Cho Bridge project. It was signed off on a Friday afternoon, 72 hours before the last general election here in the Northwest Territories. During some questioning to

the Premier back in November of 2007, shortly after the election, the Premier, at that time, in a response to a question that I had for him, made a commitment and I'll quote: "I have committed to look at the process that was used and come back and sit down with Members and look at where we go from here."

The first question I've got for the Premier is what work has been done on reviewing the process that allowed the concession agreement to be signed off by the last government and when will we get that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has on quite a number of times referred to the project of the last government, what the last government did. I have, as the Member has pointed out, committed to the process, had the staff look at what was involved, and I'm getting the latest on that as to when we'd be prepared to sit down with committee on that. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, these questions were 15 months ago and the government has still not come back with a P3 policy that would allow projects like this to happen. Again, I'd like to ask the Premier, what is the current status of the Deh Cho Bridge project and this is happening with today's government? What is the current status of the Deh Cho Bridge project? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to refer that to the Minister of Transportation as he'd have the details on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the latest information on the Deh Cho Bridge project is that four of the piers on the southern side of the river were poured over the past several months. They are now working on the pier beds that are supposed to be put up before the ice moves this year. They are behind schedule. We're expecting them to play catch-up and have the pier beds mounted as the schedule calls for prior to pulling out the temporary bridge, which is scheduled to come out in March/April. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the question to the Minister of Transportation. Are there currently any outstanding lawsuits, cost overruns or other costs that will accrue to the Government of the Northwest Territories pertaining to the Deh Cho Bridge project? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there are any cost claims or cost overruns that have come to the Government of the Northwest Territories per se. I would have to confirm, but I believe there are a number of claims being filed within the different companies, the subcontractors and the contractors. However, the territorial government itself has not received any. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, is the Government of the Northwest Territories named in any of these claims that are currently at play and do we risk any financial exposure in those claims? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll pass that question on to the Minister. He can answer it if he chooses. It's questionable if there are any claims or at what stage they're at. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is asking my opinion whether liability is an issue right now with us. I don't know if I can answer that. I would have to say, and repeat my answer to the previous question, that the claims have not been filed as to the Government of the Northwest Territories. There are claims within the different companies. The project is at 80 percent completion and on schedule for this year. There is a mechanism that the companies are trying to work out any of the issues that are arising amongst themselves. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 133-16(3):
COMPARISON OF WINTER ROAD
MAINTENANCE IN THE NWT AND ALBERTA

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation if we are devoting enough resources to the maintenance for equipment and product to maintain all the highways in the Northwest Territories, but most specifically today I'm thinking of the portion of highway that goes from the border to Hay River. Are we adequately resourcing the Department of Transportation to maintain that highway in good condition? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have dedicated a significant amount of resources over the last few years. In fact, we've gone to a seven-

day work week from a five-day work week so that we could have more maintenance cycles performed on our highways. We have also been really doing a lot of work in terms of upgrading our roads. Our roads are still, a lot of them are at the age where they have to be reconstructed; they're at the midlife portion of where they need to be redone. There are also roads in our system that are not quite up to the standard that's accepted across Canada, so we're still working towards widening our roads and working on the shoulders and guardrails and things of that nature. Our roads are adequate. We feel they're safe. The costs to operate our roads in the maintenance cycles are significantly higher than the south. On the Dempster, for example, it would cost us around \$17,000 per kilometre to maintain a road whereas in Alberta it's probably anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: There's been a lot of discussion about federal money available for upgrades of transportation infrastructure. I'd like to know from the Minister what is contemplated in the short term and also the long term with respect to the stretch of highway I'm referring to.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I believe in the last decade we spent around \$46 million on Highway No. 1. Over the next four years we're going to be looking at spending just under \$10 million. I think it's around \$8.8 million for that section of highway.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: To the Minister's knowledge, is there anything different in terms of product that they use on the roads in Alberta that we don't use on our roads in the Northwest Territories that would perhaps explain the marked difference? Quite often on the Alberta side the highway is dry. Then you get onto the NWT side and it's icy. I know sometimes there is a weather change at the border too. Sometimes when you're travelling north you do notice that at the 60th parallel for some reason there's a weather change. Is there a product that we don't use that they use?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: In general we follow the same operating practices as Alberta. I believe the weather is the significant factor in having a different condition of road. We certainly have invested more dollars and I think our maintenance schedules are probably more than what Alberta does, but I certainly can commit to the Member that we'll check with Alberta to see what they do. I believe our staff have already had several meetings with them. But if they do anything different than what we do, we can certainly bring that forward for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen. Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 134-16(3):
TAKE A KID TRAPPING PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about trapping in the Sahtu region. Not every student from the Sahtu wants to be a heavy equipment operator or an office manager or a doctor. A lot of the students here have indicated that trapping is a way of life for them and that will continue to be a way of life for them. I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI, in terms of the successful Take a Kid Trapping program, is this something that will be a long-standing commitment from this government to increase the funding or have the funding be more stabilized in terms of supporting these 51 students this year who have enrolled in this program?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Take a Kid Trapping program is one of our more successful programs. The primary idea was to give the youth in the Territories a choice so they could continue to practice a way of life and make some money while they're doing it. We foresee that with the success that we've had that it will continue for some time.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Take a Kid Trapping program is also included in the education curriculum in the Northwest Territories in terms of credits earned for different, I guess, credits in terms of their continuing education with the amount of programs that are done throughout the year. This program, is it a part of the curriculum of the Northwest Territories?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: This Take a Kid Trapping program and taking students out on the land has been incorporated into the curriculum of schools in the Northwest Territories. It is a credited program. We work very closely with the teachers. It has been very successful and very well received by the students.

MR. YAKELEYA: I spoke to a person in Tulita and this person took two young people out to a trapping program. This older person mentioned that these two young students did not want to come back into the community. They loved it out on the land. The training program, however, because of the funding, was cut short and they had to come back into the community. In terms of the Take a Kid Trapping program, is the Minister going to see if part of the funding could be increased in terms of having a longer success in the programs in the Northwest Territories?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The program has been in place for some time. There have been over 4,000

students who have gone through the program. As we go through the years, the sources of funding change from time to time. We've been successful in accessing a number of different funding programs. With the continued extension of the SINED program we're also looking at continuing to use the Conservation Trust Fund. Along with the education programs and partner departments from MACA and ECE we've been able to keep the program going.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the list of institutes that are helping with the Take a Kid Trapping program will the Minister with this department consider looking at establishing a Northwest Territories trapping institute for this type of program? I think this type of program is readily needed in our communities and this program, I think, will be one that will be a shining hallmark for all trapping institutes across Canada and the world. So this is something that's very important.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We do look at it from time to time, but most recently we approached it on a national level. We work very closely with the Fur Institute of Canada that deals with all the provinces and territories. That seems to work quite well. We always look at ways to improve on how we deal with trapping, so that's certainly something we'll continue to look at.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 135-16(3):
MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY ISSUES AT
STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement I talked about the issue of cleanliness and security at Stanton Hospital. It's been about two months since I raised this issue with the Minister and certainly since my constituent has e-mailed both me and the Minister on this concern. I'd like to know what the Minister has done to date to fix these two problems so we cannot just use it as a temporary solution but on a going forward basis that these problems have been addressed.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for bringing this issue up. I do want to correct one aspect of what the Member said. I'm in possession of the e-mail that the

constituent sent him and me and there's no indication there that an inmate who was staying at the hospital entered this room. The information he and I both have is that the patient was made aware that there was a gentleman across the hall who is an inmate and there were two guards outside of that door. The patient was advised if that inmate somehow entered the room -- and he never did -- that they should be notified as soon as possible.

With respect to what actions have been taken, I have responded to the constituent, and copied to the Member that all of the concerns that this constituent has brought up have been brought up to the management. In the interim there have been very close and intense discussions between the Stanton authority and Sodexho that their work at the hospital is not acceptable, that they had to improve. There is a close monitoring process in place. The management from Alberta has to come every two weeks, not every two months. Their work is closely monitored.

MR. HAWKINS: I'll deal with the two issues separately. Of course the cleanliness issue, I'm glad to hear that Sodexho is now sending someone on a regular basis. Have they been finally put on final notice that if they don't follow the program that they'll be gone specifically due to the cleanliness of this establishment?

HON. SANDY LEE: Sodexho provides services for the laundry and cleanliness for housekeeping as well as the kitchen services. They were, yes, advised that their services had to improve markedly or that the authority would consider all options including considering other contractors. My information is that since they have had that discussion in October the services have improved somewhat.

MR. HAWKINS: As far as the security details, I'll speak to the Minister privately as to the integrate details of it, but ultimately what provisions are in place when we have safety concerns with potential inmates? We have a designated area where inmates are able to receive the treatment they require at the hospital. Therefore, they're separated from regular patients at the same time. Do we have those types of provisions or designations in that hospital that can accommodate that?

HON. SANDY LEE: There is no separate unit for inmates. That would not be feasible because we don't have the capacity at the hospital. The rules are that inmates who are in the hospital have to be guarded by two guards. In that specific situation there were two guards outside the door.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 136-16(3):
LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENT ON
UNREGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and follow up on my Member's statement from earlier today.

The licensing requirements for nurses, physicians, pharmacists, midwives, and all those other type of related professions are already highly harmonized between NWT and provincial requirements across Canada. As such, changes to the Enhanced Labour Mobility Agreement won't have a negative impact on these professions. However, that's not true for all of the professions. Has the Department of Health and Social Services investigated the impact of the Enhanced Labour Mobility Agreement on unregulated health professions in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. The department has reviewed the implications of that Labour Mobility Agreement and our analysis doesn't suggest that agreement will have any impact on the unregulated professions in the territories or regulated professions in the NWT. It just allows better mobility of the people between jurisdictions and allows each jurisdiction to recognize the licensed professions from other jurisdictions, which is already done anyway. This just makes it more formal and easier.

MR. ABERNETHY: I agree with the regulated professions that it's actually going to expedite things and make things easier, but I'm still not convinced that for unregulated professionals it is going to make that easier. For instance, if you have a chiropractor in the South who wants to come and practice in the Northwest Territories and he's licensed through a southern institution or southern licensing body to come here where there is no licensing, it's going to be less appealing because his criteria or his qualifications and licence won't necessarily be recognized.

I'm curious, for instance, just as another example, in the Northwest Territories we have midwives. I mean, nurse practitioners. To be a nurse practitioner in the Northwest Territories you can go through an Aurora College program which you can get into with a diploma. In the South you pretty much have to have a master's degree to get an NP designation. How is something like that going to work on the way out? For nurse practitioners who want to look south for employment and nurse practitioners who want to look north for

employment, how does the lack of consistency between the mobility agreement affect our nurse practitioners?

HON. SANDY LEE: The Department of Health and Social Services regulates about 13 health related professions in the Territories by way of 12 legislations. The NWT is a very small jurisdiction. So even when we have enabling legislation what they usually do is we recognize the licenses or whatever certification the other provinces recognize in our territories. That is the case for doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, or any other legislation. So if we work to have a legislation for, say, massage therapists, the changes are what we would do is facilitate recognition of those professions as they are recognized in other professions. So most of our enabling legislation is facilitating what is already recognized. So any chiropractor recognized in another province would be recognized here in the same way.

MR. ABERNETHY: I hear what the Minister is saying. However, in talking with a bunch of the professionals in unregulated professions they still have some concerns about this mobility as a result of this Labour Mobility Agreement. In light of the ratification of the enhanced Labour Mobility Agreement, would the Minister of Health and Social Services commit to reconsider their legislative priorities and move forward with umbrella legislation for unregulated health professionals in the Northwest Territories? This legislation would add comfort and would ensure that the currently unregulated health professionals interested in coming to the Northwest Territories can have their credentials recognized in the NWT and similar for those individuals leaving to all jurisdictions in Canada.

HON. SANDY LEE: With or without the Labour Mobility Agreement and its implications to us, I think I am aware and have met with the massage therapists who would like to have their profession regulated in the territories. Their numbers are very tiny. As I mentioned to the Member earlier and in the House, we are looking to see how we could either regulate that profession or do it by way of alone or under umbrella legislation. There is about 50 pieces of legislation working its way through our government system. Eight of them are health and social services items and one of the eight is the massage therapy profession.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 137-16(3):
FUEL SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for income support, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

In my statement I made reference to two situations where two elderly ladies found themselves as widows trying to maintain their own homes and lifestyle. They are not getting any assistance from this government by way of income support or fuel subsidy. With regard to one case, with the cost of power in our communities, their monthly power bill is \$390 per month. Yet they're just barely making it with \$1,000 a month pension they receive.

I'd like to ask the Minister what we are doing to increase the thresholds to ensure elders have fuel in their homes to heat them during the winter months and not disallow them access to these programs. Are we re-profiling the programs to make them more accessible for elders? Elders who live in public housing pay \$20 a month.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we do provide various subsidy programs to the people of the Northwest Territories. Specifically for the seniors, there is a seniors' fuel subsidy that we offer and we've also made some changes, amendments to our program where we've increased income threshold to \$10,000 additional as of April 1st, 2008. So every now and then we meet with the elders and identify what the Member is alluding to here today. It's one of those areas that we listen to and make changes as needed. We have done that to one program where the income threshold has been changed. Certainly we continue to work with the communities we have and the seniors to look after them.

MR. KRUTKO: It's one thing to increase the income threshold by \$10,000, but what you're doing is putting people in a different class of fuel that they receive. I believe it's 400 litres that they receive. If you increase their income by \$10,000 they receive 400 litres to get them through the whole winter. That's not even one-tenth of a tank. I think it's important to realize that we have to have a system that really improves the lives of seniors in our communities and really makes a difference in their lifestyle so they don't have to move out of their homes and go into social housing.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he will seriously take a look at different communities in the Northwest Territories, the real cost of living, and ensure that

the programs we're delivering really make a difference in those communities.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly right now the current stage is there is different zoning. Individuals, the seniors living in Paulatuk or in Aklavik versus the southern part of the Northwest Territories, there's a different category. Seniors who live in the High Arctic, like the Beaufort-Delta as an example, will definitely get more increase in their income threshold. There are different zones. We have made changes there. We continue, like I said, to make these changes as needed, based on what we hear from the seniors and the MLAs. We do continue to look at those and I will continue to look into these subsidy programs that we have. If there are any changes to be made, we'll certainly seriously consider it.

MR. KRUTKO: I think also this government, I know it was recognized previously, has to take a close look at how we do the assessments on these seniors. What these seniors are stuck with is that they have family members living with them who may work in the summer months during the construction season, but because they are using the household income they are disqualified from seniors programs. Yet the only time they receive a fuel subsidy is in the winter months.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he would look at the possibility of classifying these programs as seasonal programs for those winter months and calculate it on those winter months when that fuel is being used to heat the home. Between October and April or whatever. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would consider looking at something like that so the seniors are not penalized because some activity has taken place in their homes during the summer months.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly penalizing our elders and our seniors is not one of our mandates. We are there for them. We'd like to provide more subsidies as we can. Certainly there are reviews being undertaken on how to deal with the subsidies for seniors. We realize there are family members living with their grandmothers or grandparents and some, unfortunately, are taking advantage of the system. Some are working at the mines and are not claiming their household income. That does have an impact on the seniors from that perspective. At the same time, I've instructed my department to find out how we can work around the system where we don't penalize the elders or seniors. Looking after those individuals who could be making \$90,000 or \$100,000 a year; let's focus on them. Certainly Members have asked if we look at this overall review on the seniors' perspective and we are doing that right now.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I stated, using this elder's income, her pension alone is about \$1,000 a month. It works out to about \$12,000 a year. This senior cannot get any support from this government because she made \$12,000 from her pension. That is discrimination on the basis of a senior who is trying to maintain a home, yet someone living in social housing is costing this government \$20,000 a year. There has to be a fairer process with regard to the seniors in our communities, especially in our high-cost communities where they have a \$390-a-month bill. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can do something specially for those communities that are isolated where we have high-cost communities to find a way that we're not totally putting our seniors out in the cold because they made \$12,000 in their pensions and are not getting any help from this government. What can the Minister do about that?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The pensioner, whether it be the \$12,000 or other figures that may be out there, there are certain household income thresholds that we have to deal with. But if it's correct, that \$12,000, then the senior should qualify for subsidy unless there is other household income within the home. It's on a case-by-case basis, but certainly I did commit already that we are looking at reviewing our subsidy program specifically for seniors. I will be coming back to the standing committee to give them an update of any changes that will be undertaken.

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

QUESTION 138-16(3):
POLICY LIMITING DISPOSABLE
BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

MS. BISARO: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Premier in the absence of the Minister of ENR today. I spoke in my Member's statement about what we can do as a government for the environment. I'd like to ask the Premier what currently exists for the GNWT in regard to limiting the use of disposable products in our buildings and in our activities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a number of programs that are run during an office spaces posting; notices about recycling, reuse. The message is being sent out there by ENR. As for actual policies about what the Member raised in her Member's statement, I'd have

to go back to the Minister and get that information and have that provided to the Member.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Premier for advising that he'll get back to me. I talked in my statement about getting started and I'd like to know whether or not we can get started. Is the Premier willing to look at putting a policy in place which would stem the tide of non-disposable items?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We'd be prepared to look at the suggestion that the Member has made and get back to her and Members to see what possibilities there are that we could look at and may put in place.

MS. BISARO: We could look at it. I thank you for that sort of semi-commitment, I think.

---Interjection

MS. BISARO: Perhaps, maybe. Yes. I'd like to ask the Premier whether or not he can be a little more forceful in his commitment. Actions speak louder than words, in my belief, and if we're going to indicate that we are at all interested in saving our environment, I think this government ought to lead the way. So what is the Minister willing to commit to to preserve the impacts on our environment relative to disposable bottles and mugs and cups?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: What I will commit to is looking at what we have in place as well as how we can expand that program to include and get that information back to the Members working through the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you for that more forceful commitment to the Premier. I guess my next question would be when I can expect a reply.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I know there is a program we're working on called Greening the Government and I'll have to again go back to the Minister responsible for the area and have him provide timelines as well.

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

QUESTION 139-16(3):
REDUCED FUEL RATE RIDER

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation some questions on the rate riders and the current drop in fuel prices. I know that in previous questions the Minister had indicated that they're not going to be doing anything for three years before they reassess the general

rate application. But the fact remains that the opportunity is now, the point of power is in the moment to reduce the rate riders or do a reverse rate rider. I'd like to ask the Minister if they can look at doing a reverse rider and take this opportunity to pass those cost savings on to our customers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of fuel riders in our communities that have diesel generation. Those, again, are for fuel that was consumed in previous years. That is the change. Once they hit the revenue that they were targeted for, those riders would drop off. They don't have to wait for three years in those particular instances. They are set out in place through the PUB and a certain revenue number has to be achieved. At that point it would drop off. I could get more detail for the Member on that. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I was just curious that as soon as the fuel prices went up, they had no problem increasing the rates, Mr. Speaker. Now that the fuel prices have come down, they are kind of wobbling on giving the rebate back to the customer. I would like to ask again, will the Minister consider some kind of reverse rider that will benefit the consumers of our NWT Power Corporation? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, let's get the facts out there so that Members and the public know what we are speaking about. The fuel price and rate riders that went up were fuel that was consumed in the previous years. It was not because of last year's resupply on its own. The rate riders, you have to prove your cost and go through that system with the Public Utilities Board. The number of rate riders has been put in place. Once the revenue number has been achieved, they will drop off. I will get that list for Members so that they have all the information. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: The great increases in people's individual power bills doesn't concur with the facts as brought to us. The next general rate application is in three years. Is there a way or mechanism in our Public Utilities Board or else through the Power Corporation to look at decreasing the rates as a result of the benefit of lower fuel costs this winter? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation does provide the power generation and distribution. We receive our fuel at the same time as petroleum products division delivers in many of our communities and we pay for the product when it is delivered. So we had to pay the higher price in many of our communities and live with that. That is

part of the reason that the rate rider went forward on that basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to be repetitive, but my question is, will the Minister talk with the NWT Power Corporation and look at some kind of mechanism, some way of instituting a reverse rate rider or an adjustment applied to the PUB for an adjustment to the existing rate riders so that they can take the advantage of the lower fuel costs and that can be passed on to the customers of the NWT Power Corporation? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I believe that if it can be shown that the targets that were approved overachieved, in the sense return more revenue than was anticipated, then that could be looked at. Right now I haven't had any indication that we have hit that. Again, the prices and the adjustment that went forward on the last general rate application was based on fuel that was purchased and used in previous years with some estimates for the 2007-08 year. I will get information as to the process and provide that to Members. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 140-16(3):
MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY ISSUES AT
STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I did have a chance between my last question to the Minister of Health and Social Services and now to reconfirm that incident that I referred to at the Stanton Hospital about the inmate coming for a visit in the room of a constituent. The bottom line really for me is not about perhaps the correspondence happened to miss the Minister or not. That is not the issue. The important thing is, do we have protocols in place to ensure that this doesn't happen again? Mr. Speaker, my constituent will come forward and speak personally with the Minister, if she would like to verify that fact, but ultimately do we have protocols in place to ensure this won't happen in the future? Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, first let me just make it clear that the constituent brought up a number of issues that are quite serious and the authority and all of the responsible officials have looked into it and are looking into it and have

committed to follow up to make sure that some of those incidents do not happen. With respect to having an inmate in the hospital, yes there is a protocol in place. They are to be guarded at all times by two guards. We will make sure that is followed through and that the work is done properly. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, that is good to hear. If I could take this one step further, Mr. Speaker, in the event that somehow this doesn't happen, has the hospital ever considered creating a bit of a designated area that inmates coming for much needed medical services that they probably do deserve as well, but has the Stanton Hospital ever considered designating a more secure area for them just to make sure this type of incident doesn't happen again in the future? All the protocols we could have in place, sometimes things happen. I just want to make sure that it doesn't turn into. I wish we had done this differently. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: There is a constant shortage of beds and staff there. I do not know the number of cases where we have inmates in the hospital, so I am not aware if there is a plan for that. I think the important thing is, though, that we strictly enforce the protocol where there is an inmate as an inpatient that that inmate has to always be guarded by two guards and that is the policy. We need to make sure that is followed through rather than creating a separate hospital for inmates. I will undertake to look to see what the frequency is of the inmates using the hospital. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, this constituent spoke to the fact that this happened a couple of times on the stay and that perhaps maybe it is because this inmate originally had this room. They kept wandering back into it to use the washroom. It was witnessed even by hospital staff. Fortunately, there was no incident that occurred other than this scenario of them showing up, but the protocols of the guards appears to be one of the significant issues. I am just thankful it wasn't a violent person in this type of situation. That could have made it worse.

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking to create a new hospital. Do we have an area tucked off to the side that is still within the hospital that we could designate as these types of rooms for security reasons? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't want to debate the facts here, but the Member and I both have written documents from the constituent where she laid out 20 points. One of the points has to do with the fact that an inmate was staying across the hall and that she felt, obviously, very uncomfortable. The hospital services and beds are very precious as we know. I think the important thing is that we make

sure that an inmate is isolated from the general population. That is being done and that will be enforced. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. A short final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like a commitment from the Minister that, first of all, would she be willing to sit down with this constituent of mine and me to go through this matter so she can hear from the family's point of view what they went through. As well, there was a commitment to follow up in writing to this constituent. When I called her a few minutes ago, she said no one has done that. Can I get that cleared up here today? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: There must have been some kind of mix-up because I do have a letter in front of me that we sent to the constituent on January 15th that was copied to the Member. I would be happy to follow that up and make sure that the Member has a copy. Yes, I would be happy to meet with the constituent, if that's what the MLA and the constituent wishes, and also follow up with the hospital to make sure that the concerns that she has brought up are being addressed.

I do want to add one more thing that some of these problems that Members, I mean the constituency bring, point out to problematic areas, but we also get e-mails from people who have very excellent service from Stanton. I just want to make sure we put those two in perspective. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 141-16(3):
MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY ISSUES AT
STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask another question about the highway, but I have to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services this because this issue has caught my attention, because recently I had a constituent staying at Stanton Hospital and I heard exactly the same story where this person came into their room. They felt like their privacy and their space had been invaded. They were told exactly the same thing: Oh, that person needs to stay in this room and that's why they keep coming back to this room. My gosh, how long has this person been in the hospital? Are they still there?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The incident that I am aware of happened somewhere in December and we followed that up just before Christmas. It's the time that the constituent contacted us. I followed up with the constituent in January and I will look to see...Perhaps we are just talking about one incident where it looks like this person...I understand this person used to stay in the room that the constituent's mother was staying. So I will inquire as to what happened and what measures are taken to make sure that doesn't happen again. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, the incident that I speak of has occurred within the last month. So this is not something that happened back in December. This wandering patient that we seem to have at the hospital, it would be interesting to know if they are still the hospital and how many different rooms they stayed in because I got exactly the same story passed on to me by my constituent saying at the hospital. Staff said, I'm sorry, this gentleman used to stay in this room and that's why he was in your room. This is just something fairly recent. So maybe the Minister could investigate for us and get back to us on whether this individual, this wandering patient, is maybe a permanent resident of the hospital or something and how many different rooms did they stay in. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I will undertake to inquire with Stanton Hospital to see what details we could get respecting the privacy rights of patients that stay there, but I will undertake to get to all the Members in confidence what information I can get. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 142-16(3):
COST OF LIVING ISSUES AFFECTING ELDERS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. In my statement, I made reference to a senior who was having some housing problems. They received a house from the Housing Corporation through one of their programs in 1996, 12 years ago. Since then, the elder was telling me they have gone through four stoves, three fridges, washer and dryer and they complain to the Power Corporation that there was an electrical problem with the unit when they moved in. Today the elder, through her family members, purchased the washer and dryer and fridge and stove and again the same problem happened just recently. Again, the elder used her residential school money to purchase these things. She cannot afford to continue to purchase these appliances in her home. Mr.

Speaker, this is a Housing Corporation package that was provided to this elder. She is a widow. She's living on a pension. It's a serious problem. So I would like to ask the Minister of Housing is there anything your corporation can do to assist this elder, knowing this is a Housing Corporation package and when people move into these homes, there are certain inspections done, electrical, mechanical and whatnot. Yet, there seems to be a very serious electrical problem. What can you do in this case? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are probably a number of things that the individual can do. The house was built in 1996. It may be time for the individual to look at doing an assessment, especially in light of the numerous electrical problems. I guess they could call in an electrician to come in and do an assessment. There is Arctic Energy Alliance that is also available to see if there are any malfunctions with the power surges or things of that nature, or they could come to the Housing Corporation and apply for some form of assistance if they think that would help them alleviate some of the challenges they are facing. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: That's exactly what this elder has done. She's gone to the Housing Corporation, she's filled out applications, she's asked them to come in to inspect her home and I believe I also went in and inspected her home with people from the Housing Corporation in Inuvik. Today, 12 years later, this problem is still there. I know, as a corporation, I feel they do have some responsibility here if you can prove these electrical shortages have caused these appliances to falter. They do have a responsibility. Can the Minister personally look at the possibility of having someone from the Housing Corporation go into this elder's home, bring an electrician along with you because there are no electricians in McPherson, and do a thorough assessment to get to the problem? You have the people; you have the tools; get it done.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we certainly could have someone talk to the Member to see what the individual's situation is. I would have to be convinced that there is only her living in this unit if they are utilizing \$300 or \$400 worth of power. That's an excess of 900 to 1,000 kilowatts for one individual. I can certainly commit to have somebody get the name from the Member and we can follow it up. Mr. Speaker, the warranty period for these units are usually one year, so the warranty has expired on that unit, I would expect. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Regardless of whose home it is, when you have an electrical problem that is shorting out your appliance, there is something wrong with the system and you have to pinpoint the system. It could be the Power Corporation with regard to the meter system that's being used, the electrical box or not having the unit grounded right. I mean it could be a matter of things, but again until people actually physically go in there and do the review and inspections and electrical costs...Again, we are talking about a widow who cannot continue to afford to maintain a unit, pay this kind of money replacing her appliances every other month or year, it's costing this person a lot of money just to live in that home and maintain it on a pensioner's income. Will the Minister personally get involved with myself and try to get to the bottom of this so we don't continue dragging this on for another 12 years?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We have a very generous program when it comes to seniors. We provide up to \$90,000 in repairs. We remove most of the restrictions. We've removed the barriers that required only one-time application so the seniors and others can reapply. I am personally not going to go and start checking electricity in units. I certainly can commit to look at the situation. We can get the Member's cooperation, give us the name. I'd have to be convinced that the person applied and didn't get accepted if they are only making \$1,000 a month, Mr. Speaker. Our programs are designed to accommodate the seniors and I would have to look at the details of that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he has a heart for our elders with regard to our communities, because this elder didn't come to me because she didn't have a problem. She came because she's got a problem. As MLAs, we have an opportunity to serve our constituents. If that's the reply we are going to get from the Ministers, no wonder our elders are coming to us to try to solve their problems. So I would like to ask the Minister, could you have someone from the Inuvik office drive to Fort McPherson, go into this elder's home and see what this corporation can do to help this elder?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: That's not the question he raised with me asking if I would personally look into the issue. I said I'd commit to having our staff do exactly what he's saying. So I think he's answered his own question. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 143-16(3):
POLICY REGARDING MEDICAL
TRAVEL ESCORTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services a question about the ability of community members to travel as an escort with their elders. I know it was previously raised, but the issue that has been raised to me in my smaller communities is it's often the same persons that are making these medical escort trips. I know when they come to Yellowknife, it's often overnight, maybe three days at the most, but even though there is food and lodging provided, the people who are helping out the elders often come here with little or no money at all. I would just like to ask the Minister, does she have a plan to address this or is she going to address this issue? I know it's been raised many times. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical travel provides for a medical escort for somebody who needs assistance for their physical reasons or those who need interpreting services. As far as I am aware, the medical escorts would get per diem for the services they provide. So I will look into...If there is some detailed information on that individual situation, I would be happy to look into that for the Member. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Yes, I would be pleased to follow up with the Minister on this particular issue because the issues that are raised with me are there is no per diem. They are coming here with little or no money for two days at a time. So I am just saying we need a strategy. These people are actually interpreting, so maybe a per diem could be for the interpreting, not so much for the escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Medical Travel Program is always overspent. It's always oversubscribed. So I am not sure if we have the resources to pay people for travelling, but I think it's reasonable to assume that we should be able to feed these people and make sure they have lodging. I thought that we did, so I will look into that. It may be also a situation of NIHB rates for medical travel which is a federal program and I know that they haven't increased their rates for many years, but it's not to do with the GNWT. So I will have to get more details from the Member. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Once again, I would be pleased to follow up on the issue and what's actually happened is it's often the same people who are making these trips, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I think medical staff are finding it hard to send the elders

when they have nobody stepping up to the plate, no escort. So this is an issue that I would like to ask the Minister to develop a strategy around and if there is a per diem rate, either from medical travel and/or if she can check with NIHB with regard to that. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I will undertake to look at the details of that and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The time for question period has expired. 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. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee; Committee Report 3-16(3), Report on the Use of Laptop Computers and Blackberry Devices in the Legislative Assembly; Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act; Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act; Bill 4, Public Library Act; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. By the authority given me as Speaker by Motion 10-16(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. We are looking at Tabled Document 7-16(3), Committee Report 2-16(3), Committee Report 3-16(3), Tabled Document 11-16(3), Bills 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee today wishes to go to the Department of Justice and, time permitting, the NWT Housing Corporation budget in that order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. We'll commence with the

Department of Justice after we take a short break. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010. Committee has also agreed to review the Department of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, if he would like to provide some opening comments at this time.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Mr. Minister.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to present the Department of Justice's main estimates for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The main estimates propose an operations and maintenance budget of \$93.488 million, an increase of 3 percent over the 2008-2009 main estimates. This consists primarily of forced growth and strategic initiatives in policing, family violence and community justice.

The justice system is experiencing similar socio-economic pressures felt elsewhere in the GNWT. Our costs are rising and we must respond to a crime rate that is seven times the national average.

Our services and supports must respond to these pressures and ultimately to the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories. In a time where there aren't a lot of resources, it is vital that we not simply react to these pressures. We must make changes that meet the needs of the people that are also fiscally responsible. We need to provide a corrections system that rehabilitates offenders. We have to support victims and provide a justice system that responds to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. We must ensure there are appropriate policing services in all of our communities

During 2009-2010, we plan to make financial investments in priority areas: policing, family violence, community justice and maintaining service levels in all programs.

I'd like to briefly outline the budget of this department. There are six areas of activity in our main estimates.

Services To Government

The department provides a range of legal services to the government. This work is almost always done in-house at a significantly lower cost than contracting private lawyers. Our staff lawyers draft legislation and provide legal advice to all Ministers, departments and many public agencies. Legal translators prepare the French versions of bills and regulations, as well as public materials with legal considerations. The \$8.9 million budgeted for services to government also includes work like providing financial services, improving supports to families in conflict, and the policy research required to develop new legislation.

Law Enforcement

Just over \$31 million has been budgeted for law-enforcement activities contracted to the RCMP. This Assembly has indicated that policing is a priority, especially policing in smaller communities. I was proud to be a part of the official reopening of the detachment in Sachs Harbour this past summer. In the coming years, we will open new detachments in Wrigley and Gamètì. The hiring is almost done, and we are now just waiting for the federal government to put the infrastructure in place.

The main estimates include \$675,000 in strategic investment and \$1.7 million in forced growth funding to the RCMP. This includes funding for salary and pension increases, additional public servant positions, additional positions for the operations and communication centre, another dog unit to help the new federal officers who will work full time on drug interception all over our Territory, especially the transportation networks like our highways and airports. It also includes three new officers to improve service to the smaller communities. Although we cannot afford to put detachments in all communities, we can take steps to increase police presence. This can be done by increasing the number of officers in our existing detachments which, in turn, allows the RCMP to do more patrols.

Legal Aid Services

The Legal Services Board's budget is approximately \$5 million. That covers the NWT's share of the costs of operating three legal aid clinics in Yellowknife and Inuvik that provide legal services to NWT residents who cannot afford a lawyer. The board also provides court worker and public legal education programs. These programs are available to all residents, regardless of their income.

Courts

The department provides funding and administrative support to the NWT courts. The total budget of approximately \$10.6 million covers the Justice of the Peace Court Program, Territorial Court, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, court libraries and reporters, and the three court registries. The 2009-2010 main estimates includes a reduction in funding for the court library; however, it is important to note that we will continue to provide the same services in a smaller, more efficient space.

Community Justice And Corrections

The proposed main estimates include additional reductions in this area through increased efficiency in our larger facilities. It is one of the few areas of the Justice budget with discretionary spending. This government is required to provide facilities to house adult and youth territorial offenders. However, the way we provide custody and programming has some flexibility. We will continue to provide the full range of programming with greater efficiency by reviewing the way these services are delivered.

In total, \$33.2 million has been budgeted for adult and young offender facilities, probation, wilderness camps, and cultural programs to support the rehabilitation of offenders. Our correctional facilities provide targeted programming to help offenders with the issues that originally contributed to their crimes. Our goal is to rehabilitate and release offenders to their communities with the supports they need to become law-abiding, productive members of society. This budget also funds victim services, crime prevention and diversion programs in communities, and includes additional funding for the creation and implementation of a strategy to reduce alcohol and drug related crime.

Services To The Public

The \$3.9 million budgeted for services to the public includes funding for the coroner's office, the public trustee, the rental office, legal registries and the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

In 2009-2010, the department is projecting a 4 percent increase in revenue in this area. This is related to projected increases in land titles and legal registries revenue collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. I look forward to discussing it with you in more detail. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Would you like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you. Minister Lafferty, can I get you to please introduce your witnesses?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have with me, to my left, Bronwyn Watters, deputy minister of Justice; and, to my right, Kim Schofield, director of finance. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Before opening the floor to general comments, is committee agreed that we have all Members do their comments before we go to the Minister for his response? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you. I will now open the floor to general comments on the Department of Justice. Anyone? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Lafferty for your opening comments on your department. I wanted to make some brief points here in your presentation and certainly we'll be looking for more information once we get to the detail of the budget here.

I know that for any of the other departments, we're always underfunded for some of the needs in our small communities. So it's no surprise that I am going to make mention of the policing services in Colville Lake. Many other communities don't have an RCMP station in their communities and Colville Lake has continued over the years requesting a detachment to be established there. I certainly want to say I support Gameti and Wrigley and it's been noted at the last Assembly that the then-Minister of Justice indicated to me that Colville Lake would be the next area they look at in terms of having an RCMP detachment there. I look forward to working with this Minister and this department to see if the day will come when Colville Lake will have a permanent RCMP presence in their community. How we go about that will be up to you and your department to figure out in terms of where and how funding can be directed to that issue.

Again, those are the issues I'll be hitting on this Minister about to seek more presence of the RCMP in Colville Lake. The Minister is under a lot of pressure because there are other communities that

will be asking for the same thing, but I look forward to this Minister's leadership to see where we can see an increase in RCMP presence in Colville Lake. Hopefully one day he can announce in the House that Colville Lake will be getting an RCMP station. I'm looking forward to that.

The other issue I'll be asking the Minister to do with the support of our community justice committees is in our small communities, where they are tasked with an enormous amount of work to work with the communities; work within the legal system; work with the aboriginal justice areas; and they are given a lot of responsibilities. At the same time we need to back up our efforts and initiatives for these types of programs in our communities with some good resources and solid commitment in terms of funding, training, and just all around justice committee development in terms of how we can better our communities by establishing a strong justice committee. I'm going to look for the Minister's direction in terms of how to implement the aboriginal justice system into the community. I'll be asking the Minister some questions on that and how they're working with the federal government to implement some of the aboriginal justice initiatives. I know the Minister is going to make some announcements as to his discussions with Cabinet and the federal government.

In closing, regarding the operations of various initiatives Justice has undertaken and reviewed, I will be asking the Minister about the Arctic Tern Facility in Inuvik with the number of dollars that we're contributing to that facility, with the amount of people in that facility, with the ratio of staff to the number of people going through the facility and the amount of dollars we're spending on that facility. I'm going to ask the Minister, when we get into details, about more specifics on that facility and plans for that facility. In the words of government, we're looking for efficiencies and effectiveness. What my understanding is at this time -- and I stand to be corrected by the Minister and his department -- in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, I think this one here really needs to be re-evaluated and looked at in terms of what to do with this type of facility with the type of programming it has and with this amount of money. If that's the way it's going to be, then I can see reasons why we don't have some policing in some communities. A lot of money is going to facilities that need to be looked at again. Because it involves people and human beings, it's very sensitive and difficult at times because you're talking about people's lives. That's the balance.

I'm looking to the Minister in terms of leadership from this Cabinet on how to make choices. Communities without RCMP, facilities that are run not very efficiently. Those are tough choices and decisions that need to be made. I look forward to the Minister's leadership and direction as to who we

serve. It's very hard for all of us as Assembly Members to get the best for our people, when you have a number of communities without RCMP members, whole communities, it's not very hard to give the logical decision where the money should be spent.

Those are some of the things that I'm going to bring up with this department through the detailed items on the budget. I look forward to the Minister's discussions with the federal government regarding national initiatives that could support our communities in terms of justice. I look forward to some creative opportunities where the Minister and his department can see the benefit of going outside the box, so to speak. I know the Minister has done that in terms of the wilderness camp in my region, for which I want to congratulate him because it's a very successful program. The department has done a lot of hard work and persistence and encouragement and tweaking of the wilderness program and trying to fit it within the system. Sometimes the system doesn't want to participate, so we have to look at other ways where we can make it work. It's been very successful, so I want to give kudos to the department for staying the course, staying with the vision of the people, to the Sahtu specifically, to the people in Fort Good Hope, to make this program work. In that type of commitment and desire, we could see things work. It requires a lot of work. This system has been in the Northwest Territories for some time. However, our people have been in the Territories longer than that. When we try something new I think we need to wholeheartedly look at how it evolves over time. I want to let the Minister know, in front of the House and his staff, that I certainly appreciate the patience and cooperation for a wilderness camp like this in the region in the hope that they will continue with this type of funding.

Those are my general comments. I will be back with more when we get into the detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in regard to the Minister's opening remarks, I'd like to thank him and his department and the government for re-opening the detachment this past summer in Sachs Harbour. I was there about three weeks ago and I didn't get a chance to see the members, but I asked the SAO how they're doing in the community. It's a good fit. Everything is going well. So thank you again to your department, Mr. Lafferty, and staff.

Just another thing in regard to the legal aid services, how important it is to have our court workers and the legal aid education programs that are being put on by the department. It's a very

important role in the smaller communities where there's no access to any lawyers or anything until they come in prior to court day. The young offenders' facility, Arctic Tern, per se, it's good to see that we're going to keep it open. A lot of people rely on that and they're doing a good job in Inuvik.

The budget also funds the Victim Services and crime prevention and diversification programs in communities. It's good to see that we're heading that way to try to prevent instead of always having to maintain. That's all I have to say right now. I look forward to going page by page with the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Next on the list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief. Just in response to the Minister's opening comments. Under law enforcement I'm interested to hear what's happening with the Special Constable Program that has been talked about. I don't sit on the Social Programs committee, so pardon me if my questions seem uninformed in some way.

Under community justice and corrections the comment that our goal is to rehabilitate and release offenders to their communities with the supports that they need to become law-abiding, productive members of society...I'd like to know if the Minister has available any statistics on recidivism, how we're making out on rehabilitation efforts over the last while. Are we making progress? Is it the status quo? I'm interested in that.

Just one other thing which maybe doesn't really fall into the budget, but it affects the corrections facility. This is the issue of being contacted by numerous workers in the corrections facilities and, I don't know, maybe this is a question better for the floor of the House, but with respect to the new rules they're imposing for smoking on the grounds. Most territorial government facilities you cannot smoke in the building, but you can smoke somewhere on the grounds. Even at the Legislative Assembly here you can go beyond the green line and smoke on the grounds. But it would appear that people who work in corrections now are going to be treated somewhat differently in that they will not be able to smoke anywhere on the premises. That is a question that's been raised to me by numerous constituents of mine who work in the corrections facility, as we are fortunate to have the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre in Hay River.

Those are my points. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Groenewegen. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: For the record, I just wish to go over some of the Social Programs committee

recommendations. Committee expects to learn more about the department's plan to ensure that communities without detachments continue to have services or just the Minister of Justice to increase access to funding the positions to the First Nations Policing Policy.

For the community justice programs, committee acknowledged the importance of these programs and the need for community justice committees to have increased support and training from the Department of Justice.

The committee supports the proposed changes to the Arctic Tern facility and expects the Minister will implement recommendations resulting from the facilities review.

The support for changes in the role of the court workers. Committee supports the work being done to enhance the role of the court workers in assisting clients with civil and family law matters as well.

As far as the family violence programs go, the committee supports the implementation of phase two of the action plan and funding of the programs for men who abuse, and encourages the Minister of Justice to initiate programs to support and resolve issues for families in conflict.

In the area of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, the committee supports the work of the Department of Justice; the support that the Department of Justice is initiating with regard to clients and inmates with FASD.

In the legal aid services, the committee encourages the Minister to keep working to resolve the backlog in the system.

As far as the Minister's opening comments, just, I guess, once we get down to the details of the department going page by page, I would be interested also, as Mrs. Groenewegen indicated, in what was called the Special Constable Program, but the name has changed to Community Policing Program, I believe.

I'm also interested in how the department is dealing with the backlog in legislation that has been proposed from the various departments and whether or not the department has now dealt with at one time, which was a process that was fairly slow and that the people who were putting legislative proposals together or the departments that were putting legislative proposals together and Justice didn't have the lawyers there to be able to deal with developing that legislation as quickly as I think the departments would like. I'd just be asking in that area to see if that has changed. That's it for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I, too, would like to thank the Minister for making an attempt to try to increase the police presence in the community of Tsiigehtchic. It's a start, but at the end of the day the community would like to see officers in the community permanently, if that's possible. It is a start and the Minister should be commended for thinking outside the box and coming forward with an initiative that hopefully will improve policing and services in our small, isolated communities.

I, too, have concerns regarding the young offenders' facility in Inuvik. Last time I checked, there were four individuals in there. For a facility that should have a lot more people in there it is a wasted facility such that the capacity is not being utilized. For the number of staff per inmate, it's not justified.

We have to start looking at other types of facilities, such as wilderness camps. We have programs that have been delivered for the Department of Justice that were pilot projects but we don't seem to have gotten anywhere with them.

We do have to work on dealing with the issue with regard to abuse and the issue around rehabilitation of clients so that we are able to assist them so when they are released, at least they have the tools to identify their problems and the means to deal with them. There was a program that was developed through the TI'oondih Healing Society with the Department of Justice looking at a program that integrated people back into society. They take a program prior to their release from a correctional system. It was a pilot project and there were results from that. I think it's important that we build on that. Because of decisions with regard to how Justice is being funded, those programs don't really exist. You have wilderness camps on your list of things that can be considered. I know that issue has been here as long as I have. I know at one point Fort Resolution and Aklavik were designated for these type of wilderness camps for the Department of Justice. That's going back to the 13th Assembly. Nothing came of it. We continue to look at the wilderness camp in the confines of having individuals choose if they want to go there or not. A lot of times that's the downfall of the program for the individuals who want to provide that type of service or program for inmates and people who invest in these camps.

I think we also have to look at the First Nations Policing Policy in light of First Nations governance in the Northwest Territories. It should not be considered only a Government of the Northwest Territories issue; it should be an aboriginal issue. It is to provide First Nations policing in the confines of

what happens in the rest of Canada where there is First Nations policing on reserves. You have First Nations in large aboriginal urban centres. I think there's no difference than that in the Northwest Territories where 50 percent of our population is aboriginal. I think that we, as government, have to not only look at it simply as a policy where you can train people but also a policy where you can really make a difference between the First Nations governments, the RCMP, the Department of Justice, all working together to improve justice, policing and enforcement in our communities. I think it is something that this government has to seriously take hold of and expand, especially when we are in the process of renewing that contract now with the federal government. I think also we have to see if there are other federal programs we can tie similarly to programs that are on First Nations reserves in southern Canada and see if we can bring them to the Northwest Territories, which are basically dollars that are accessed for First Nations communities.

Again I would like to raise an issue that I raised in this House before; it is the whole complaints process that we have in place. I think the government has to do or the Department of Justice and the RCMP have to do a better job of promoting the system that they use dealing with complaints. It has to be publicized. It has to be posted in communities so the people know that there is a system in place that people can file complaints in regards to an officer or in regards to an incident that occurred or an individual feels that their fundamental human rights have been violated. I think, again, as the Department of Justice, the more checks and balances that you have, the more transparency and openness that we have of our justice system, I think the more that we are able to allow the people and the public, the people in our communities, to feel that they are a part of the justice system and not the other way around. It is them and us.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to asking him a few questions as we go through the budget.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to raise a couple of issues and also give the Minister and the government a pat on the back as well, I suppose. The improvements to community policing, such as in Wrigley, is very well applauded and the community is very happy about that and the establishment of even right now they are calling it a patrol cabin, but it is absolutely a start for the community of Wrigley. It is something that we have been looking forward to for some time. The return of professional services to a small town like Wrigley will certainly increase...I am looking at

the population increasing again, because a lot of people were actually moving out because of lack of services. This is one way that our government and the federal government are helping our community.

As well, in the budget, it speaks about the Deh Cho staffing in the community of Fort Liard. The staffing there is very welcome. Increasing the complement also means increasing the ability of the officers there to do their job. Often they get conflicted because there is holiday time and training time that members are out of the community, and having additional resources certainly goes a long way to community policing and the many struggles that the community does have. That is a big thing. I will thank him on behalf of my communities.

In the other small communities that don't have detachments, the issues are still surrounding response time and the ability of RCMP visits. If I would say anything, in general, for me as MLA for the Nahendeh riding -- I have six small communities in my riding -- is that we are increasing patrols and public and also in the schools, some exposure in the schools, that go a long way in showing the community that community policing is alive and well. Just having a resource to get out to the communities goes a long way.

I've got one particular issue with Trout Lake. They wanted to actually sit down with the RCMP to discuss their particular policing needs. This is one community -- I am sure there are others throughout the North -- that has a community initiative of actually following traditional culture of banning individuals who are troublesome. They are looking for a way to do it. I have raised it previously, but due to mobility guidelines and federal legislation, it just doesn't work. But I believe the Government of the Northwest Territories can provide means and ways of supporting our cultural aspect of actually not having people in the community that are disruptive or harmful and, in some cases, dangerous, because it does happen once in a while. I think it is the ability of the community to say, look, this is how we have always addressed it culturally and we would like to address it again. It is about addressing that concern that we really have to look at.

As well, the community justice as a whole in our small communities is still looking for support. They are looking for training opportunities and workshops about the role of our justice committees. I know, at one point, we put full resources behind it and now it is somewhat limited but still needed in our communities. That is something that I would urge the department is a concern in the communities. The communities are looking for the resources for their desire to make their community healthy. This is one of the justice committees that did work and they want it to work again. I continue to support

that. I'm glad to see that there are some resources, but not enough. In the coming new year, I would urge the Justice ministry to look at that and evaluate it and do their best with the resources that they have to assist the communities that do want to move on with their community visits.

I just wanted to touch on those few issues that are particular to my riding, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Minister. I look forward to working through the budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I have no other Members on my list. Is the committee agreed that there are no further general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. I will allow the Minister an opportunity to respond to general comments. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I appreciate the members' concerns, remarks, ideas and suggestions to our Department of Justice. There are certain areas that have been touched on. First of all, Colville police detachment that the Member from that region alluded to. There have been some great works in our department where we have identified an additional resource for Fort Good Hope to deal with Colville. I know it doesn't solve having a detachment in the community, but I think this is a great start. Sure, I would love to have police detachments in all communities. Some day we will be in a position to open a detachment in Colville and other communities that are without a detachment. I am looking forward to that as well.

The Community Justice Program, Mr. Chairman, certainly that is the area that we tend to focus on continuously, because I see that as part of a preventive measurement. Working with the community elders, working with the RCMP, the judge and the committee and coordinators at the community level there, we can make great strides in this program. So we are currently reviewing the program, what is working and what is not working, pros and cons, and how we can strengthen that. We have heard over and over how we can strengthen this program, so we are doing that as we speak, Mr. Chairman.

With regards to the Arctic Tern facility, we will certainly get into more detail at a later time on how the facility is operating, the cost of it and so forth. The review has been undertaken. The review has been passed on to our department from PWS as well. Our department is currently reviewing the technical aspect of the report. It is an ongoing discussion that we are having.

Mr. Chairman, I've heard about thinking outside the box. We currently don't have a box that we work with. I erased that box when I first got on board, so it doesn't exist. My staff has been very creative and innovative in dealing with various issues. We will continue to work with the Members and with the general public on the particular items.

The land program, as the Member from Sahtu alluded to, has been very successful in that region. We want to continue delivering that program. I am happy to say, for the Member for Sahtu, that there will be e-mails going into your region this coming Thursday. So we are making progress on moving things along. That has been in the works for some time now. At some point in time I would like to see more of these programs into the regions. That is one of our mandates on a moving-forward basis. Certainly it is one of the focuses. Yes, it was a great story opening Sachs Harbour detachment. It has been a great story for the Northwest Territories, for the community, for the elders in that particular community. We are looking forward to more opening of detachments. Gameti, Wrigley and other communities such as Colville are ones without detachments.

The Special Constable Program, Mr. Chairman, has been brought up on numerous occasions every time we visit the communities. Now it is referred to as Community Policing Program. The Northwest Territories has been identified for three out of 32 positions, so we are very lucky. We are happy that the federal government allocated three out of 32, so that was a huge initiative undertaken by this government. We continue to voice our uniqueness and our concern working with this system. We rarely get these kinds of numbers from larger jurisdictions. I think they are slowly listening to us, our needs in the North. We will continue to pressure the federal government in that respect. We appreciate the three officers that will be coming into the communities to serve as community policing officers.

Certainly we can provide the stats on the rehabilitation program, as the Member alluded to. That is the information that we continue to work with. We can certainly discuss further on -- the Member talked about the correction facility -- a non-smoking area. So we can get into further detail on those areas when it comes time.

The communities without detachments providing more services, those are areas that we are focussing on. We are waiting for the federal government to provide us with infrastructure. It takes years but there is another avenue where we can put boots to the ground in the communities with our investment and a federal investment. Without a detachment, we can certainly move along a path. Of course, there will be a partnership with the

federal government. We are happy to see that we will be...The proposed plan is providing three additional RCMP officers in the small communities to serve those communities without the detachments. We are also looking forward to that, Mr. Chairman.

The court worker positions, additional role that has been talked about by the Members of this Legislative Assembly and those are the key roles that have been addressed as well. We continue to work with that and broaden the position as well.

The family violence, of course, we continue to support these areas and other supportive programs. We will continue to do so, as well as dealing with that backlog that the Member had talked about as well. I was just trying to get some more information from my staff but we currently don't have backlog, but it is something that we need to keep our eyes open for and on a moving-forward basis.

Mr. Chairman, there's an increase in the wilderness camps. I already touched on that and the complaints process. There are certain protocols that we follow with the RCMP. We do have an agreement in place with them. We will probably go into more detail when the time comes, but I can assure the Members that we work closely with the RCMP "G" Division and we do have a protocol agreement between the Dene Nation and the Metis, between the RCMP and the two groups, so we tend to work with that as well. The process itself is going through the detachment and commander. If the individual that filed the complaint is not satisfied with the outcome of the review, certainly there is another step going through headquarters or another avenue with which they have rights to file a complaint with the Commissioner of Public Complaints. Those are the areas that we work with the RCMP "G" Division.

Concerns about the response time...I think having three additional officers in the communities that serve RCMP without detachments, certainly that will increase our presence. We continue to pressure RCMP "G" Division to increase their scheduling of visitations to the communities. Mr. Chairman, I will certainly continue to put pressure on them from my position as Minister of Justice.

Of course, community justice, the committee and coordinators, the program itself, the training aspect has been addressed here. We certainly are taking that under review and we certainly want to make some changes in strengthening the program. We will continue to work with the standing committee and the Members of the Legislative Assembly on where we can improve in these areas and we will be coming back to the standing committee to

address how we can go about that. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. As there are no further general comments, does committee agree to proceed to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are going to defer the departmental summary on page 9-7 and review the estimates by activity summary beginning on 9-8. Before we do that, I would just like to remind committee that we are reviewing the main estimates. Let's keep questions focussed on the page at hand. Just because you have 10 minutes, it doesn't mean you actually have to use your entire 10 minutes. To the Minister, I would like to encourage the Minister to keep his answers short, sweet and to the point. Thank you. We are on page 9-8. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Under infrastructure investment, there is \$921,000 with regards to small capital projects. Could you give a breakdown on that?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, we do have the breakdown of \$191,000 for fire suppression at the South Mackenzie Correction Centre. Also, an update on the secure cells, of \$150,000, in the South Mackenzie Correction Centre; Inuvik Youth Facility, foundation issues that we have been dealing with of \$330,000; North Slave Adult Facility, flooring replacement of \$150,000; River Ridge secure stainless bathroom fixture of \$100,000. Those are the areas that have been identified. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Could we maybe get a print out of that?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We can certainly provide that. They are also listed in the infrastructure area as well. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Page 9-8. Sorry; infrastructure investment summary, information item, page 9-8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. We're on page 9-9, information item, revenue summary. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under transfer payment, Aboriginal Justice Strategy. In 2008-2009 we received \$315,000. There is none in 2009-2010. Is that because the money is coming later in the year or because that money has ceased to...it's dried up?

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

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you can see, the money for 2008-2009 was actually received through supplementary appropriation and the same thing will happen in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The federal government doesn't approve that stuff in multi-year funding, so we wait until the new fiscal year and it gets approved at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I just have a question regarding community patrols. In light of the announcement of having more policing patrolling our smaller communities, don't you think that budget item should be going up if anything, because there will be an increase in patrols in those communities? Is there a reason why it hasn't gone up? Maybe you can explain the \$25,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This area, although it's a small amount, it is community parole, not patrol.

MR. KRUTKO: So what's the \$25,000 for? Where is it spent?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We do provide parole services on behalf of the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Page 9-9, revenue summary. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just again on a follow-up question to Ms. Bisaro's question to the Minister on the Aboriginal Justice Strategy. On Ms. Schofield's response, is this the same amount of money that we were hoping to get from the federal government? Is it that once it's approved through their system that we are expected to see a similar amount identified here in the previous year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Aboriginal Justice Strategy funding will be similar to what we've had before.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We're on page 9-9, revenue summary. It's an information summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-10, active positions, information item. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a possibility to get a breakdown on the positions and the status of those positions by way of P1s, P2s, P3s and affirmation action stats? Also, do you have any people in there with any disabilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Certainly we'll provide the breakdown of the P1, P2, P3s. We do have a page of it and can provide a copy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Page 9-10, active position summary, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-13, services to government, activity summary, operations expenditure, \$8.862 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that under services to government we will be establishing a public law office that will be responsible for prosecution of territorial offences. I'd like to know what sort of offences will be prosecuted. I'm specifically thinking of things such as cruelty to animals. If we were to establish an animal cruelty act, would that be the sort of prosecution that would take place under this public law office?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. That will certainly deal with any offences under territorial legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We're on page 9-13, activity summary for services to government, operations expenditure, \$8.862 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-14, services to government, activity summary, grants and contributions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd just like to ask the Minister why he has not extended the Law Bursaries Program with respect to the \$15,000 last year to assist aboriginal students to pursue a law degree. I think there are probably a few aboriginal students who

are going for a law degree. I'm just wondering why you cancelled that program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Certainly this has been in the works, as you can see, for a number of years. There have been uptakes in the program itself, but there hasn't been much. This has been targeted as one of our reductions. There are other bursaries and grants and scholarships out there besides what we've provided. That's part of the reason why we initiated part of the cuts within our Justice department.

MR. KRUTKO: I think, if anything, any dollars a student can get to get a law degree, \$15,000 doesn't really add up to much. I think for a \$93 million department I find it odd that you cut in this particular area to save money. For \$15,000 of a budget of \$93 million and to pick on the poor aboriginal law student, I think it doesn't serve justice. If anything it should stay there. Would you consider reinstating it so that aboriginal students who can apply for this program know they'll be able to get some bursary to help them get their law degree?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. We talked about this on numerous occasions within our department where when it came down to certain cuts. We've identified this area, of course, as important. At the same time, we do provide, as I stated earlier, our SFA program does cover and the scholarships that we do provide, and other scholarships, whether they be at the universities or colleges, they do provide various and top quality scholarships as well. They can range from \$15,000 to \$20,000, depending on the program they're in. This was just an initial step to attract aboriginal lawyers. It has been undertaken by a few individuals. We do have aboriginal lawyers within our department as well. It has been successful, but it's a small investment we had and we figured there are other avenues these individuals can access.

MR. KRUTKO: But I think this does more than provide a bursary. It also provides the student who's looking at a career in the Department of Justice to work for the Department of Justice as summer employment. I think it's more than just the Bursaries Program. This program allows people to get involved in the Department of Justice so they are able to access this program. If anything, it was started off at \$30 million and now it's down to zero. I think that, personally, I'd like to seriously ask the Minister to reinstate these dollars for this program. If anything, if there are more programs out there that can allow First Nations people to get their law degree, come back and work in the Northwest

Territories either for First Nations government, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Justice, that there is a need for those people in the Northwest Territories. Again, I'd like to know exactly...You're saying you can go to student financial assistance. Well, student financial assistance, as a student knows, struggling to go to university to get a degree is a four-year process. You need every dollar you can get. If that means getting a few dollars by applying on these bursaries will help you get through, I think that's a good thing. So again, I'd like to ask the Minister to seriously consider reinstating this program in light of the reductions in the Department of Justice and find the money elsewhere.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This area specifically we've again targeted those individuals with aboriginal descent to take advantage of this program. Some have, but most have not returned to the North. We're lucky that a couple who have returned are working for our department. But there's no guarantee that there are jobs at the end of the program within our Justice department. Everybody goes through certain processes. SFA, there is money there and with these four-year degree programs, or six years, depending on the areas of interest, there are, as I stated earlier, a variety of scholarships that individuals can qualify for. Especially with a law degree program, it is a highly skilled area and there are additional scholarships in those specific areas as well. Not only that, but being First Nations you do get areas of sponsorship from your First Nation, as well, and different organizations too.

MR. KRUTKO: Another question in regard to this page; the aboriginal court challenge program. I know at one time it was \$50,000. It's gone down since then. I'd just like to ask the Minister in regard to this program and the Aboriginal Justice Program, there has been a request from aboriginal organizations, especially when it comes to hunting rights and rights regarding those court challenges. I'm wondering, is there any way to expand this program to other areas with respect to the land claim agreement organizations and court challenges. Not just looking at the rights side, but looking at the constitutional side of those commitments. Court challenges do cost a lot of money and especially in the area of constitutional challenges you're talking about possibly making your way to the Supreme Court of Canada. I know for a fact the only case I can think of is in regard to the Metis hunting case in Wood Buffalo National Park. That one cost somewhere in the range of \$100,000. I'd like to ask the Minister if there's a way to enhance this program to see court challenges that really can make a difference in regard to aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories and in regard to Canada, especially when it comes to land

claim agreements and constitutional rights that can be infringed on with regard to those rights that are now coming forward. Is that something that this government can seriously consider looking at to expand this program and other areas?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The \$40,000 that we've allocated has always been the case, the same amount. Since 2006 until today there have only been two uptakes on this particular funding that's been allocated to aboriginal court challenges. Also, the decision is with the board that we have in place, the committee. They make recommendations to us as the Justice department and we move forward on those recommendations. So far there have only been two uptakes. If we need to broaden the policies or the regulations that are in place, we need to look at that as well. But we have to keep in mind that there have only been two uptakes to date.

MR. KRUTKO: Just a question to the Minister in regard to the two uptakes. Is it because people aren't aware of the program? I know you don't like to promote the government giving away money, but maybe if we do a better job of promoting this program, especially when it comes to aboriginal court challenges regarding rights, we'd probably get more people on board. We do have the court system, but a lot of times aboriginal people don't usually use lawyers. They don't usually realize that you do have some fundamental rights. I'm just wondering what the department is doing to promote this program and get the message out the door that this grant program exists.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Certainly we'd like to give out money if we have the money for any initiatives that need to be undertaken. The money is there for that, whether it's aboriginal court challenges or other areas. We have in the past given information to MLAs to share with the communities, but we can improve on that. We have community justice programs, the coordinators in the communities, we can utilize their services as well. If we need to do more educational material, we can do that. But it is out there and has been for quite some time now. Maybe it's just a matter of resurfacing what we've had before and utilizing our existing agencies.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on the Member for Mackenzie Delta in terms of the court challenges funding here. Is this something the Minister would consider in terms of reviewing, given the number of uptakes on this program? Is it because it's the board that determines if it's a good application to apply for, or is it just a lack of information from the communities, or are the requirements too stringent? Because certainly I

think when you go into communities, when you hear our people talk, there are lots of opportunities for them to define and protect aboriginal rights. Sometimes we just don't have the means or the necessary skills to put together an application. I haven't seen it. I'll be wanting to ask the Minister if he can provide me with some information to take back to my region.

I like the Minister's suggestion that maybe this should be shared with the justice committees. I think there are lots of opportunities where members in our regions could look at court challenges that define, because the aboriginal rights are always evolving. They don't really...It's like Jell-O on a tree, I guess. They don't stick very well because it's always evolving. Protection of the aboriginal rights is through the land claims. We have protection under there. There are different avenues. I would ask the Minister if he would give some serious consideration in looking at this program and seeing where it can be beneficial to the people who it's intended to be for -- groups, organizations -- to look at the definition and protection of aboriginal rights, be it education, justice, whatever you have. I think that might be a start. Would the Minister consider that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This is an area that we can certainly look at. There has been, as I stated, two uptakes. The program itself has been the recommendations from the board. The board functions and our department is working closely with the board. We can certainly look at the pros and cons in this regard. Then we can certainly get back to the standing committee on what's working, what's not working, why it's not working, and give an update on the program itself.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly look forward to the Minister's update as to the pros and cons of this program here within his department. I'm not too sure in terms of the structure or the members who serve on the board function. So I guess I need some information from the department to help me educate myself as to the function of the board and which members are on there and what criteria they have. I think this is a good program. I think we just need to expand it and see where we can use it. I certainly would welcome the Minister's quick report on this one here to let me know about this court challenge issue here.

Just on the other one there, another line here is on the law bursaries to indigenous aboriginal students. Is there any indication from the Minister that the federal government could be looking at something like this? I know it's only \$15,000. Is there any indication from any other foundations to partnering

with the federal government that this project could and should be? Is there any other indication from any other groups out there, be it aboriginal land claim groups or corporations, that say yes, we could look at supporting our indigenous aboriginal students to attain a law degree? I think because we're relying solely on the territorial government, and with the exercise of the budget reductions, that's something they cut. So I think, if I heard correctly, the Minister said he's outside the box and having creative thinking solutions. I'm going to challenge his department to look at some of those creative solutions to having a budget item like this come back into the department.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly we'll get back to the standing committee once we're ready to go before them on the update of the aboriginal court challenges. The criteria or the regulations that they may have in place and who the board members and the decision being made and so forth. The process itself. We can certainly update the Members on those topics.

On the law bursaries, of course, there is, as I say, there are other scholarships out there from whether it be the Law Society or land claim groups. There are certainly land claim groups that provide various scholarship opportunities. This particular area could also be addressed with the federal counterpart as well. As you know, there are FPT meetings happening every now and then, so it can certainly be addressed at that time as well. I'll keep the Members posted on this particular area and move on a forward basis. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, at the federal, provincial and territorial justice meetings, I hope the Minister gives a strong statement for students in the Northwest Territories in terms of supporting our students in law, in justice, and the importance of our students getting into a system that would be beneficial to people in the Northwest Territories, especially the aboriginal governments that certainly look for these qualified, educated people to move their vision forward in terms of their own government. I look forward to the Minister working with his counterparts to see if there's a way that the students can be supported through this avenue here.

Mr. Chair, the national justice issues here are \$9,000 grants to organizations working to improve the Canadian justice system. Just a comment here in terms of these types of grants. I'm not too sure about this grant here. Either way I look at it, just on the value of the book right here is that these types of dollars should be going to the community justice programs in the North because they are improving the justice system. I'm not really comfortable to speak too much about it because I don't have the information here in terms of this grant and what is

the criteria for organizations working towards improving the Canadian justice system. It's pretty broad so I will have to wait and ask the Minister to provide me some information at another time. If anything, these grants should maybe be added to the law bursary for these young aboriginal students to improve the justice system. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, certainly we do provide funding to these national areas, although it's a small amount. I think we need to continue providing those services. We need to reach out to other organizations outside the Northwest Territories. They are the ones who have the expertise in certain jurisdictions. With the Community Justice Program we do invest into the communities and we will continue to do so. If we need to increase in those areas, that's what we need to discuss further. With this, with respect to the national, it's a small amount and I think we need to continue having that dialogue with outside of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We'll just take a couple minutes' break here in order to get the paperwork and everything done. Thank you.

—SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole back to order. We're on page 9-14, services to government. Mr. Krutko.

MOTION 2-16(3):
RECOMMENDATION TO REINSTATE \$15,000
FOR LAW BURSARIES PROGRAM UNDER
THE SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY
CARRIED

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I move that the committee recommends that the government take immediate action to reinstate grant funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the Law Bursaries Program under Department of Justice under services to government activities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I believe that we have to do whatever we can to attract people into the justice system, but, more importantly, with the lack of lawyers in the Northwest Territories and, more

importantly, aboriginal lawyers, that anything that we can do to support them by bursary programs, that we have to find a way to entice people to come to work for the Department of Justice, the Government of the Northwest Territories or aboriginal organizations.

This is an area that I feel that we have a very huge challenge to find lawyers in the Northwest Territories, but, more importantly, aboriginal lawyers in the Northwest Territories. We have had some successes, but, I think Mr. Chairman, that's it's important that this government have programs and services for students that are going for a law degree, to have an opportunity to look for bursaries that will assist them when they go off and get their degrees and also have to realize that they're going to take three or four years of their lives to get their degrees. I think it's important that this government have these programs in all the areas and not simply say, well, sorry, we haven't had people apply or the people that have taken this program did not come back North. I think, if anything, what we've learned from other government bursary programs is that you put a contract in place for those individuals. That when they get this money, that they do have to work for the Department of Justice or the Government of the Northwest Territories or an aboriginal organization for a number of months or years or a year to basically reimburse the goodwill that whoever put the bursary in place would like return in service by way of a contract. I think that can be done in that way.

With that, I feel it's very important that we have these programs in all departments, and not just in the Department of Justice, to encourage aboriginal students to go off, get the law degree, or get a master's degree in any area that will enhance the Government of the Northwest Territories' delivery of programs and services, especially in the area of justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

---Carried

We're on page 9-14, services to government, activity summary, grants and contributions, grants, \$49,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 9-15, information item, services to government, active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, I'd like to ask the department if they can give us a breakdown in regard to these positions by way of the affirmative action numbers, P1s, P2s, P3s and if any of those individuals are disabled individuals. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, certainly we can get a paper copy to the Members. The information that we have on the breakdown is 25 percent aboriginal in community justice and corrections, 21 percent aboriginal in legal aid services, 9 percent aboriginal in services to government, 13 percent in services to the public. We can certainly have a breakdown in detail to the Members. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Page 9-15, services to government, information item, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-17, activity summary for law enforcement, operations expenditure. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. In regard to the First Nations policing, \$424,000, can the Minister explain where that \$424,000 is being expended?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. That \$424,000 for First Nations policing is within the RCMP area. That's one of their roles that we support. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, there has been talk of reinstating the Special Constable Program. I'd like to know, is this the area where the funding is going to come from for that program to reinstate special constables in the Northwest Territories to work along with the RCMP?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, this particular funding that has been allocated for First Nations policing is different from what the federal announcement is, additional funding. It is a separate issue. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister tell me where that funding is going to come from?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, that will come from the federal government and within the RCMP "G" Division. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I note that there's almost a \$2 million increase in regard to the contract service in regard to the...Is that part of that increase

that you're looking at? What's the over \$2 million increase in that contracting services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Schofield.

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding for those positions will come from within the existing appropriation or the positions aren't created yet as we don't have the people identified to go into those positions or the training provided. It's our understanding that by 2010, the next fiscal year is when those positions will be operational. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: What about the positions that are being created in regard to enhancing police services for community patrols where we don't have police officers? Is that coming out of that money? I believe this is going to take as of April 1st. Where is that money in regard to that \$2 million increase?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, certainly that's part of that \$475,000 that's been identified. It's within the funding. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 9-17, activity summary. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one quick question for the Minister. On this page, are there three separate contracts or just one contract, or two contracts?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There is First Nations policing contract, there is the DNA agreement contract and also within the territorial policing contract. Those are the three main areas of contracts that we've been working with and have been identified. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, the First Nations policing, I understand that several years ago the RCMP and the Dene Nation...I think there's another aboriginal group that signed a protocol agreement. Is this part of that funding in terms of policing and protocols working with the aboriginal communities?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, that protocol agreement was signed between the RCMP, Dene Nation and Metis. It was signed two years ago. No, this is not part of the funding that's been allocated. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you for the information, Mr. Minister. The First Nations policing in the Northwest Territories, my understanding is the Minister is saying that this is within the detachment of the RCMP. Does that have a dedicated personnel with the resources to encourage First Nations members to join the RCMP? I guess I'm trying to get a sense of the amount of money here. What is it doing for our people in our communities in terms of First Nations policing, because it's separate funding from the other funding that we do get for law enforcement.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, there was a First Nations Policing Policy that we have in place. We do have four current officers at the community level. Those communities are Behchoko, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson and Inuvik. Those are just the four key areas of officers we have in place. Certainly I've shared this with the standing committee already, that our goal is to increase those numbers. It looks very positive, but at the same time none of the resources have been identified by the federal government yet. We will continue to stress that. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly we want to increase our First Nations policing in our communities. I am somewhat surprised in terms of the community of Fort Good Hope being listed, so it is the first time I am hearing about it. It is not advertised very well, I guess, in terms of trying to do something for First Nations policing in terms of what you are trying to do and what are you doing in terms of supporting and improving or encouraging or developing First Nations policing. I look forward to seeing where the new Minister could continue working on supporting First Nations policing with increased funding from the federal government. It is more of a comment to the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. That is a comment but it is to the Minister for a response.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly this is one of the key focus areas, for me anyway, as a department. We are hoping to see an increase. This is just one area. Another area, of course, is the Community Policing Program that we have identified as a partnership with the federal government. We surely would like to see an increase in those two key areas, having our own people within a system of RCMP "G" Division possibly speaking their own language in community awareness. Those are areas of interest that we

tend to share with the police commission, police officers. It will always be our goal to push for the...Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Could the Minister tell us the cost sharing arrangement with the territorial policing First Nations policing and the community policing, what the cost sharing arrangement between federal government and territorial government is for all three?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, the territorial policing services with the RCMP "G" Division and the federal government with our territorial government, it is 70-30. We pay 70 percent and the federal government pays 30 percent. With the First Nations policing, that program is 48-52. It is slightly different from that policing contract. We just give them the contribution and they also provide the services for that contribution. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BEAULIEU: The Community Policing Program was what I was interested in, if there was a cost sharing arrangement that was similar to the First Nations policing or whether it was similar to the territorial policing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The First Nations policing, as I stated, is 48 percent of our share and the federal government is 52 percent. That is what we have agreements in place with them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-17, law enforcement, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$31.822 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I am hoping that the Minister would start to show us in due time the increased presence of members in communities without an RCMP detachment. I know there are some staff there that shows that you are having some presence, but I am hoping that we can see that, with increased presence in communities like Colville Lake, other communities that don't have an RCMP detachment are more specific for my region and I am aware of the rate of an RCMP presence would increase over a period of a year. Hopefully next year we can get some good stats in terms of the amount of quality time spent in the community to support the community.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly that will be one of our drives with the federal government to open up the police detachments that we do not have in communities already and then increasing our police presence into communities. I think it is key. It is important. We have heard over and over in this House that we need to focus on that. We continue to work with the RCMP "G" Division increasing their capacity into communities. Just introducing the three officers into the communities to service small communities without detachments, I think it will certainly be a good start for our department and for communities. We will continue to do so with the federal government since they are the key players in this partnership. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-17, law enforcement, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$31.822 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are moving along to page 9-19, legal aid services, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$4.978 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question with regard to the acknowledged backlog in the legal aid department. I know that the Minister has spoken about that before. I wondered if I could get an update on whether or not there has been some progress on this backlog since we reviewed the business plans in November and, if there is any, when there might be an expectation that this backlog would be gone. Thank you.

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

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The backlog actually in legal aid has reduced and it is not the size it used to be. Right now we are at about a three-month waiting period for family law cases. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks for that. It is good to hear that things are improving. Is there a standard or a measure that the department uses to provide what might be considered optimum service in terms of having to wait for a legal aid lawyer? Thank you.

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the top of my head, I don't know if there is a formula that is used in determining what the best scenario is for a wait. There are various circumstances that would arise for where our wait times are. At certain times of the year we have more applications on the family law side. There seems to be around springtime more family breakups, which means we have more applications for family law cases. It is

dependent on the number of applications we receive and the lawyers available to provide those services. Right now our lawyers are staffed up on the family law side and we have some active family law lawyers out in the private sectors. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks for the response. I appreciate that you can't maybe give a hard and fast answer, but I would have hoped that this would be an activity that the department would try to provide some reporting on next year when we look at business plans. I would suggest that perhaps there ought to be an identified length of time that is sort of appropriate or an estimate what the department thinks is maybe possible to be achieved and that they can then look at doing some reporting back against that particular measure. It is an issue that certainly the Social Programs committee has been aware of for a while now. I think we probably will be keeping an eye on it. If there is a measure that the department can report on, that certainly would forestall any questions and we would be able to see improvements over time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly there is always room for improvement as well, especially with respect to the reporting mechanism and the length of time. So, yes, we will commit to doing that area of work that the Member alluded to. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a few questions on the Family Law Clinic. The money that is earmarked for family law, \$354,000, seems to me to be a fairly low number. I was wondering if the Minister has a breakdown of what that \$354,000 goes towards. I would like to get a better understanding of how much money we are spending on mediation for families going through family breakup as opposed to spending it on lawyers. If the Minister has that type of information, I would appreciate it.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly we can provide that information to the Members, but most of the funding is towards the salaries. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: What specifically in terms of services is the department providing people going through family breakup that would be eligible for legal aid? What type of programs and services are

there for people? How much money are we spending in that area? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, any information that we have is in the areas of family law mediators. The court workers also play a great role in these areas. Education program parenting after separation and divorce. Those are the areas that have been in the works. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

MR. RAMSAY: Thanks to the Minister. I am trying to get a better understanding of how the department is trying to steer people away from the court system and mediate people or help them get through the hurdles of family breakdown. I was wondering if the Minister has a number on what the department is paying for these mediators as opposed to the lawyers and going through the court process, because I am a big believer in mediation. I think the more people we can help out in that regard is better than spending money on lawyers and going through the adversarial court proceedings. I hope the Minister does have that level of detail. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly the family law mediation project will certainly start again in February, as we speak, and also the funding allocated is \$40,000 towards this program for fiscal year 2008-09. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that answer from the Minister. I just wanted to go on record as saying I think that number is woefully low. I think that there is much more that the government can and should be doing for families who would qualify for legal aid in the area of family breakdown. If it is \$40,000 and the program is just starting in February, that is nice to hear the program is starting, but I think that there is a lot of people that we can steer away from the court system, the lawyers and the three-month-long wait that it takes to even get a lawyer. The more people we can put through mediation the better. I would suggest we try to find some more money and we start to try to steer people towards mediation as opposed to the court system when it comes to family breakdown. Forty thousand dollars, to me, is a pretty small amount to be putting at a problem this large. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly there are proposals being submitted to the federal government. Those are the areas that we need to focus on. Yes, I agree that we should throw more money in these areas, but we have to work with what we have. But at the same time we will be pressuring the federal government to allocate additional funding and stress the need for an increase in this funding as well. We will continue to do our part, Mr. Chairman, pushing the federal government further with this. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-19, legal aid services, activity summary, operations expenditure. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: I thank the Minister for that. I think, obviously, there is a tremendous amount of money that is being spent if you look at the Legal Services Board, the legal aid staff lawyers, the Family Law Clinic. There is money there. What I am saying is we should try to change the way we think and come up with some more money and try to balance things a little bit more so that we are spending and putting more of an effort into mediation as opposed to lawyers and court. It is unfortunate that many people, when they go through family breakdown or breakup, they end up in the court system tying up resources when, in some cases...Not all. Some are going to end up in court. But wherever possible, we should keep them out of court and mediate a settlement up front. I think it is money well spent, Mr. Chairman. I don't need a response to that. I just want to get on record on that one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. That was just a comment. We are on page 9-19, legal aid services, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$4.978 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are moving along to page 9-20, legal aid services. This is an information item only, active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I just have a question in regards to the layoffs that took place last year. Are there any plans to reinstate the positions for individuals who may have been laid off in these different areas? Is there an opportunity for that position to be reinstated in light of the layoffs that took place in the Department of Justice?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We do not have any layoffs in legal aid services. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Maybe the Minister could help me out. Can he point out what areas layoffs did take place? I know in my riding, for instance, I think it was on the probation side and how a probation officer was suddenly...and also I believe in the Nunakput riding, there were layoffs there too.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Member is referring to the court workers that they were part of the layoff notice last year, but they have been reinstated. There are no layoffs in the legal aid services. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-20, information item, legal aid services, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are moving along to 9-23, court services, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$10.638 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Next on the list is 9-24. This is an information item. Court services, active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Maybe I am asking the same question on every page. If the Minister would give us a breakdown of the Department of Justice staff complement and give us a breakdown on affirmative action in the different service areas you provide, so we could see exactly how many affirmative action candidates actually work in the Department of Justice in the different areas. The same thing applies to people with disabilities.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly this has been addressed on a number of occasions and we'll certainly provide that next year as well. Certainly we will provide that detailed information to the Members. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Page 9-24, information item, court services, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to 9-27, community justice and corrections, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$33.270 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question with regard to the Role Model Program which I think is \$100,000, which I believe is an initiative in this next budget year. I think it's under community justice. I wanted to know whether or not the Minister could advise how this program is going to work. Who is being targeted and what sorts of activities will be put into place with this particular program? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this has been brought to our attention from visiting communities and part of the goal is to help youth understand the seriousness of personal

health and life consequences that come with addiction and related criminal activities. One of the goals that we're talking about is having individuals that have been through the system, whether it be a stabbing, or shot at, or served time, to tell their story as well. That's just an example of what people have been through; the consequences of their career paths. Not only that, but introducing the role models of the North. So those are the areas; focussing on the right choices within the schools and also the communities. That is the area we will be dealing with drug and alcohol addiction and other conflicts with the law. We will be speaking to the youth in the communities. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thank you for the explanation. I guess I would like to know whether or not this program is going to be coordinated with other departments. Education has been mentioned, sort of drug and alcohol addictions, so I am presuming Health and Social Services is probably involved here. Is this a program that is going to be done in conjunction with these other departments or is it something that is going to be running concurrently? And if that's the case, I worry about the lack of coordination. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, certainly it will be coordinated through various departments, as the Member alluded to, as part of the GNWT Healthy Choices Framework as well, and working with the social envelope Ministers because it will deal with Health and Social Services, Justice, Education. So we are going to have a coordinated effort to go into the communities. At the same time, Mr. Chair, we need to work closely with the community organizations, whether it be the leadership or organizations at the community level. So we will continue to make those partnerships at the communities. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-27, community justice and corrections, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$33 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, there are two points I want to raise here. First is when we had the briefing with the Minister of Justice a couple of days ago and the Minister was questioned and we did have some questions around the Arctic Tern facility and the amount of money that was being spent on the facility with the amount of staff and the amount of people in that facility. When it goes right into the efficiency of this government, it flies right in the face of efficiency in terms of what not to do and how not to spend dollars in a facility like this. I was happy to hear the Minister was going to look at options for this facility. I want to ask the Minister about the amount of dollars that he stated. How much does it cost to operate that facility and the amount of staff members who are there and the amount of people

who are in facility? What are we doing with some of the needs that the communities are asking for, such as having RCMP present? The Minister is dippy-doodling around how he is going to increase RCMP presence in our communities with added patrols or added resources, while a facility like this is certainly underutilized for what it is supposed to be there for. How do we rectify this or correct this? Do we continue spending millions of dollars on a facility that is underutilized?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Arctic Tern facility has been under review along with other correction institutions for female offenders. So we've also received from Public Works the report on the foundation, the status on the foundation; a very detailed, technical report. So right now we are going through that as a department. We will have the final report in April, from our department's perspective. In order to operate the facility in Inuvik, it costs approximately \$2 million a year to staff that facility with 14.5 staff. At times, offenders we have in place varies. January 21st, there were four offenders in custody. So it does vary. The number I am sure has changed today. So that is the information we have to date. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thanks, Mr. Minister, for the information. Again, we have a facility that certainly I would look forward to the department coming forward very soon with the review and the information the Minister is going to provide to the committee. Certainly this facility is just astounding that when we ask for facilities in our communities, we ask for services in our communities and we have a \$2 million facility with 14.5 staff members with four people. That must be one of the most lucrative facilities in terms of having services for these people versus communities that do not have RCMP in their whole community. It's disheartening and it's also frustrating. It flies in the face of what this government and this Cabinet says about efficiencies and preaching effectiveness of our government resources. I know the facility has to be overhauled, for sure. Certainly there are people involved in the facilities. There are jobs affected, but there are communities that are affected without any type of RCMP detachments. We certainly could use \$2 million in some of our communities to have members in our communities. When will the Minister know with his department in terms of a review of the facility? I know everybody is going to look to see how they can utilize it. I don't know if the \$2 million budget will come out of the department or go across the departments as to how they could utilize that facility as many suggestions would come forward. So when will we know in this House here that some of those dollars could be

freed up for some of our other needs in the communities with regard to Justice?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As I stated, the facilities are under review. The foundation has also been looked at within our department. Those two reports, we're expecting them to be completed by the end of March/early April. Then we will be sitting down with the standing committee again. What we found on a going-forward basis, what we should do and providing options. At that time, Mr. Chair, I certainly will be seeking some input from the Members on how we can proceed to the next step. At that time, we will have more detailed information. So it's currently under review as we speak. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly this facility would have some attention in terms of the picture the Minister has painted for us here. I want to ask the Minister how long has this type of situation been going with the ration you have here. If this was going on last year, did we have the same type of numbers with the team and the same type of dollars being spent? I can remember since being here and the first time being elected, the communities that were asking for RCMP officers; I think it was around 11 or 12. We haven't done very much over the last five or six years. So I think this one here has to be looked at carefully in terms of releasing some of these dollars to the communities and having RCMP members present in about 10 or 11 of our communities. So far, we don't have it here. There is something here that certainly slipped under the radar in terms of efficiencies of government operations, especially with the amount of dollars going each year into a facility and the communities are paying right now by not having members in their communities, but we are always hearing from Justice or government that there is no money, there is no money to be found. I would ask the Minister how long historically has this facility been underutilized and overstaffed?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This particular challenge that we have with inmates at Arctic Tern has been in the works for five years now that the numbers have been low. So part of the reason we are having this discussion and our proposed cuts last year was regarding Arctic Tern. We want to be an effective and efficient government, as the Member alluded. So it all hinges on the report that's being developed, and in April we will certainly go back to the standing committee with what the next step will be. Right now we are compiling all the information and in due time, in April, we will certainly go back and get more input from the Members on what we should be doing with this particular facility. As it stands, we are operating at 14.5 PYs. It used to be 20, plus seven relief staff, I do believe, with an operating budget of \$2.5 million. So we have downsized it, but we are operating at that level at this time. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I have two more Members on my list -- Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Krutko -- but before we continue, we will just take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We're on page 9-27. On my list is Jackie Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of comments regarding Arctic Tern Female Young Offender Facility operating with 14.5 staff. Just a comment in regard to it must be a good thing not to have youth, it not being full, so we must be doing something right up in the Beaufort-Delta. It's only four. The most well-protected facility staff around. So keep up the good work, Arctic Tern.

Getting on to the proper funding for community justice programs. I have a question for the Minister regarding the training for the staff and for the board. How is that funding utilized? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, certainly we provide funding towards the community justice programming, the committee and also the coordinator for the community. We also provide funding for training the committee members and also for the coordinator. Of course, we want to have effective community justice programming, so we'll continue to provide that support.

Mr. Chair, I did mention that the program will be under review. I think we need to strengthen that program because I see that as a preventative measure in the communities. Not all communities have this justice committee in place, or the coordinator, so we need to identify those communities as well and why they haven't accessed the funding. The funding is there for them; it's just a matter of pushing forward and identifying the pros and cons. Certainly we do provide as much support as we can at the community level. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. JACOBSON: Again, it's a really good program. You know, we like taking care of our own in regard to preventative...With regard to the shortfall of cash, every year in my communities we're having a shortfall of cash with the community justice, with rental space, meeting areas, even honorarium. People cut themselves off the honorarium and go for free just to keep the program running. Is there any way, in the smaller communities, that they could have an extra infusion of cash if needed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, the funding that we provide on an annual basis to the communities varies whether it be, let's say, the Paulatuk coordinator and per capita funding and the federal funding commitment. The funding area does vary from community to community. Some of the communities may be struggling or some have over-expenditures; it could be the high cost of living or the rentals and whatnot. Those are the things that we need to take into consideration during our review. I think it's important to highlight those key factors. I'm glad that the Member is raising those issues, because it's important to get as much input from the communities as we can from our departmental perspective and have ongoing discussion if there needs to be an increase and in what areas, the purpose of the increase and so forth. We definitely need to strengthen this programming area. I think that's where we have been focusing and we will continue to focus. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to speak on the young offenders facilities, more importantly, in the Territories as a whole. He touched on the Arctic Tern facility and it costing \$2 million with 14.5 staff and four inmates. What other communities are they in, Hay River, Fort Smith...What are the expenditures of those other facilities and what's the number of intake by way of inmates in those facilities?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, the list of corrections that we have in place: North Slave Correctional Centre, we have a breakdown of just over \$10 million; South Mackenzie Correctional Facility, just over \$4 million; Fort Smith correction, \$3.9 million; Arctic Tern, \$2 million; North Slave Young Offenders, \$3.3 million. Those are the areas of the corrections that we've allocated funding to. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Do you have a cost breakdown per inmate per facility?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, we can provide that detailed information. We don't have it at our fingertips right now but we'll be more than happy to provide that detailed information to the Members. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, the reason I ask is that the Tl'oondih Healing Society ran programs before on behalf of this government, but they had to break even based on the number of clients that they've run through that program. Their break-even point

was about \$175 per inmate just for the program, for a two-week program. They were almost losing money. Just to maintain the program, you had to have, I think it was 16 people at each of those programs to make it economically viable to run a business. The business has to do it in regard to the number of intakes they take, making sure they've got a dollar value for each person in the program and you had to break even. We're expecting the private sector, the NGOs to have to work on a break-even business plan. Why is this government not doing the same thing? Yet we're the ones who are telling groups that we're only going to pay you \$175 per person per program and that's all we're going to guarantee. I think on that basis, that you know that the cost to run programs is being run a lot cheaper by the private sector than it is in the government. I find it kind of odd that you can have four inmates in a program which is costing \$2 million with 14 staff, but cost per inmate based on four people, I mean, that's a lot of money you're spending to basically operate and functionally maintain that type of an operation.

I'd like to know...You know, the frustration that people have just trying to run programs through this government or even put in a proposal to this government to run a simple program like an alcohol and drug program or an on-the-land program, even when you talked about the wilderness camp program, these people are struggling just to provide that service because they have costs, but as a government we only guarantee them based on cost per person. I'd like to know is that a feasible way of running a business if we're telling the private sector well, we'll only give you so much per person but yet we're spending a lot more money per person based on the cost to maintain and operate these facilities.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, of course we're not in a business. We provide services to the Northwest Territories and we do fall under the federal Corrections Act as well. There are liability issues as well. We have to take all that into consideration. Tl'oondih has been operating in the past and I think those are the areas we've focused on in the past and that's part of the reason why this justice committee we've been pushing lately as part of the preventive measure. Of course, we don't want people in a system, let's say behind bars, if we can do something at the community level. I think that's part of the reason why we're investing so much into the community justice area. Having correctional inmates out on the land, as well, and rehabilitating them back into the community, those are the areas that we are focusing on within our Justice department. With the Arctic Tern, we're at the stage where we need to decide what to do, I guess in April, with the input from the Members. That's where we are with that, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: I'm glad the Minister touched on the point of this government's responsibility to provide services. For some communities we're begging for services and at what cost. I think that for us to get the government's ear to get police services, we're looking at committees in regard to justice committees set up in our communities and we're always being told there is no money. Yet you can run and operate a facility for \$2 million for four inmates. It's something that communities just can't understand.

When you say that you're in the business of providing services, that means to 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. That's talking about services to 40,000 people in the Territories and being fair to everyone to realize that you are in the business of providing services to the general public. That means in general in the sense of everyone. I think that by your statement there alone saying that, well, sorry we're in the business of providing services, but it's going to cost us, you know, \$2 million or \$5.3 million for young offenders facilities.

Again, I'd like to ask the Minister -- you've mentioned that there's a review going on and a report coming out -- do you the most inmates or intake in regard to the Arctic Tern facility this year and what was the lowest by way of numbers? You say there are four people now. What was the lowest number of people who were in there this year and what was the highest?:

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, we can certainly provide that information but, to my understanding, it does vary. The lowest we had is nil; zero. The highest we had was around seven or eight. That's the information that we can certainly share with the standing committee members. We can certainly provide more detailed information in that respect. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister tell me how long there was no one in the facility at any period of time?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, there has been transition at times. Let's say one or two days that there has been nobody at the facility. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Just a question on the potential use of that facility. I mean, at some point you're going to have to replace the RCMP barracks in Inuvik. It does have the facility where you basically have to have people in the jail facilities. Is there any plan to possibly use Arctic Tern during a transitional period when you will be replacing, possibly, the detachment out of Inuvik? It is old; it needs to be replaced. Is that something that this government has thought of, future uses for the Arctic Tern facility?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, there have been numerous discussions on options for the facility itself. Since last year it was part of the cuts and there has been a lot of discussion on how we can fully utilize our existing GNWT assets. RCMP are certainly considering the facility. At one point in time the community of Inuvik was also considering utilizing that facility as well and also education learning centre, but there have been some changes there. Those are just the discussions that we've been having. Yes, there have been some options to utilize that facility by other parties. Mahsi.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the community justice line, I noticed that there is a decrease in the budget of \$200,000. That was based on the revised estimate, so main estimate to main estimate there's a slight increase. So last year you adjusted your budget by \$300,000 upward and then you dropped it back down by \$200,000. I was wondering if you could just go through the process of just explaining that up and down and if you anticipate the budget to go up by \$300,000 sometime during this year again.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, the difference is the aboriginal justice money that we received from the federal government. That's the difference in the figure.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, the community justice initiative, from our discussions with the Minister, the funding is for each of the communities. There is funding for each community coordinator and my understanding is that 31 communities in 2007-08 were involved with the \$20,000 provided to each community. The 2006-07 numbers were that 30 communities were provided. With the amount of work that's required or asked of the communities, is the Minister considering raising this budget line item in the future in terms of dollars going into communities to provide a service that would make a difference for the people in the communities with the funding increased for community justice?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, we need to take all those community justice coordinators and the programming funding that we've been contributing to the communities. We need to look at the whole structure, what's working, what's not working. Some communities in comparison to other

communities have higher costs. We need to take all that into consideration as well.

On the going-forward basis, during the next business planning process we're certainly going to take that into consideration and identify the importance of having this program delivered at the community level and working closely with the RCMP "G" Division and also the judge. At this time, all I can say is we're going to take that into consideration and start working with the communities in identifying the gaps and some communities are not accessing the funds that are available to them. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, some of the issues that I think communities already know why they are not accessing this funding, because for the amount of money and the amount of work that is required to do a proper and effective job in the community justice, this \$20,000 is not seen as a real solid commitment as to the issues you have to get involved in terms of these justice committees operating in the communities.

I have heard it over and over again that the \$20,000 that is provided to the communities, for the amount of work that is required, they are expecting people to volunteer their time, energy and effort and go ask different organizations to borrow their phone, computer, faxing, translating. It requires a lot of work. I don't think this could be asked of our department here on one of their initiatives. For \$20,000 over a 12-month period of time when you break it down, you break it down to the amount of days that some of the communities really want to do some good work, but some of them are fed up and frustrated with the amount of support given to them. Translation, coordinators are not there. I look forward to the Minister providing some support and some review as to these justice committees that should be able to work in the communities, providing them proper funding. I want to ask the Minister in terms of how serious is his department to looking at...because this for me is just like a program that is not very well supported by the department by giving each community \$20,000 to set up, operate, organize and work within the legal system in the community justice committee with the issues.

Again, I will ask the Minister. I know that on a going-forward basis, but this project is for 2009-10. Status quo is what I am hearing. Is that the correct response I am getting back from the Minister?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly our department is very serious about the community justice committees and coordinators at the community level. We need to fully utilize their service. They are the expertise in the communities. We need to work with them. We need to work with

the elders, and the funding we had in place, we continue with the funding. Certainly, like I said earlier, we are reviewing the programming dollars. We need to talk about the per capita funding that is available and potentially having that as a base-plus possibly, so those are the discussions we need to have. There is also federal funding that has been committed to the communities; \$315,000 has been allocated. This is the funding that has been identified.

On a moving-forward basis, we need to totally review overall programming dollars that we offer to the communities and how we can strengthen that, where we can strengthen it. If we need to identify additional resources or dollars, then we have to find that dollar from within as well as or part of the forced growth. Those are the discussions we need to have with the communities and with the MLAs. There certainly will be enough discussion in due time. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, at one time they had regional justice coordinators. That worked very well. Then the reduction brought it down to community justice. We were convinced at one time that by bringing the community justice programs to the community, it worked even better. What I witnessed and observed is that it hasn't gotten any better. It actually has become more of a deterrent for the people because there are not enough sufficient resources or training for the community justice workers. I have been hearing this from my own people in my communities. They are quite frustrated with the community justice. It is a good program. I do agree with the Minister; it should work and it should be in the ideal world. Well, it is not happening in reality in our communities. Twenty thousand dollars for a program coordinator who organizes people throughout the year to sit down and look at issues in the legal system is very difficult for people. You want to document it. You have to do a bunch of things. If we give this money to the public justice and tell them to do that work, I don't think they will be sitting there right now. Why is it no different in our communities in terms of giving proper support to the justice committees in our communities -- that I don't understand -- while at the same time we have an issue with Arctic Tern and a \$2 million budget annually?

We have, at the most, right now, as the Minister has indicated, four people with 14.5 staff there. That is almost four staff to one client with half a million dollars. I just don't understand where this government is going or what it is saying. Yet we are in the communities asking for these basic services and here we are throwing money away. I really don't understand and it is hard for me to say yes, I agree with you on efficiencies and effectiveness. At the same time, look at this in black and white. Twenty plus seven relief staff workers, history. Now

it has gone to 14.5 and numbers he said is zero to seven times. It is very hard for me to try to say, well, are you really there for the people? It is confusing. It is frustrating. I'm not sure what they are really saying. Some is okay. Some is not. That is what I am saying with community justice. I don't get it. I don't get it from this government. I don't get what they are saying if you have these kinds of numbers that are black and white and they are just going on for 2009-10 they are hoping to review. It is just not very good when we try to go back to our communities, because this is the kind of information that is going to go back into our region. They are going to wonder why certain things are felt in the Chamber here.

There are lots of words in this sense, Mr. Chairman, so I am letting the Minister know that all of the things I have been asking for seem reasonable within a community in terms of basic services. This goes right against it. I will leave it like that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I didn't hear a question so I will go on to the next person on my list. The next person on the list is Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a few questions in regard to the North Slave Correctional Centre. Over the past year or just over a year, there have been two psychologists brought into that facility that currently aren't there. I'd like to ask the Minister what are we doing in terms of mental health services at the North Slave Correctional Centre now that we've...I'm not sure if we rushed these two doctors out the door or what exactly happened, but they are not there anymore. We have to provide these services to the inmates that are there. I am wondering how it is getting done if these guys aren't there. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, with respect to that North Slave Correctional Centre, we do have a contract in place to provide services from a psychologist, so there is a service being provided to the inmates. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: I find it very hard to believe that we don't have some onsite mental health services available at our largest correctional centre in this Territory. Regarding this contract that is in place, how often does this individual or company -- I'm not even sure who it is -- provide services to the inmates that are at the North Slave Correctional Centre? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, the service is on a needed basis. I don't have the detailed information right now on the actual

contract. At the same time, we do provide services through elders as well, trying to use their services at the centre. As you know, there are various activities happening, the program delivery at that correction as well. We tend to use them on a needed basis when inmates do require that. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: Is the decision to go to the as needed psychologist and the services that they have and they provide to the inmates of the North Slave Correctional Centre a permanent decision or are we going to try to find another psychologist for that centre on a permanent basis? As far back as I can remember there was somebody there on site to provide those types of services to the inmates that are there. It is a departure from what we normally do. I am just wondering if it is permanent, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, you can look at it as a temporary basis until we find a full-time psychologist to deal with that particular role. It certainly will be under review as well. The contract services have been provided on how effective it is going, but it is not a permanent solution right now to have a contract. But they will certainly be under review as well. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am glad to hear that that is not a permanent solution, because I don't think that is a good solution; maybe in the interim but I suggest you find somebody.

The other question I have is the health services that are provided at the North Slave Correctional Centre and coverage of nurses in that facility. What is the coverage currently on weekends at the facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, those nurses at the correctional centre are always on call on the weekends, so they provide services through that avenue. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: The reason I ask that is, when there is not a nurse at the facility for an inmate to see, two guards have to take that individual to emergency or to the hospital. It takes two guards out of the facility at any one time. The inmate goes to the hospital. We had this discussion last year. Has there been any decrease in the coverage of health care and nursing at North Slave Correctional Centre from last year to this year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know there hasn't been any decrease in services being provided to the inmates by on-call nurses. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I have no other names on the list. We are on page 9-27, community justice and corrections,

activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$33.270 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 9-28, community justice and corrections, activity summary, grants and contributions, contributions, \$2.061 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister under the contributions to wilderness camps. In the last year to two years there have been a couple of incidents where there have been some problems with some of the wilderness camps that have existed and that the Justice department I think may or may not have used. My question goes to whether or not there are any regulations that govern these particular wilderness camps or the businesses that operate them. What safeguards are in place to make sure that operators operating these camps are providing a safe, secure environment for inmates that are either sent there or that do go there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the wilderness camps, there are standards in place that we need to inspect the actual camps that offenders may be going to. It is a liability issue. We need to be careful in this area where everything is up to standards, to our standards as well within Justice, the court system, and the judges' direction. Those are the works in place when we go out there and seek out camps. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: It is good to know that there are standards in place. I would like to know if these standards are national standards or are they modelled under another province. How are they established or how were they established? I guess a second question would be whether or not these operators are licensed. Do they have to get a business licence from someone? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, certainly we follow certain standards whether they be the federal correction because we have our own correction standards as well, so those are the areas that we tend to follow because we have to cover all grounds whether they be inmates from elsewhere through federal institution. So those are issues that need to take into consideration with respect to inspections and the standards. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: To my question on whether or not operators need to be licensed, could the Minister answer that, please?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: My understanding is when they are running a business, they do need one. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: The licences are issued by what organization and what level of government?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I do believe it is just a standard business licence that they need to operate, whether they are the camps or other businesses. That is the first step. They have to meet our standards as well. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. We are on page 9-28. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just on wilderness camps, I would just like to know, I know there used to be a few in the different regions in the Territories. I know that the Sahtu has one in the southern part of the Territories. I know that there are still people in the different regions that used to run these camps. They are still interested but because of the program and the cost to them to operate and whatnot, they are not even breaking even but yet this interest is still out there. Where are these camps located? What is the possibility of expanding this program to other regions in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, currently we have three camps that we have initiated. Fort Smith would be one of them, Kozo Lake, the Sahtu and we are still working with the Tlicho organization to have establishment to invite inmates. Part of my opening remarks was also expanding our horizon as well where we want to reach out to other regions as a long term basis. Those are the areas of discussion we need to have with the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Certainly I will be looking forward to the import of the Members and start planning on a long-term basis. We are open to those ideas as well. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: Well, again, it illustrates all these programs in the southern part of the Territories, nothing in the northern territory. I think that, if anything, these programs used to exist in the Northwest Territories, the Mackenzie Delta. I think there are camps out there that could be used for this particular purpose. Again, it seems like it's first-come, first-served with regard to who gets the Ministers there when they get these programs. I'd like to know why don't you have a universal program in all regions in the Northwest Territories to be fair to everyone, so that those people who come from those regions have the choice of which communities they come from. It's a cultural camp you are talking about. The Gwich'in region, the Mackenzie Delta, the Slavey regions and the North

Slave, the Chipewyan with regard to the southern Mackenzie. The same with the Dogrib with regard to the Tlicho region. So I'm wondering why aren't you looking at regional culture-based camps for those inmates that come from those different cultural groups than just in three areas of the Territories and not allowing for all inmates to be treated the same based on which aboriginal tribe they come from. Why haven't you taken that into consideration?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, I am certainly taking those into consideration on a long-term basis. The three areas I have highlighted have been in the works for a number of years now, but I did indicate again that I am committed to working with the standing committee on identifying areas of interest. With that, we need to find resources and we need to find the funding as well. So certainly I am open to that as I stated earlier. I feel this is an important part of the process of dealing with our own people within the justice area. Then again it is rehabilitating back to the community. So we are focussing on this in the community justice areas as well as part of our mandate from the Justice department. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: So when can we see a program like this run out of the Mackenzie Delta?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, we need to start talking about where the next program delivery could be and we have to deal with other regions as well, not just Beaufort-Delta. So we need to identify if there are camps out there already existing and the cost of it and with these camps that are in existence, the equipment, the supplies have been allocated already and now the next step is to find those potential camps elsewhere in other regions. So I can't tell you today if it's going to be next year. There is a planning process that needs to take place and we are going through a business cycle next year as well. So certainly that will be up for discussion at that time. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to ask the Minister how do people prescribe to this program? I have people who are doing some outfitting businesses on the side, but they are just struggling with regard to that business, but they are looking for other options to keep their businesses sustainable. I think this is a perfect opportunity or something they can look at since they are already running a business. Most of their business is during the summer months. These facilities can be used during the winter months for those types of projects.

Again with the Gwich'in, we have two camps; one outside of Inuvik, we have the Tl'oondih camp above McPherson. These are multi-million dollar facilities which could provide these types of services on a short-term basis.

It's important to note that you have a facility in Inuvik with four inmates and it's costing \$2 million a year with 14 staff. I think if anywhere, that's where you can find the money and implement programs like this right across the Territories in all regions so all cultural organizations can have an opportunity to develop a program for their residents, so that they can come back to the region and take these camps and start up being in the southern institutions in Fort Smith, Yellowknife or Hay River and they can serve out their time in their home regions. So, again, what is the process for somebody to apply to this program? Who do they contact? Who would they call in order to show an interest?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, this particular program is not a huge project. It's a small project where there may be three, four, five inmates that volunteer to go out on the land. It's not a money-making initiative. We provide services, we provide resources to certain camps that can operate. But with the existing camp the Member is referring to, it could be a huge camp that we may not be able to subsidize the whole thing if there is only one or two inmates from that particular region. We have to take all of those into consideration. But certainly if there are interests from the Member's riding, they can go through the MLA to our department. We will certainly be more than happy to accept proposals from the region if they want to take on a correction camp out on the land. We're open for that as well. So we are looking forward to working with the regions. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are on page 9-28, community justice and corrections, activity summary, grants and contributions. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Minister on community justice committees and contributions to provide...Is this an application base for community justice projects for communities to apply for?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these are contribution agreements with communities. As an example, we visited Tsiigehtchic. They didn't have the program in place. I was approached by the chief and the MLA of the region and they were interested in having the program delivered, so we signed off on a contribution agreement. Those are the areas that we sponsor as a contribution agreement. So we continue providing those services. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister says it's contribution agreements to the communities and we just had the discussion on 9-27, community justice, \$2.5 million. So there is another \$1.3 million here.

Maybe I am getting a little bit confused here in terms of the funding to community justice committees and projects. I guess I am going to take this as community justice committees that want to look at a specific project. I'm somewhat confused as to the funding here, Mr. Chair. I am asking for some clarification.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: In '09-10, \$1.371 million is part of that \$2.529 community justice funding. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Minister. On wilderness camps, Mr. Chair, I worked closely with the previous Minister on the efforts to have wilderness camps in our region, certainly taking a lot of effort on both the Justice department and also on the Sahtu operator to make a successful wilderness camp from both perspectives here. Mr. Chair, the Minister said they're going to review, look at it. Is this something that is going to be entrenched in the Northwest Territories justice system as a way to look at alternative corrections to reintegrate people back into the communities?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I think we have initiated that already, where we provide on-the-land program for the correction inmates. Although there may be three areas of delivering in the regions, I think that's a good start. We're hoping to have more camps in other regions so we cover off all regions. That's the overall plan, a part of our long-term goals.

I believe this is part of an alternative justice on-the-land program, so I think it captures that as well as alternative measures. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, one of the issues that I have had some discussions with the elders in the Sahtu, especially some of the elders up in Colville Lake when we had some of our meetings there, that they wanted to look at alternative methods to aboriginal justice corrections in our region here. Certainly these camps here, I think what the department has to offer in terms of moving in this direction is commendable, but also a trailblazer in that area. I think it's long overdue.

The elders would definitely like to see a bigger role in these types of camps, yet the system is still stuck on having facilities and certain policies that support these facilities. So I think that wilderness camps, as the elders say, would be the way to go. However, this is a good start. But it's very, very little to what can really be offered.

So I would ask the Minister of Justice how committed and serious is his department and this Cabinet in terms of looking at coming full force with dealing with the aboriginal justice issues in the

North? In our region, most of my people, or 80 percent, are aboriginal people, in terms of the ratio of aboriginal versus non-aboriginal in the Sahtu.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Within our Department of Justice we take these into consideration very seriously. With the help of Charlie and Laura Tobac from the Sahtu region, they've done excellent work in this area; the elders that operated this camp. We'd like to fully utilize the elders in the regions, because they're the experts on on-the-land programs. I do believe that as part of the aboriginal justice area, we've increased in this area where initially it was Fort Smith. Now we've added Sahtu, Tlicho and other communities down the road. Also, re-evaluating our Community Justice Program as well, and how we can strengthen that. So I think it goes hand in hand.

So we certainly are very interested in these areas and we are, as a department, serious also. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, it will be seen as to the urgency of the department. I do appreciate the Minister's willingness to look at other regions; Tlicho. Mr. Krutko from the Mackenzie Delta stated that certainly Tl'oonidih should be looked at again as a possibility. There's another camp in Inuvik that should be looked at. I think the reason why I'm saying this, Mr. Chair, is that when the elders speak to you, they don't speak to you for nothing. Some of the elders speak to you very clearly and you certainly know that when you listen to them, sometimes they go on and on, and sometimes you're trying to catch the meaning of what they're trying to say. Sometimes some of these elders talk to you very sternly when there are things they need to say to you. But they say it to you, they say it very firmly and they mean it very hard in the way that they're speaking to you for a reason. I guess that's why I'm saying these things here to the Minister, that these camps would be very beneficial.

I keep going back to Colville Lake where Mrs. Kochon, an elderly lady, wanted to have a bush camp in Colville Lake. She pleaded with me at Colville Lake, to see if the department could get a bush camp or a drug and alcohol camp out at Colville Lake. A very simple old lady that grew up on the land, knows the way of the land. She pleaded with me to say if it's possible that they could have a camp like that in Colville Lake for her people in prevention. That was about four or five years ago. Today we still haven't seen anything.

I know the Minister is working hard to get this in other regions. That's why when you look at 14-4-2 - - 14 and a half staff for four clients for \$2 million, you try to figure out where is the priority. Certainly we're not seeing it and it's not being demonstrated in these communities here. That's why I'm asking

the Minister how serious is he and his department in looking at alternative ways, people like in Colville Lake with Mr. Kochon can say yes, we will do something. However, policies, regulations all fall to a different way of doing justice. That's a justice that's been in here that needs to be looked at. That's all I'm saying on behalf of my people, Mr. Chair. That's why I asked the Minister how seriously is his department looking at justice like the wilderness camps?

I do commend this department, the previous Minister and this Minister, for putting their necks on the line for programs like this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. No question; more of a comment. We're on page 9-28, community justice and corrections, activity summary, grants and contributions, contributions, \$2.061 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 9-29, which is just an information item. Community justice and corrections, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-31, services to the public, activity summary, operations expenditure. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this activity it notes the rentals office, and I did have a couple questions about the rentals office. Would the Minister be able to inform the House, does the rentals officer get a lot of complaints regarding rental increases? And if so, what does the rental officer do with those complaints in that process? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I don't have the stats with us right now. Any results that come in, whether it be on a rental of office whether there will be an increase or not, usually it's dealt with immediately. But certainly, if we have the stats on the office, we can certainly provide that. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I understand that the rentals office also is sort of the overseer of the Rentals and Tenancy Act. I'm just curious on when the last time that was updated through this office, and has the rental officer provided any updates through this process or do they have any employees that work under that office that assist with those type of problems that rental tenants may come forward with from time to time to address their concerns and needs? Thank you.

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

---Interjection

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Ms. Bronwyn Watters.

MS. WATTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Residential Tenancies Act is currently in the process of being amended and there will be significant changes to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Watters. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you for that. Has that act made it, although I'm not a Social Programs committee member, has that act in an updated form been presented to the Social Programs committee for review or is it still being worked on in the policy shop?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is it hasn't been presented yet with any additions or amendments. Certainly that will be forthcoming.

MR. HAWKINS: Just one last question and then I'll save the rest for the floor of the House for question period. In this particular case, when can I expect, from a Regular Member's point of view, to see the legislative proposal through the department? Does he have a time frame on this?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I don't have the detailed timing of it, but we can certainly get back to the Members on the timing of that, because we will be before the Standing Committee on Social Programs. So we'll provide that information.

MR. HAWKINS: I just want to make sure, although the Minister knows this, but of course I want to say it for the record. Because I don't sit on the Social Programs committee, would the Minister be willing to forward me a draft copy of the updates when it reaches that period that it can be sent to Social Programs? I just want to make sure that I'm included in the loop. Perhaps at the same time I can get some information on the other additional questions I had asked.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly the information from Social Programs, I believe it is distributed to MLAs as well. But we can certainly do that from our end.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We're on page 9-31, services to the public, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$3.918 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question with regard to the protection against family violence \$348,000 amount. It's gone up significantly, which I think is great, and it's my understanding that the programs relative to family violence and the framework for family violence section 2 being implemented are that the programs are going to be expanded. My question is, what is the programming that's going to be in force in this next budget year? What sorts of things are planned with this extra money?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Part of the increase in funding is due to the fact that we will be providing programs for abusers. That has been presented to the standing committee in that respect. Standing committee also gave us some ideas and suggestions looking at other areas as well. Those are the areas that there is an increase due to the fact that we will be delivering programs for abusers.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister then, I just wanted to make sure one of the programs that you heard of from the Social Programs committee that you are considering, does that have to do with not only men who abuse but women who abuse?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This specific funding that's been allocated is specifically for men abusers. The female abusers that standing committee has presented to us, we are looking at that on a going-forward basis, at how we can integrate that into our programs. But this specific program is for men.

MS. BISARO: Thanks for the clarification. Just a question. If the uptake on the programming for men who abuse is not fully subscribed, would the department consider taking that funding and try to use it to start developing a program for women who abuse? It's a smaller number of people in all likelihood, but I think it's important that we recognize that abusers are of, unfortunately, both sexes. Would the department consider starting a program for men who abuse, or at least developing a program for women who abuse, sorry, if the opportunity presents itself financially?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: If there's not much of an uptake with the men abusers, part of the program will certainly be open to look at other areas that the Member has alluded to. Certainly we will be open to those discussions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We're on page 9-31, services to the public, activity summary, operations expenditure, \$3.918 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-32, services to the public, activity summary, grants and contributions, contributions, \$105,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-33, which is an information item only, services to the public, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 9-34, which is also an information item, work performed on behalf of others.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 9-35, work performed on behalf of others, continued, an information item. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question on 9-34, if I could get committee's indulgence to go back there. I just have a question there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Is committee agreed to go back to page 9-34?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Go ahead, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Proceeds of Crime Project, I'm just wondering; obviously there are drug busts in our Territory. There's property that's seized. There's cash that's seized. I'm just wondering why we're not showing anything in the 2009-2010 main estimates and why we wouldn't be taking some of those proceeds of crime money and goods and investing it back into the project like this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Schofield.

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proceeds of crime are administered through the federal government. All appeal processes have to be exhausted before the proceeds of crime becomes available. The federal government takes their share and then we are sent a cheque to determine how much the proceeds of crime we would be allocated. So it's not consistent and when we get the funding we then look at projects that we could use that funding for crime prevention activities.

MR. RAMSAY: Thanks. I don't need a great big definition on this or an answer to this, but I'm just

wondering; if the Government of the Northwest Territories pays for policing services here in the Northwest Territories, why is it that all the proceeds of crime -- the guns, the drugs, the money and anything that has a cash value to it -- doesn't accrue to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Why is it thrown into a great big federal coffer and we just get a pittance? I think if the cash is collected from drug dealers here and there's property seized here in the Northwest Territories, that should come back to the residents of the Northwest Territories to go to some of these drug prevention and education activities here in the Northwest Territories. I don't understand why we just let it go.

MS. SCHOFIELD: The responsibility for drug enforcement is with the federal government. They have that responsibility for drug enforcement. They also have the responsibility to prosecute drug offences as well. The money is used to offset costs for court time, as well as policing and drug enforcement as a policing federal activity responsibility of the federal government. That's why we only get a portion.

MR. RAMSAY: I appreciate the response. I don't necessarily agree with it, but I appreciate it.

The other question I'd have is maybe a bit of a breakdown on the family law initiative and what exactly that \$201,000 is earmarked for, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. That \$201,000, we don't have that information right now, but we can certainly provide that information to the Members. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: What's the Minister and the department's plans for coming back with that information? Is it going to come through the Social Programs committee or is it just going to show up in a letter? I'm interested in knowing how that's going to play itself out. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, we can certainly provide that information via a letter to the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Page 9-34, work performed on behalf of others, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to 9-35, which is work performed on behalf of others, continued, also an information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 9-36, work performed on behalf of others, continued, information item, \$4.689 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay, we'll go back to page number 9-7, Department of Justice, operations expenditure summary, department summary, \$93.488 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Is committee agreed that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Report, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimate for 2009-2010, and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 23, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be meeting of the Board of Management at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
 - Tabled Document 11-16(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2009-2010
 - Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee

- Committee Report 3-16(3), Report on the Use of Laptop Computers and Blackberry Devices in the Legislative Assembly
- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act
- Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act
- Bill 4, Public Library Act
- Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:45 p.m.