



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, October 25, 2010**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Hay River North)

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(Frame Lake)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>5227</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>5227</b>
63-16(5) – National Marketing Campaign (B. McLeod).....	5227
64-16(5) – NWT Labour Force Development Framework 2010-2020 (Lafferty).....	5228
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>5228</b>
Assisted Living Accommodations for Adult Disabled Children (Bisaro).....	5228
Proposed Revisions to Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (Hawkins) .....	5229
Seniors' Housing Requirement in Tu Nedhe Constituency (Beaulieu) .....	5229
Viability of Pellet Mill in the NWT (Groenewegen) .....	5230
Rising Health Care Costs and Health Authority Deficits (Ramsay) .....	5230
Stand-alone School in Trout Lake (Menicoche).....	5231
Facilitation of Curated Shows for Northern Artists (Abernethy).....	5231
NWT Anti-Poverty Strategy (Bromley) .....	5232
Coordinated Schedule for Inuvik Regional Ferry Operations (Krutko) .....	5232
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>5233</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>5233</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>5243</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>5244</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>5244</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>5262</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>5262</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, October 25, 2010****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

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

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 63-16(5):  
NATIONAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN**

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has a very bright future. The economic opportunities our Territory possesses in tourism, mining, oil and gas and more are significant.

Mr. Speaker, one of the key priorities of the Government of the Northwest Territories is training and employing our people. But we also know that our population is not large enough to fill all the positions that will be available in the future. That is why in April, the Government of the Northwest Territories launched a major initiative to address that challenge, the Come Make Your Mark Campaign.

This innovative multi-year campaign is designed to increase awareness across Canada of the tremendous career opportunities available in the Northwest Territories in an effort to get Canadians to live and work here long term.

Since it was launched in northern and central Ontario in April, Come Make Your Mark has generated almost 30,000 inquiries, three times as many as expected.

This campaign includes several phases, and phase two was launched on October 6<sup>th</sup>. In phase two we are targeting post-secondary students across Canada and promoting the job opportunities and the high quality of life the Northwest Territories offers. This phase will run in over 60 universities, colleges and trade schools across Canada.

We are reaching out to post-secondary students in unique ways so our message will have the greatest

impact. We are asking Northwest Territories post-secondary students to talk with their peers about the opportunities the Northwest Territories has to offer. We are also inviting Northwest Territories post-secondary students to be ambassadors for the campaign. As ambassadors they would assist us in promoting the Northwest Territories at the job fairs we are attending to promote our Territory.

Other promotional efforts include advertising in campus newspapers and through posters. We will also continue to provide information about the campaign on the Come Make Your Mark website, Facebook page, and Twitter.

One of the innovative aspects of this phase of the campaign is the introduction of Mark. Mark is planning regional visits throughout the Northwest Territories over a four-week period, which started in early October. Mark has been to Hay River and will be travelling to Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok and Norman Wells.

During Mark's travels he will discover job opportunities, experience the lifestyle and mingle with his peers who have made the move to the Northwest Territories. Mark will Twitter, blog, and relate his experiences on his Facebook page and on the campaign website. By using these social media tools, we hope to continue to spread the word amongst post-secondary students about all the Northwest Territories has to offer.

The government understands the labour force challenges our businesses are facing. Through initiatives like the Come Make Your Mark Campaign we are taking important steps to address this challenge.

We all want an economy that is diversified and one that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices. This campaign is an important way for the Northwest Territories to make its mark amongst Canadians and to let them know how they can be a part of the prosperous, vibrant future that we envision for this Territory.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 64-16(5):  
NWT LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
FRAMEWORK 2010-2020

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. One of the key priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

Labour force development, career counselling and employment supports are ways in which the Department of Education, Culture and Employment works toward achieving this priority. Today I wish to inform Members of some recent and new initiatives in this regard.

The department is working on an NWT Labour Force Development Framework that looks ahead to the next 10 years. This framework is for all labour market stakeholders in the Northwest Territories: business, industry in all levels of government, non-government organizations, employees, the unemployed and underrepresented in the workforce.

Over the past three months, the department has been consulting with our partners across the Northwest Territories to come up with a shared vision and common goals and objectives.

The framework is a guide for all labour market stakeholders. It is a tool for working in partnership and a guide to making decisions and coordinating limited resources.

As well, the framework builds a structure of monitoring and reporting so partners can measure successes and respond collectively to emerging labour market trends and key labour force challenges throughout the Territory.

The framework will guide regional labour force activities to help the Northwest Territories respond to economic opportunities through 2020 and beyond.

One initiative to support labour force development is the Small Community Employment Supports Program, which began in April 2010.

The committee on Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities developed the Small Community Employment Supports Program. This is a \$350,000 employment incentive program for employers in small and remote communities to provide employment opportunities for youth ages 15 to 29 during the summer season. The program provides youth an opportunity to gain work experience and acquire skills that lead to greater independence. Wage and training subsidies are available to employers offering essential employment skill development.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that 27 employers in 19 communities accessed the program, helping 98 youth. Strong communication

between regional ECE service centre staff and local community members built the success of this program.

In the fall and winter, funds will be available for youth who are out of school. This allows eligible employers to take full advantage of the program year round.

Mr. Speaker, the nature of the Small Community Employment Supports Program allows meaningful partnerships with private sector employers and non-government organizations. It is one example of how this government is preparing and developing for our future labour force. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ASSISTED LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADULT DISABLED CHILDREN

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently became aware of a growing problem in our health care system in my community here in Yellowknife, and in the NWT in general, and it's important enough that I need to bring it to the attention of this House and the public.

I have constituents in my riding who are a family with a disabled adult child, one who needs supervision 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The parents are aging -- something we all do, unfortunately -- and they realize that at some point they will not long be able to care for their child at home.

In an effort to be proactive, to plan for the future, to establish some peace of mind for themselves in regard to their child's welfare, about four years ago now they began to look for alternative accommodation for their child outside of their home. What is needed is assisted living, independent living with 24/7 supervision, and there are assisted living accommodations here in Yellowknife as well as in other NWT communities, but they are few and far between. From what I can gather, there are only about 12 or so places in Yellowknife that would suit this family's needs, and all of these spaces are filled and will remain filled for the foreseeable future.

You can imagine the surprise, the consternation and the frustration of these parents when they learned after four years of being patient, of asking questions, investigating and following the protocols, when they learned that there is no assisted living space available for their child to move into in their home community, not now and not in the future.

The parents have been working cooperatively with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority for the past four years, and now the authority has done all that it can to assist the family. But with no available housing, Yellowknife Health and Social Services can only leave the child on a wait-list.

This is an unacceptable situation, Mr. Speaker, for my constituents and for all adult disabled children living with aging parents. We cannot expect families to continue looking after their disabled children into old age. That's not good for either the parents or the child.

The Department of Health and Social Services must show some initiative and get out ahead of this problem. The number of adult disabled children here in Yellowknife currently being cared for at home by aging parents, those children who need to transition to independent living, will only increase in the next 10 to 15 years. To avoid a crisis -- and I call placing these children in southern institutions a crisis -- the department must begin to work now to find appropriate housing for them.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** The Department of Health and Social Services, working with the NWT Housing Corporation, can develop the necessary assisted living facilities for these vulnerable residents of our NWT society before it is too late.

I will have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Small and medium businesses are truly the breadbasket of our territorial economy. They are willing and able, and if I may say, resilient in their ways of finding just the right way of contributing to our North, whether it's through their volunteerism or through their donations to the communities. But first and foremost, they are certainly one of the employers that are the building blocks of our North.

Mr. Speaker, outside of the government, without the small and medium businesses, our economy would be quite fledgling, and certainly the cost of living needs to be competitive. As such, they are always concerned when a new cost of doing business is being imposed on them without really good feedback and a chance to be involved.

Mr. Speaker, as many people will know, and certainly businesses will know, that WSCC is presenting rewriting their regulations and a number of businesses are certainly concerned about what is being proposed in these regulation changes. With approximately 400 pages in updated regulations, this is causing serious concern regarding those potential impacts, and are they being sourced out and considered.

Mr. Speaker, business has expressed serious concern. To name just a few: the new levels of potential required paperwork; remote access problems required and with notice and certainly continual notice when you are off-site -- sorry; traditional site, maybe your business place, you have to go to a region, that is -- the new and expanded list of requirements that they are now paid to do day to day business as well as where are they going to get the staff to do these new things that the WSCC regulations keep dreaming up? Again, I shouldn't forget the ever-increasing costs in the administration of the WSCC, certainly to these employers.

Mr. Speaker, the employers want to be part of an open and free dialogue when the consideration on these regulations is going forward. As I understand it, the extension period has been granted to them to allow some feedback, but the big concern, of course, with this, is the fact that are these regulation updates being thought through in a way that makes sense, or are they just a new administrative burden to small and medium business, which has a serious effect on things like our tax dollars and the people that they employ, which are certainly our voters.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of WSCC today, highlighting some of those concerns to ensure that we have some good, clear feedback and dialogue with everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SENIORS' HOUSING REQUIREMENT IN TU NEDHE CONSTITUENCY

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

Caring for our seniors is an important activity in all of our communities, particularly in our smaller communities such as Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution.

Many families in these communities are already over-burdened with limited income and the high cost of living, so caring for senior family members on top of all of this can be tremendously challenging.

In Fort Resolution, the community has Our Great Elders Facility that can accommodate four seniors.

However, Mr. Speaker, this facility is not being utilized for residential use. This facility has been shut down for residential use and used by the Department of Health and Social Services to deliver home care.

However, I do feel the residents and the home care can coexist. This worked well in the past.

Mr. Speaker, last week I spoke about the government putting its needs before the needs of the communities. Here is another example. This facility was built under the social housing portfolio to house seniors. That is not what it is being used for today.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, Our Great Elders Facility was used for long-term care and then it was closed down due to policy changes by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, in Lutselk'e, the community has a four-unit building that houses four seniors. Although it is a great place for seniors to gather on a regular basis, the seniors have advised me that the community does not have enough adequate, suitable housing for the elders. The seniors have requested another four-unit facility be built as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the seniors public housing is built by the NWT Housing Corporation in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services. However, this would not be necessary in this case. The community is simply asking for another four residential units under the Public Housing Program to house seniors.

Mr. Speaker, in both communities of Tu Nedhe, the people want to see their seniors remain in the community as long as possible. The construction of a new senior citizens home in Lutselk'e and the repatriation of the four units in Our Great Elders Facility will go a long way to achieving this goal.

Later today I will have questions for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON VIABILITY OF PELLET MILL IN THE NWT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the viability of a pellet mill in the Northwest Territories to manufacture pellets for wood-burning stoves and boilers.

Mr. Speaker, we have the trees. We have the sustainable inventory of trees. We have an increasing demand for pellets. We started off with a lot of residential pellet stoves and it was at that time somewhat more practical to bring in bags of pellets

to have them imported from Alberta and British Columbia. But, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, this government has undertaken numerous initiatives to convert buildings owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories to pellet burning boilers; this building being one of them, the schools in Hay River being another example, the North Slave Correctional Centre being another example.

Mr. Speaker, as this demand grows for pellets in the Northwest Territories, with our vast forest and our need for employment opportunities and economic ventures for our people, it is time that we get ahead of this demand and start working now to develop a pellet manufacturing business, and by doing so, not requiring us to import pellets for burning in the Northwest Territories.

As I said, the demand is increasing. Perhaps it's not at a level yet today where the viability is all there for having a manufacturing facility in the Northwest Territories, but it would take a few months, years, to get something like this off the ground. So we need to be proactive, we need to think ahead, we need to put our money where our mouth is in terms of our commitment to green energy initiatives and get to work on this.

Later today, in question period, I'll have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources on where the research is within his department to ensure that we get a facility to manufacture pellets for the people of the Northwest Territories as soon as reasonably possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS AND HEALTH AUTHORITY DEFICITS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to speak about health care costs and the large deficits that are occurring across the various health authorities in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I know full well that Stanton provides service and backup to other authorities. It only stands to reason that the deficit there would be the largest.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007, we have approved appropriations in this House earmarked for the deficit at Stanton to the tune of \$18 million. The deficit at Stanton for '09-10 alone is \$7 million. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this current fiscal year, in March of 2011, this deficit is proposed to come in near a number that I hope to get out of the Minister later in today's proceedings.

The Minister likes to pull at the heartstrings of the Regular Members and the public by saying, well, we can't cut services. Health care costs are rising

all over the country and it's as if the Minister and the department are saying, how dare you question us, we're looking after the health and well-being of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and appreciate the challenges that the department and the Minister have, but my belief is that if we do not fix the system, the ongoing red ink is just not going to be sustainable, and it will ultimately force future governments into cutting valuable programs and services to the public. We will undoubtedly jeopardize our ability to look after the public if we do not take action now.

Since 2003 nothing has changed and no one seems to be listening. I'm not pointing my finger, Mr. Speaker, at Stanton alone; I'm pointing my finger at the Minister, who has failed in her three years at the helm to do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker, given what is at stake, the very well-being of the health of the public and residents here in the Northwest Territories, we need to ensure that we fund health authorities appropriately. We have to have a system in place that will best allow us to manage increasing health care costs. Mr. Speaker, we must collect on outstanding debts. Accounts receivable cannot continue to be a foreign concept to the Minister, the department and this government. Thank you very much.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STAND-ALONE SCHOOL IN TROUT LAKE

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I raise the issue of a stand-alone school for the community of Trout Lake. During my recent visit in August, this item was a priority for the community. The education for children of Trout Lake is needed.

Over the past seven years as the MLA for Nahendeh, I have supported capital projects for schools and superschools. I believe now it is time to invest in our small communities and their educational needs. The old Charles Tetcho School burnt down many years ago. Currently, the existing Charles Tetcho School is located in the community recreation centre.

Government did promise a new school and this was to be a temporary measure. School-aged students in Trout Lake need a building where there can be more separation of grade levels to allow for different activities. I should also add, then, that a gymnasium attached to the school would benefit the students as they learn.

Learning starts in the home community and children need a safe and enjoyable place to learn. Thus, I

continue to support the community in their request for a new stand-alone school in Trout Lake and I will ask the Minister of Education questions on this matter later on in the proceeding.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FACILITATION OF CURATED SHOWS FOR NORTHERN ARTISTS

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past September I attended a number of events during NWT Arts Week here in Yellowknife. I have to say there were a lot of great events and a lot of great presentations.

As Northerners, I think we should be proud of the musicians, and the painters, and the authors, and the actors, and the craftspeople, and the carvers of the Northwest Territories. Quite frankly, the quality, and quantity, and diversity of the products that are out there are amazing. It's simply amazing.

During the last week, a number of working sessions were facilitated by the Aurora Arts Society to discuss issues that are important to local and territorial artists.

One of the topics that was discussed at some of these focus group meetings was the need for artists to have their own work displayed in a curated show.

A curated show is usually one where a collection of items such as paintings are pulled together by professional bodies who are interested in displaying a certain style of body of work to highlight the cultural and/or historic significance or value. The body of work is usually researched and its significance is outlined as part of the presentation of the collection. This is not something done by a retail outfit; this is usually something done by a museum or professional fine arts gallery or curator.

There are significant advantages to both an artist that's being displayed in the collection and the Northwest Territories as a whole, if curated shows were to be facilitated.

For example, although not a curated show, the Northern House was the closest thing that this government has done to facilitate a curated show for NWT artists. The benefits were obvious to the artists who received significant exposure. In addition, they were also significant to the NWT, as the interest in the arts and cultural activities were significant, resulting in high levels of attendance at the Northern House. This should translate over time into a greater number of visitors into the Northwest Territories.

Unfortunately, the GNWT does not currently facilitate any curated shows here in the Northwest Territories. There is significant mutually beneficial

opportunity here that this government should be taking advantage of. If this government were to facilitate some local curated shows, they could be circulated through a number of NWT communities. This would demonstrate the talent levels of the NWT and hopefully encourage more residents to participate. Further, the same curated shows could be sent to southern institutions, creating future interest in the Northwest Territories.

For the artists themselves, there are significant advantages. For example, currently the majority of NWT artists that are able to apply aren't able to apply for support from Canada Council.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Currently the majority of NWT artists are unable to apply for support from Canada Council. One of the primary criteria for them is that an individual must have been involved in a curated show. By supporting curated shows here in the Northwest Territories, we are opening our local artists to significant opportunities on a national level through the Canada Council sponsored shows, training opportunities and international events. These, by default, increase the national and international awareness of the Northwest Territories, which is good for tourism. Support of our artists is a win-win scenario.

I'll be asking the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment some questions on this topic later today.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to compliment the Premier's action towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy in a comprehensive and inclusive way. I attended the recent two-day No Place for Poverty Summit, working with 80 participants from 20 communities, municipal and territorial governments, service providers and the NWT's foremost social justice advocates. I could not have been more impressed with the quality and breadth of participation and with the resulting unanimous recommendations.

Lessons shared at the workshop gave solid advice towards achieving best results. We learned that the most successful provincial efforts to develop anti-poverty strategies were those launched with the broadest participation of essential partners: government, business, civil society, and those in poverty. Most critically, bring together everyone to create buy-in and a common vision of the work ahead.

The workshop's concluding messages were clear and I'll repeat them here.

Eliminating poverty must be of the highest priority and the solutions must come from the community level, with full participation and inclusion. The Premier has created an internal steering committee to work with a small selection of advocates towards a framework.

Government will indeed need internal coordination and I am glad to hear that work is underway. Yet it's clear from recent statements that the Premier will need to consider the summit conclusions and plan for an arm's-length steering committee involved from the start for real success.

The other essential half of the fully cooperative process is ensuring that all those who come forward have a place in the first steps of design and that they have the resources they need to continue the process as full partners. As a government, we must ensure all partners are involved and that the coordination role is clearly recognized and funded by us to fuel their capacity.

An important and essential element recognized at the summit is business participation. Elimination of poverty will unleash the huge potential of citizens finally enabled to take part in building a prosperous economy both as consumers and as workers. Provincial lessons emphasize that the business community has the will and the inspiration to help this work succeed. We must ensure business is at the table.

I'll be asking the Premier questions today on how to ensure we develop the best Anti-Poverty Strategy in Canada.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COORDINATED SCHEDULE FOR INUVIK REGIONAL FERRY OPERATIONS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our public infrastructure includes our airports, highways and ferry operations in the movement of people and goods. The economic driver of our northern Territory is ensuring that these systems all work in conjunction with each other.

Time is money, from the time it takes a person to leave a community to go to a doctor's appointment or travel to southern Canada. What we are finding with the ferry operations in the Inuvik region is that it's having an impact and effect on the travelling public and their ability to make their connections at the Inuvik Airport to southern Canada for medical appointments, or for the overall travel of the public.

The time that the ferry operates for the travelling public on the Dempster Highway is... It leaves the

Inuvik side at 9:30. It gets to Fort McPherson and leaves there at 9:45. It travels to Tsiigehtchic, leaving there at 10:00. Then it's back to Inuvik at 10:15. That doesn't give you much time to make your connections out of Inuvik, which leave at 12:30. What we are finding is the travelling public has missed their international travel simply because of not making their connections out of the Inuvik Airport. This has a very important implication on the travellers to southern Canada and the cost associated with rebooking flights, having to overnight in Inuvik to catch the flight the following day.

I think it's important that this government seriously looks at the overall ferry operations and the times that our ferry operates in the Northwest Territories. The ferry operations in the Northwest Territories start operations in Fort Providence at 6:00 a.m; Fort Liard at 8:00 a.m. I think it's important that we do a better job to ensure the travelling public, when they do have travels, are able to coordinate their travel arrangements to make their connections to southern Canada, or their appointments at the doctor's office, or to simply do their shopping and get home that evening.

I think it's important that this government does everything it can to ensure we have a system that is coordinated and that people are able to make their arrangements.

At the appropriate time I have questions for the Minister of Transportation.

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

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to be able to recognize Mr. Sonny McDonald, esteemed elder, one of the greatest carvers that we've had in the North, and a friend and constituent from the mighty constituency of Thebacha.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 250-16(5): COORDINATED SCHEDULE FOR INUVIK REGIONAL FERRY OPERATIONS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my Member's statement, I know I've had this discussion with the Minister and he has heard it from the people in the Mackenzie Delta. It was an

issue at the Gwich'in Assembly. I'd like to ask the Minister if there is a possibility of ensuring that we have a realistic starting time for ferry operations in the Inuvik region, say 8:00. Right now it runs from 9:30 until 12:30 in the evening. Is there a possibility of moving that clock back to start at 8:00 in the morning and concluding ferry operations, say, at 11:30?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course it is possible. We could have that discussion.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, it's too late for this ferry season to implement such an idea, but I'd like to ask the Minister if it's possible for us to see the ferry operations for 2010-2011 taken into consideration so that we do bring our times in line with other ferry operations in the Northwest Territories similar to the ferry operation on the Liard River system, to coordinate it so that people know this is the time our ferries operate in the Northwest Territories. When we post it, people will know that they can have a reasonable time to travel and make their connections, and not put a barrier to the travelling public.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** We have our ferry program to ease the barriers that are caused by our waterways and other obstacles that challenge us. Of course, there are certain times of year that address this. We have worked with other communities. We recently worked with the community of Wrigley on the Ndulee ferry to change time schedules. It was important for the community to have the ferry operating during daylight hours and it was also a safety issue for our workers, and we came to an agreement on that ferry program. We can certainly talk to the MLA and community members if there is a desire to see the ferry schedule changed.

We are working on trying to change our ferry investment for next year so that the ferry will continue to operate longer into the season, and try to get the ice road up and running while we have a channel allowing our ferry to run. That's something we're still working towards.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I believe that we also have to coordinate our efforts with the airport operations and the air carriers. I think that was the problem we ran into in Inuvik. The airlines did move their schedules back, especially First Air and Canadian North. A lot of people fly out on them and a lot of people depend on that connection. Because they changed their schedule halfway through the summer season, it had an effect on the ferry travelling public.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he could somehow work with his department, work with the air carriers and the different communities to ensure we are giving them enough time to get to their connections out of the important regional airports, whether it's in the North or the South. I'd like to ask the Minister to also take that into consideration when he makes his decision.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** There are a couple things, of course, that really challenge us. One is the weather. We don't have control over that. The other issue, of course, is the carriers are allowed to decide what schedules they want. We can relay the concern that the Member is raising, but outside of that, there's really little we can do to change flight schedules and things of that nature. However, if there are any concerns, we can certainly pass those on to the carriers.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing the Minister does have control over is the time schedule of the ferry operations. I'd like him to seriously consider moving the ferry operations to 8:00 a.m. so that people will have the opportunity to do their work during the day, travel to Inuvik, make their appointment, get back home or even make their appointments to fly into southern Canada. You do have the power, you do have the means; all I ask is that you start the ferry operations in the Inuvik region at 8:00 a.m. starting next season.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** We will incorporate the Daylight Savings Time schedule for the ferries. We have already started working on other ferry services to change the hours so that they can take advantage of the daylight that we have, and that, of course, is becoming shorter every day. We also have to take into consideration that there are safety issues. We have to be mindful of ice buildup and we have to be able to have clear visibility at all times. Those things we'll take into consideration, we'll talk to the community leaders in the Member's area and also have an opportunity to connect with the Member himself. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 251-16(5):  
NWT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier as Minister of the Executive. The first question I have is: I want to start by saying that I appreciate that the Premier has appointed the internal working group to begin examining the issue of poverty towards developing a framework for action. The suite of territorial participants at the recent summit unanimously concluded that the first step in

attacking poverty must be development of a coordinated, cross-government and society approach. Has the Premier heard yet from this working group about these conclusions? Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not heard yet from the working group. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Successful provincial anti-poverty strategies were developed under the guidance of representatives from across society, including people living in poverty, to guide the work. Recognizing that many of the dedicated groups doing this work off the sides of desks are already consumed with efforts on their respective mandates, will the Premier commit to providing initial funding for the steering committee to bring non-government organization poverty reps to the table with business and other partners as they develop the approaches required to move this initiative forward as per the conclusion of the workshop? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, I'd have to look at the budget that we had set up for the work that's being looked at. One of the other things is the fact we're trying to be as inclusive as possible from around the whole Territory and have other people work with us as we move forward on the Anti-Poverty Strategy. I will have to look at the budget to see what is available. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I think it was appreciated that members of the internal working group were there and they, clearly, participated in those unanimous conclusions. I'm sure the Premier is hearing from the working group about that.

Business is an essential partner at the table and they can contribute to the work and enjoy the rewards of both consumers and workers as noted. Will the Premier commit to assisting in the development of the steering committee towards bringing business to the table at the start of this work? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** We have started our discussion, following some questions by Members, around the makeup of that and are looking at including some of the business community as well as the Department of ITI. So we've started to have those discussions on bringing the business side in. Thank you.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier for that. I'm sure the conclusions of the workshop, again, will help address that as well.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there is much work ahead, far more than can be achieved by the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The time remaining to us will enable us to make a good start and to give the future Assembly what it needs to carry this forward. In what ways will the Premier ensure that efforts will include working collaboratively with the broadest representation of outside advocates to develop the framework for a strategy and its priority recommendation for continued development by the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Mahsi.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** The process we have established, the work that is being done, we'll have to look at that, look at the inclusion of the business sector as well, trying to bring in as many of the groups from around the Territory as we do this work, and, of course, coming back to Members as a follow-up as we continue on in this process.

As the Member stated, in preparation for doing our work and leading up to what the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly may be looking at or what they may implement, we will have to look at how we include this work in our transition work that's going to happen. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 252-16(5):  
FACILITATION OF CURATED SHOWS  
FOR NORTHERN ARTISTS

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the opportunity that we have with respect to curated shows for northern artists. This is a win-win opportunity, a win for northern artists, but also a win for the Government of the Northwest Territories. To take advantage of this win, I think it's going to take a partnership between ITI and Education, Culture and Employment, but I only get to ask questions of one Minister so I'm going to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment some questions.

As I said in my statement, there are significant opportunities to displaying and facilitating curated shows in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tell me what is being done, or has anything been done in the Northwest Territories, to work with northern artists to display curated shows here in the Northwest Territories, to develop a collection of northern art, take it around the Northwest Territories and, hopefully, take it to the south as well? Has anything been done to that regard? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As the Assembly knows, we have

increased our funding to arts and performers, a total of approximately \$770,000 over 2009-10 and 2010-11. There have been some various activities that happened in the Northwest Territories and outside the Northwest Territories. I can certainly provide the list to the Member, because it is a long list, but I can touch on just a few of them.

We have sponsored an entry into the Northern Festival Presenters Conference in Yellowknife, March 2010; we had Aklavik Gwich'in Dancers, Arctic Winter Games, in Grande Prairie; the NWT Arts Council contributed to 19 performers for professional development; and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker, the music recording projects in seven communities in the Northwest Territories and the northern arts mentorship contribution to three musicians in three communities.

As we move forward we continue to sponsor our great athletes and also performers in the Northwest Territories. As an example, Halifax 2011 Canada Winter Games; National Arts Program activities for February 2011. Those are some of the activities that the youth and performers will be attending that we are sponsoring as well. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I'd like to thank the Minister for that. I'm in no way knocking any of the things we're doing, and I think this government is doing an awful lot with respect to arts.

During the Arts Week I had a number of artists in the Northwest Territories say how grateful they are for the increased level of support that we're providing. But I'm talking about something specific here. I'm talking about a curated show. The advantage to that is that if we facilitate a curated show for our northern artists, then our northern artists have an opportunity to take advantage of programs that the Canada Council offers and provides. Through Canada Council they can go on international tours, they can get other training, and they can have their art, northern art, displayed in national galleries. Right now we can't do that.

What we need to do is we need to facilitate a curated show where we could bring in art, we could create a theme and we could do it. An official curated show creates huge opportunity. That's what I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker, and I'm wondering if the Minister could tell me if we could move in that direction and maybe we can get his department, in cooperation with ITI, to organize some curated shows here in the Northwest Territories that will really benefit our northern artists and take them to a whole other level. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, those are the types of discussions that we need to have between ITI and ECE along with the Members. We've had various activities and shows displayed at the museums in different communities, whether it be from Scotland where we have Tlicho artefacts there that were brought to the Northwest Territories

and brought to the communities as a mobile trade show.

Mr. Speaker, this is an area that I need to talk with my colleague from ITI on how we can approach this, because we need to visit our communities, what kind of performers or the arts display that we need to highlight. Those are the discussions that we can certainly have. We did touch on it in the past, on how we can approach this, so maybe we can revive that discussion. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** That's fantastic news and I hope that you do re-engage those conversations.

Just for the record, the Minister was talking about the shows coming into the North from other locations. That is exactly what I am talking about, but I am talking about going the other way. I am talking about taking our product out to the people of the Northwest Territories. If the Minister could give me a bit of a timeline when those conversations might happen, I would certainly like to be involved in them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, definitely we need to reach out to other jurisdictions as well, such as the Vancouver Olympics. It was a very true success. We showcased the Northwest Territories. Our own artists and performers there were very successful. We will continue to promote that.

The time frame, we can say maybe sometime after this session we can sit down and discuss with the Member on how to best approach this initiative. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all great. I have just one more suggestion to the Minister.

The upper gallery in the museum, there is a long walkway where they have held a number of shows. Just in the past week, I attended a photo show that was there. It is a prime location where a curated show could be facilitated. I was wondering if I could get the Minister to commit to having the museum actually do some research on what the criteria are for a candidate counsel for something to be considered a curated show so that we can take advantage of that long hallway, and maybe with very little expense we can actually start having curated shows here in Yellowknife, which could be taken out, but let's start somewhere. Let's get some of these shows up on our wall. Let's support our northern artists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, the museum invited the Member to attend or have a tour. I believe that occurred, or will occur. This is an area that interests us as well. If there is space

availability, then, definitely, we should showcase our northern arts and arts and crafts and whatnot.

Mr. Speaker, definitely we need to discuss this further with the museum and my colleague as well. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 253-16(5):  
STAND-ALONE SCHOOL FOR TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement with regard to pursuing a new school for the community of Trout Lake. I raised this in the House before and we worked with the Minister and they did do some upgrades to the existing facility that is there. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, about what plans are in place currently with his department to look at replacing the school in Trout Lake. Thank you very much.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. At the current time we are working closely with PWS on the particular school in Trout Lake. There has been some work done on inspections. It took place over the summer of 2010 that identified a VFA inspection. Also, PWS will be visiting the school to review the program space and speak with the building users. That is the ongoing work that we are currently having.

I will be visiting the Member's riding. I have been invited by the Member, so I am looking forward to looking at the school as well, to see what is out there and we can discuss further at that level. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, certainly the residents of Trout Lake are looking forward to the Minister's visits to see the concerns and hear the concerns from the community. They have many young children and the chief has indicated that we have to fulfill their future needs. Once again, based on the baseline work that the department is going to do, how soon can they provide an assessment to look at including a school in Trout Lake in the capital planning process, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, this particular school, we need to have more detailed analysis. A planning study needs to be in place. We need to identify what the needs of the school are in the community. That is definite. We need to work on that. Next year's capital planning process we can discuss further as we move forward. This could be part of the capital planning process for the following year. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that I can work closely with the Member and also the PWS Minister. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke about we build a lot, and many large schools and superschools here in the North. It's time to concentrate on our small communities. In fact, there was a previous commitment by our government to replace the Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake. I make it a point, and I will make it again, that it is currently in the recreation centre, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister and the planners take that into account, that this existing location is not a school, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, that would be the discussion that we need to have with the various parties that we have mentioned earlier. Like I said, we are going to the community, meeting with the superintendent, the staff and the principal and the school itself. Definitely, those are the areas that are of great interest to us as well. Coming from a small community, we are not ignoring them. It is part of the capital planning process. We need to plan for next year in the planning process. Mr. Speaker, the planning study is an area that we need to discuss.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the important thing here is -- if I can ask the Minister to raise it with his colleagues in Cabinet -- we have to start looking at our small communities and provide for their educational needs and start working towards that as a strategy at the next capital planning process, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, this will be a topic of discussion, for sure. There is also, going to the Deh Cho region, Simpson, on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. This is the topic of discussion we are having relating to schools, infrastructure and the programming. This is the discussion that we will continue to have this year.

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

QUESTION 254-16(5):  
RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS AND  
HEALTH AUTHORITY DEFICITS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It gets back to my Member's statement from earlier today and one I made last week pertaining to deficits being run up at the various health authorities across the Northwest Territories.

In the past three years, the Minister said she has been in her position as Minister of Health and Social Services and brought in new management teams and a new DM. She has also brought in deficit-fighting plans that never seem to see the

light of day and aren't being implemented whatsoever. I would like to ask the Minister, the first question I have -- and again I don't want to be very specific to Stanton, although that is where the biggest deficit is -- is: What is the projected deficit at Stanton Territorial Health Authority come March 2011 and what is the system-wide deficit for the health authorities on March 2011? Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The projected deficit for Stanton at the end of 2011 is \$10,185,663 and the system-wide deficit projected for 2011 is \$16,860,299. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the Minister is getting that information. That is not the same information that was provided to Regular Members. Perhaps she is doing some creative subtraction when she is trying to arrive at that number. Where exactly is she getting those numbers that she is providing the House with? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I answered the question the Member asked, which is what is the projected deficit for Stanton and the system-wide deficit at the end of 2010-11. I don't know what information he has. Maybe he is thinking about accumulated deficit.

Obviously, this is a number that we are projecting. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter that I am willing to discuss and exchange information with the Member on. I don't think anybody is doing any creative math here. All the facts are out. We presented to the Members on the other side all the information we have. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, much of the deficit at Stanton and across the various health authorities relates back to poor billing practices and an inability for the government to collect on accounts receivable. I'd like to ask the Minister if she could provide the House with current numbers on accounts receivable or for Stanton Territorial Health Authority and the system in its entirety. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Member is right; the accounts receivable is one of the factors, but it's not the biggest or the largest cost driver. I'm pleased to advise the House that it's this government and this Minister that has signed an agreement. We have now a written agreement with the Nunavut government. We negotiated for two years and we signed in February of 2010. Most of the receivables we have with Nunavut are current. We have an outstanding amount with respect to Nunavut residents we have in extended care, because there were no real written agreements for the last 10 years. So we have finalized that, we have moved forward.

There are a number of steps. The Member is right when he said in his Member's statement that unless we change the system, we will have a sustainability problem. That's what I've been saying for the last year. We're working on system change for sustainability. The deficit is not just about dollars, it's about how we run our system and we need to make sure... And I'm not playing on the heartstrings of anybody; I think that nobody here has any tolerance for reducing services, nor do the people out there. So it is really important that we make system changes so that our resources are used efficiently and that our resources are allocated appropriately and all of the management in the department, all of the authorities, all of the chairs and CEOs are very engaged in seeing how we move forward on that. Thank you.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. I guess I haven't been here as long as I have been, seven years. I'm very sceptical when it comes to any Minister of Health and Social Services standing up in this House saying that anything is going to happen. I've heard it from former Ministers, I've heard it from this Minister. The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is nothing has happened and I know the Minister has embarked on this Foundation for Change and I wish her well in that and I hope that does answer some questions, but I believe wholeheartedly that it's a system-wide fix that we need here.

I'd like to ask the Minister if the department and the Government of the Northwest Territories are intent on looking at how we deliver health care in the Northwest Territories, and the current makeup of our authority system, and whether or not, given the impact on cost and the escalation on cost, are we looking at a model that is going to be more conducive to ensuring that what dollars we have to spend on health are going to get spent efficiently and effectively. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Member is exactly right in what he's saying and I want to let the Member know that, in fact, a lot is being done. It's not correct to say that nothing's being done. We are looking at the governance model and we will have a proposal on that in the spring. We are reviewing the business process design, because we want to right size the budget for the authorities. We're reviewing the Medical Travel Program, which is one of the biggest cost drivers in terms of deficit, with increasing demands all the time. So we don't want to reduce service, but we want to see how we can do that better.

Physicians are involved in the physician service review, which is our largest cost driver. So there are lots of reviews being done with a view of how do we change the system in a smart way, in a seamless

way and a productive way, so that we don't shock the system, but that we make long-term changes. So the Foundation for Change, the three pillars there are sustainability, wellness and access, because we need to work on all three together. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 255-16(5):  
VIABILITY OF PELLET MILL IN THE NWT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my Member's statement today, I want to talk about viability of a pellet mill for the Northwest Territories, and my questions will be directed to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, a certain amount of the viability of a pellet mill would depend on the sustainable availability of product to harvest to bring to make pellets with. I would like to ask the Minister if he could update this House on what is being done within his department to determine that there are sufficient inventories to make a project such as this viable within our borders. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been doing a number of things. As we look at the biomass sector, we have a fledgling market being built and we are looking at value-added down the road. We've proceeded with and continue to do inventories in the South Slave and the Deh Cho. Up the Valley we've been looking at areas such as fast-growing willows in terms of potential supply for biomass. We've brought in consultants to look at, in fact, the viability of setting up our own industry to create the pellets. As well, we have this concept of a wood marshalling yard that we're looking at for certain parts of the Territory where we may be able to form a hub with access to supply and a market nearby where we could build up, in fact, a sufficient quantity to make a pellet industry viable. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Being from Hay River where we have had a functioning, operating sawmill for many, many years, one of the problems we know that was often encountered, an obstacle that made it difficult to keep enough product coming in and harvested to keep that sawmill going was the whole issue of access because of unresolved land use plans, unresolved land claims, that a lot of this material would need to be harvested is in areas where claims are not settled and there was often opposition raised to harvesting the product. What has the Minister done or researched to assure

himself that access issues would not continue to be an obstacle or preclude such a thing from happening in the Territories? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member points out a key challenge and that is the issue of access to a sustainable supply. We've been working at concepts that would allow partnerships with aboriginal governments, with the landholders of the area, possibly with the concept of the wood marshalling yard, for example, but that's one of the challenges. The other one is you want to make sure you're located close to the supply. Some of the best timber that we do have and best forests for a viable pellet industry, for example, would be in the Deh Cho. There is a market right here in Yellowknife, and in the South Slave it is very significant. As well, there are forest products here in the Providence area, the Hay River South Slave area. We have a number of challenges, but most of the boreal forest tends to be in unsettled claims areas, so it is a factor that has to be resolved. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I am glad to hear that the government is looking for ways to create partnerships and secure buy-in from different governments from different areas of the South Slave.

Mr. Speaker, is the government looking for a proponent so that such an operation would be honed and managed and operated by a private enterprise, or is the government thinking about getting into the pellet manufacturing business themselves? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The government is not contemplating now or I don't anticipate in the future getting into the pellet manufacturing business, but what we would see doing is what we have done and continue to do through ITI and economic development support programs we have is to hopefully get a proponent that would be able to partner up with an aboriginal government that has access to supply and be able to have a business venture that would be viable and stand-alone when it comes to looking at the pellet industry. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister kind of already went into the last part of my question. That would be the collaboration, cooperation with ITI so that when the information is available about the availability of the biomass of the product of the harvest and the sustainability of that, which would be under the Minister of ENR's purview, then to work with ITI to look at the viability from the economic side, the size of the market, what we'd have to sell the product for in order to make it competitive with importing it from other jurisdictions and all those sorts of things. Perhaps the Minister could tell me how closely, what kind of

communications, what kind of work has been done with ITI to identify where there would be sufficient resources. This is a very capital-intensive operation to get this going and, obviously, nobody in the private sector is going to have the resources to take a risk on something that will not be supported and ongoing for quite a number of years.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Minister of ITI is also the chair of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee which provides oversight to this area as well as all the other energy initiatives that we have underway. As well, we have spent a lot of time trying to build a market with our investments in biomass with the schools, the jails, the health centres that are all going onto biomass. The encouragement with communities to do energy plans as well as individuals to switch to pellet stoves. Those combined factors and the Minister of ITI wearing two hats. I as well, as the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, sit on that Energy Coordinating Committee. We're having ongoing discussions as we look at the aspect of building a supply so we can have that value-added in the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 256-16(5):  
SENIORS' HOUSING REQUIREMENTS  
IN TU NEDHE CONSTITUENCY

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I spoke about the need to provide adequate and suitable seniors' housing in Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e. I have questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

The understanding of the difference in market communities for seniors when they're finished utilizing their home can sell it and make hundreds of thousands of dollars in small communities, the unit is usually transferred to one of the family members that doesn't have accommodation. Can the Minister tell me if the NWT Housing Corporation has a plan to address seniors' housing and senior citizens' homes in non-market communities?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of it is related to the needs survey. We would try to allocate funding according to the most need. I can assure the Member that the Housing Corporation is doing, and will continue to do, whatever it can to ensure that seniors across the Northwest Territories are well cared for.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Will the Minister commit to discussing the usage of Our Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution with the Department of Health and

Social Services to accommodate both the Home Care Program and for potential seniors tenants?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It was an interesting meeting we had in Fort Resolution, a very good meeting we had with the seniors in Our Great Elders Facility. They did raise the concern about the usage of that facility. I had a preliminary discussion with the Minister of Health and Social Services upon my return. The Housing Corporation do own the infrastructure and there is some concern in the community that this infrastructure is not being used as well as it should be. I've had some discussions to talk to the appropriate parties about how we can best make use of the whole facility. If that includes the four seniors units that are in there, then we'd be more than willing to have that discussion and possibly fill the four units.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Will the Minister review the needs in Lutselk'e with the aim of providing four additional seniors units to house the seniors in Lutselk'e?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We're all reviewing the needs of tenants and residents across the Northwest Territories. I will commit to the Member, and I'm actually going into the community of Lutselk'e with the Member and have an opportunity to meet with the leadership there. I'm sure they'll share a lot of the same concerns. With that in mind, we're always reviewing how we put units on the ground and this is going to be another opportunity to do that.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to the Minister and I travelling into Lutselk'e -- and we also went to Fort Resolution -- will the Minister commit to having his staff begin an immediate dialogue with the Lutselk'e Housing Authority and the Fort Resolution Housing Authority to provide more appropriate seniors' housing in both communities?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Before I do that I would like to commit to the Member that I will start the dialogue with the leadership in Lutselk'e and then have discussions with the housing authority and the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation on some of the talks that we've had. Then once that's completed, we'll see where we go from there. If there's a need for staff to have further discussion, then I'll commit to the Member that I'd be willing to direct them to do that.

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

#### QUESTION 257-16(5):

#### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about the WSCC regulations and the concerns that the regulations won't take into consideration the feelings and worries of industry, both small and medium. As I highlighted continually, that small and medium industry certainly is our breadbasket in our economy and if we don't do everything we can to keep them competitive, it makes it very challenging for them to keep up and running.

My question to the Minister is: I understand that the WSCC has extended its feedback deadline, which certainly has been received positively. However, the key to feedback is the WSCC's willingness to discuss or even accept observation and comments from industry. What assurance is the Minister able to give to industry, business and employers that their feedback will be considered and won't be a waste of their time?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member that any feedback is not a waste of time. I can assure him that in the February meeting of the committee they will take all correspondence that they've had, all consultation, all feedback that they've had and do a summary and provide written correspondence to those that submitted the recommendations. Then they will continue to consult with them and make sure that all their input is taken. I can assure the Member that the input is taken quite seriously.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I want to thank the Minister for that answer. That's the type of answer they're certainly looking for, is that the WSCC will listen and certainly evaluate, if not consider their response.

The other problem with changes to the regulations is the reality that changes mean money. One of the big fears is the cost of any of these potential regulations that will be happening. May I remind this House, and the Minister knows this, that there are almost 400 pages of regulations being updated. What is the WSCC doing to ensure that the administrative burden is not being ploughed down onto industry when they're able to afford it least? What are they doing to ensure that we're looking at stabilizing and ensuring that costs will remain the same for industry through this regulatory update?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I'd like to remind the Member that this is still a draft. We're still consulting. As far as costs, we won't have an idea of what the costs may be until after the whole

consultation process is done and the report is then brought to the Minister for his review, my review, then to see if any further consultation is required. We'll take the necessary steps to ensure that all the voices are heard, as far as this goes. I can assure the Member that we're in a draft process right now and we don't have an idea of what the potential costs might be.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I appreciate the Minister's answer. As I've highlighted a few times in this House this term and certainly the last term, my concern about red tape and a red-tape bureaucracy, and B.C. has a red-tape Minister. If they bring in a new regulation, they have to take away two. The point being is they don't want to continue burdening industry as well as the everyday person with more rules and unnecessary regulations.

The Minister had said this is a draft and I'll accept his statement that it is a draft. My concern is the draft will roll into this is the way it will be before costing out these regulations. Will the Minister be able to commit to this House or provide direction or guidance on this issue, which is there will be costing out of these regulations before an implementation is put into place and allow some discussions so that people have a good idea of what may or may not be happening and be able to provide some feedback before anything does get locked down for who knows how long before the next review?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I can assure the Member and ministry out there that it would not be my intent as Minister of WSCC to proceed with the regulations until all stakeholders have had an opportunity to have one last comment on it. Then as far as the financial part of it, those would need to be worked out. I can assure the Member that this is not something we will just implement without seeking feedback.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 258-16(5):  
ASSISTED LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS  
FOR ADULT DISABLED CHILDREN

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I spoke in my statement about the lack of facilities for adult disabled children who need to move out of their parents' home and into assisted living or independent living. The impact of the situation on families is huge when they have no space that they can move into. For this family of constituents of mine, this is their home community. Yellowknife is

where they've been for some 30-plus years. They want to stay in their community. They want their child to be able to stay in the community that is their home. They live and work here. If their child happens to go someplace else, they really don't have an option to move because they are living and working here.

I would like to ask the Minister a couple of questions in regards to facilities or the lack thereof. Does the Minister or will the Minister acknowledge that there is a space problem for adult disabled children needing assisted living? What is the responsibility of the government to provide assisted living for our vulnerable peoples?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we should not forget that this Assembly and this government is the first to invest into a built-for and custom-designed assisted living facility for persons with disabilities. In this year's budget we're spending \$2.5 million for a complex in Hay River. That's a territorial facility and that was one of the largest capital investments that we had on the books for the Department of Health and Social Services.

We also spent a sizeable budget in Yellowknife and other areas, to help families with persons with disabilities. I do appreciate that, as is the case with many things in Health and Social Services, the demand exceeds the supply, but I do take a bit of exception when the Member says the department is not doing anything. We have gone further than I've seen in 10 years in this area.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I have to say that I don't believe those were my words, but that may have been how they were interpreted.

I do commend the government for the work that has been done to provide assisted living facilities, but there is an evident need, particularly in the city of Yellowknife where about 50 percent of our population lives. We do have an expanding population of adult disabled children who need supervision and need assisted living. I'd like to ask the Minister what the department's plans are for the future. How will the department accommodate those adult disabled children who need assisted living in Yellowknife? How will that happen in five years from now or, actually, how about next year? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Two points to that, one is that Yellowknife has more assisted living beds than any community in the Territories. The second is that, Mr. Speaker, the Member knows that we do our budgets together. It's not the department alone that sets out this budget.

I agree with the Member that this is an issue that we need to plan for. That's one of the reasons why the department has worked to finish the long-term care facilities plan for the next 20 years, which has not been done before. The long-term care unit is not just for seniors, it's for anybody who needs long-term care. I agree with the Member, this is an issue for every jurisdiction in Canada. Every government has to do future planning. This government and this department have done enormous work in the last year and we need to work together on that. She sits on the Standing Committee on Social Programs, and we need to plan. It's a huge issue, but we have gone quite a length in the last two budget cycles to move this ahead. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I have to say I agree we have more spaces here in Yellowknife than any other community, but we happen to have more people in Yellowknife than we do in any other community. So, you know, I think that probably goes hand in hand.

The Minister says that we need to plan. Absolutely, I agree, we need a plan, and this is my point. I would like to know from the Minister, I did ask what that plan is. We have an increasing number of adult disabled children who are going to need accommodation. I'd like to ask the Minister when we can expect to see a plan or when can we expect to begin working on a plan, since she says that she's working with the committee. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** We are working on that right now. That's what a capital budget review is. The long-term care facilities review has done work on that. It talks about how many bed spaces we need for long-term care territory-wide. That's a 20-year plan reviewable every five years.

Mr. Speaker, we have to recognize that not everybody in the Territories gets to stay exactly where they want to be. We would like to have people stay in their communities as much as possible, but the assisted living facility in Hay River was built for everybody in the Territories. We do have services in Yellowknife, but whenever there is a resident in the Territories who needs assisted living or a facility living arrangement, they go through the Territorial Admissions Committee and we place them as best as we can to places that are available. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker I need to ask the Minister, if there is a plan in the works, then that plan presumably has some detail in it. I'd like to know what the detail is in that plan relative to beds. When can the Minister tell me that there will be more beds for assisted living adult children needing assisted living in Yellowknife? When can I expect to see more beds? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** We are a territorial government, a territorial Assembly. We do territorial planning and we are reviewing the capital budget for the Department of Health this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, it's all before us. For any additional spaces, we put them in as the funding becomes available. We have done a lot of work in building through planning studies and prototype designs, so that we can move these projects on the books as quickly as possible.

With respect to Yellowknife, there are ways to support these families that are not based out of a facility. Specific to the Member's constituent, her situation is being addressed separately, not separately but within the system, as expeditiously as possible. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 259-16(5):

#### LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CHIROPRACTIC AND MASSAGE THERAPY PROFESSIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. At the start of the term I raised the issue of the lack of legislation regulations for massage therapy and still we have seen nothing to date, that I'm aware of. The reason I raise that is because recently someone had brought to my attention that there is no legislation or regulations set up for chiropractors in the services in the Northwest Territories. With some looking in the issue, I found that we do not have anything, although it's considered a normal type of legislation throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I made note of the lack of a massage therapy act, because I'd like to suggest to the Minister of Health and Social Services, due to the fact that we don't have either, is there a possibility of looking at this and addressing this particular issue in a combined effect going forward to ensure that we have the protection of our public citizens in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Legislation for the professions that the Member mentions are in the line-up. The legislation for various health care professions have been lacking for a number of years, so we have had to update the Medical Professions Act, the Pharmacists Act, we're just going through the Social Worker Profession Act. There are a number of professions that are more numerous in numbers that we have had to update, and the ones that the Member is talking about are in the pipe, so to speak, in the

legislative writing line-up. There is a long list of legislation that needs to be updated, but we're hoping to do it as an umbrella legislation. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, each profession can speak about the importance of their legislative requirements and regulations on how important they may or may not be over, certainly, other ones, but I can assure you that there is a concern about health and safety. If one can only imagine that if they're laying on a chiropractor's table and someone's twisting their neck, what type of rules, education and authority have they played to ensure that they're safe at that particular time.

Mr. Speaker, the point I'm getting at is there's a health and safety issue on both issues, massage as well as chiropractic, that needs to be addressed for employers, workers and, quite clearly, the public. Can the Minister expect anything of that regard to come forward in the life of this particular Assembly, even in a draft form, so we can show the people that we are putting their public safety first? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** This is a time and capacity issue and I think that it's important to let the people know that those professions that the Member mentions do have professional bodies that they have to belong to and adhere their rules to. I mean, there's a difference between a registered therapist and other massage therapists, for example.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that we can have this legislation completed within the life of this Assembly, but the Member knows, having been here for more than one Assembly, that there is a list of legislation that moves its way up, and this is added onto that list. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, although I enjoy question period to be disagreeable, which is my right, the reality is I think the Minister is incorrect on this particular occasion, because massage therapists, some of them do belong to national organizations, and I will say that's correct, but they don't have to be -- and certainly if you're in the chiropractic industry you're not obligated, to my knowledge -- associated with any public body or national body. If you said that they were self-regulating, there are only a couple of them, so, I mean, that's really challenging.

Mr. Speaker, in light of that, what can the Minister do to ensure that public safety is taken into consideration in light of the fact that we don't have anyone overseeing these two specific areas that I wonder if we can use mirrored legislation from other jurisdictions. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, all that work will have to be done when legislation is drafted, and in most circumstances in drafting legislation that governs professions, whether it be... I mean, we've

had recent examples of social workers, but I remember NWT doing one for the architects and engineers. It's a normal practice to look at what other jurisdictions are doing and to update the legislation and bring any new precedents that we should be considering.

So, in drafting new legislation, that will be done. Mr. Speaker, that would be a normal practice. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point I am trying to get at, and I am sure the Minister understands this, is the fact that public safety is at risk out there. There is a leap of faith people are taking when they go to these places, that they are insured at one level or not that they are protected as well as they are regulated. What I am asking the Minister is: Is there perhaps, maybe a discussion paper that could come forward that we could work on and develop to see what type of priority fits with the ambition of this government and this term as well as the ambition of the next government going forward? Asking for a discussion paper doesn't seem to be too difficult for the department to ask where does it want to be going forward and is it meeting the challenges and certainly the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. That is what I am asking the Minister, knowing quite well the legislation doesn't appear out of the air but a fair bit of work has to get done. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do is just communicate to the Member on the legislation for the department that we have in the type that we are trying to get through and that is quite... I understand every safety issue and every profession, well, many professions have come forward and asked us to regulate. We have to do the major ones first and we are just working really hard to get through those.

As I stated earlier, I have the umbrella or omnibus profession legislation that we are looking at, but it will take some time. It is not something that we could do in the next little while within this Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 16-16(5):  
COST OF DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS

**MR. KRUTKO:** My questions are for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

1. What is the total cost of negotiations to reach the draft agreement-in-principle for devolution of lands and resources?
2. What is the cost for the work of the chief negotiator?
3. What is the cost of third-party involvement in negotiations, with a breakdown of the amounts for each party's role?

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. 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.

### Tabling of Documents

#### TABLED DOCUMENT 89-16(5): 2010-2011 ELECTION YEAR GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS

Pursuant to Section 42(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the 2010-2011 Election Year Guidelines for Members.

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 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012; Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future;" Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 8, Social Work Profession Act; and Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have several items: tabled documents 4, 30, 38, 62, 66, 75 and Bills 4, 8 and 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to consider Tabled Document

66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012, and wishes to consider the Department of Health and Social Services and, time permitting, the Department of ITI.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, we will take a short break and begin with the Department of Health.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to the debate we agreed that we would begin with the Department of Health and Social Services. At this time I would to ask the Minister if she'll be bringing in any witnesses.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I will, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Ms. Lee, could you introduce your witnesses?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Ms. Paddy Meade, deputy minister of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome, witness. General comments, Department of Health and Social Services. General comments. What is the wish of the committee? Detail? Begin on page 6-2 in regard to department summary. We'll move to page 6-4. Activity summary, program delivery support, infrastructure investment summary, no dollars. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Moving on. Health services programs, activity summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$15.491. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since being elected and coming into this Assembly, one of the issues that was on Yellowknife's agenda, obviously, was the Stanton Territorial Health Centre here in Yellowknife. It was in the plan when we first got here, there was some work being done, but it seems that it's dropped off and we often ask about the Stanton Master Development Plan and it seems to be gone yet again.

The building needs work. I know that there are things being done in the department, the Foundation for Change being the primary one, but I still wonder when are we going to see something come forward on Stanton. When are we going to

see the plans so we know what upgrades and what improvements are going to be needed to that aging building?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an item in the budget, in the capital estimates for Stanton, eight hundred and some thousand dollars to do a planning study. I'd like to ask the deputy minister, who is also the public administrator, to give the Members an update on the work that we're doing with respect to Stanton Territorial Hospital.

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

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you. Several fronts as the Member raised are being addressed. We are dealing with maintenance upgrades and accreditation issues, for example, around endoscopy and sterilization area, but we are also building on all of the past planning and looking at using the \$800,000 to do the formal Master Development Plan and that will fit with what services are at Stanton. Stanton has increased in services over the years and that has to be reflected in the updated Master Development Plan. So it will be coming forward and that's what this money in the business plan reflects, is for the final planning.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Going back to my original question, is there a bit of a timeline on that? When are we going to be seeing that plan coming back and when can we actually expect to see some progress being done on the facility itself at Stanton?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planning study money is for this fiscal year and at the end of that we should have a detailed plan on the need and the functional programming and the total dollar amount for Stanton. So I can't say it's going to be in the books next year, but it will be working through the process.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you to the Minister for that. Same page, slightly different topic. I see that there are a number of replacements for health centres, one in Hay River, one in Fort Providence, as well as a renovation in Fort Smith and there's a health centre and long-term care facility in Norman Wells. Given the strategic vision of this 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, can you tell me whether or not those buildings are being built environmentally responsible? Specifically, are you putting pellet boilers and those types of equipment in these new health centres in the renovations to save us money over the long term? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** All building projects under government funding are a joint project between

service departments like ours, Department of Health and Social Services, and building departments, the Department of Public Works. I believe the Department of Public Works has a committee or a group set up to look at the environmental aspect of that. So I don't know if Minister McLeod has any more to add, but the building and the design and the environmental part of it is DPW's side. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Public Works, do you have anything to add?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These projects are still currently under the department and at some point will be transferred over for project management, I'm assuming. Having said that, all these projects are required to go through a planning process. We also have standards that we've set in place for all our new buildings that would be focused on energy efficiency and integrate standards of where we look at alternate energy as part of a process. So there will be consideration on all those projects.

At this point it's too early to say what the specifics would be as they're still in the planning stage. For example, the Fort Resolution and Fort Providence health centres will take a two-year turnaround before they come back for capital consideration. So that will be the time frame that would be considered for design, for enhancements for energy efficiency and alternate energy. Thank you.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Mr. Chair, obviously, we encourage the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Services to make sure that those buildings are as efficient as possible to keep our operation costs down.

My last question on this section is about the seventh item down you've got a GNWT office and records centre warehouse and you're doing some tenant improvements in Inuvik. I'm assuming that that is a health related building, or a health related tenant improvement, but it's not particularly clear. Can you tell me what tenant improvements we're doing and for which division of Health and Social Services, or is it an authority that these tenant improvements are being done?

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

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you. Yes, the public and environmental health component of Health and Social Services will become tenants. Three hundred eighty-four square metres of the full GNWT building will be for that, and also part of the office and record centre. They're currently leasing in a different building and the lease costs are significant compared to what this will be when we have the tenant improvements. Then the future costs will go directly through Public Works and

Services as a lease and we are one of the tenants. So it's for the environmental and public health.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I see that you're looking at improvement, renovating, replacing some health centres here. I just wanted to raise, of course, the concern of the facilities in Fort Simpson, as well as Nahanni Butte. The health centre did need some work. I don't really see it here, but what are the plans of Health and Social Services in regard to those two facilities, Mr. Chair?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are doing some work in Fort Simpson to do "upgrades." We are also in the books for doing future studies on Simpson Health Centre. Ms. Meade has more information on other work being done in that region.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** With Public Works we did a full inventory of all the Health and Social Services capital and looked at both maintenance and lifecycles. Right now the repairs are as the Minister said. Anything major will be coming forward in future business planning process. Right now it would simply be upgrade renovations specific to maintenance, but there's no long-term plan in this current capital plan. It will be flagged, because we've done a whole list of our inventory.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I'm pleased to see that at least the facilities will be addressed and looked at. What is the timeline to begin this work for the Fort Simpson Health Centre?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I appreciate that really the detailed discussion we're having is for this fiscal year, but as I stated to the public of Simpson residents who showed up at our meeting when we visited with the Member, the Fort Simpson facility needs significant work on its foundation and renovation. It will be out for planning study up next, the Simpson facility.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to weigh in, I guess, on the fact that the Stanton Master Development Plan is not included in the capital plan again this year, to my great disappointment. That was an item that appeared in the capital plan for a number of years running. It was taken out for whatever reason that was given at the time. I think it was to study things a little bit

further, analyze this or look at that. Some excuse was given why that was taken out. The bottom line is that decisions are being made on a day-to-day basis, operational decisions at that hospital, which is the flagship of our health care system in the Northwest Territories. In the absence of any grand master plan and how those decisions ultimately would fit into that plan, and obviously it's not done and isn't appearing anywhere in the capital plan or on the horizon, I guess I just wanted to make that point again this year. I know the Minister has already answered the question that Mr. Abernethy has asked her about the master plan. She doesn't have to answer it again, because I heard the answer.

The other thing I wanted to talk about -- and this defies any logic, really, when you think about it -- the renovation to the health centre in Fort Smith and the replacement of the facility in Hay River, two communities that are very close together and service the same area. We're basically replicating the level of service in each one of those communities. I'd like to ask the Minister maybe if she could, for the record, explain how it is or why it is that these scarce capital dollars are being used to replicate the provision of services in those two communities to the same degree within a short period of time from one another.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** In many ways the Member's question about Smith and Hay River is related to the work that we are doing in Stanton. Going forward what we need to do not only in programming but especially in the capital plan that's before us, is that we need to have a system-wide plan and work on facilities, because facilities are built to support the services. What we need to do is make sure that Stanton becomes a true territorial hospital; a true acute care, tertiary, the only acute care facility. Inuvik will be the secondary, second level, high-level care facility. Sort of the hub-and-spoke model is the picture that we want to imagine. In that picture, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Norman Wells will become regional health centres to support Stanton. All those facilities have a role to play.

We hear daily from Alberta and nationally that the health care system is under pressure. We need to be able to respond to demands that are going to be placed on our system, because as Alberta is under pressure, we'll be asked to take on patients on short notice.

It's really important that our regions have facility and system support to support our patients who don't have to be at Stanton. In order to do that, we need to upgrade and modernize the facilities that we have in Hay River, Simpson, Smith and Norman Wells, along with Inuvik. We are working to make

sure they all flow. It's not necessarily duplication, it's necessity to make sure we have these places in our regions so that we don't send everybody to Stanton and we rely less on southern facilities.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I'm just wondering -- I was listening to the Minister's response -- what region does she consider Fort Smith to be in. If they're building up or maintaining the same level of service as the facility in Hay River, they're in the same region the last time I looked at a map. They're pretty close together. About an hour and a half to two hours on the highway. Is the intention of the facility in Fort Smith to service any communities in northern Alberta? What are we doing there?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I'm going to invite the deputy minister to add more to what I have to say. The Fort Smith centre is being renovated to meet the needs of the residents that it serves. The way it is designed now -- it was a hospital many, many years ago -- it is designed and being renovated to reflect the ISDM model and integrated services that we need to provide. We're putting emphasis on the midwifery program there, which is serving the community well. There are residents from outside that are coming in to use that facility. We also want to be able to do other services. I don't want to get into technical terms. Ms. Meade can add to that.

We will be building to fit the residents who we serve there as we would for Hay River. There's a little bit of future projection required, because we want these facilities to be there to serve our residents for the next 10 to 20 years.

If the Member is worried about overbuilding, that will not happen. We are working very hard to make sure that all our facilities work at its maximum and that they work efficiently. A lot of renovations had to do with upgrading to meet the standards of the day to make sure we could do the scope work and focusing on aftercare when they come from more acute care facilities. Ms. Meade can add more to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** First, we'll need all those beds when we do move into the master development; not the planning for Stanton but the actual doing. You're going to be doing a redevelopment in a live hospital, so you do need to be able to decant patients and services.

The other piece of it is that with the 48-hour repatriation notice and Alberta is now moving to 11:00 a.m. discharges and raising their percentages in their hospitals because they're so full. We have to be able to treat a bed in the Territories as a bed. By less services that are currently coming into Stanton from Fort Smith or Hay River, that will give us some of the more acute beds that we're going to need for the rapid response.

Secondly, given the waitlists and the pressures on Stanton for some of the diagnostics, we hope to expand the diagnostics in both. Some differences, but for example, with dialysis we have a need to have dialysis. They are not duplicating. We have to have it in more centres than less. We're also building with future expansion in both. Future meaning different services in the diagnostic area, should they be required.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Maybe if the Minister could, I'm just having trouble understanding which of those two facilities is going to be considered the regional health care centre in the South Slave. Is it going to be Fort Smith or is it going to be Hay River?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** As I stated, we are designing a prototype that would go into, well, Smith is a little different because we're renovating an existing facility. As I mentioned numerous times, we're looking at a prototype for Level B-C health centre. That's what's going to go into Simpson. Well, that will be a renovation too. The functions that are going to be delivered in these programs are similar. So I don't think it helps to say we don't look at it as a region. We look at it as a community, we look at it as a health facility that's going to serve residents in that area. We also look at these health facilities as part of the whole territorial system.

We want to be able to find or make sure that any services that are currently being delivered at Stanton, if they can be delivered elsewhere, we want to be able to do that there. We've already done that in Hay River. We've done our scope work there. We need to be focused on using all of our facilities better, because over a number of years a lot of stuff got done at Stanton that could be done elsewhere if properties support it.

The other part of the work that we're doing is to have the long-term care facilities in all these regional centres. We're enhancing that service in Smith and we are going to be incorporating that in Hay River. We have enhanced that in Simpson and we will have that in Norman Wells. It's to serve the community and the surrounding area. I don't think that anybody is saying that either Smith or Hay River Health Centre will become the regional health centre for the entire South Slave area.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions with regard to this page. I'm a little confused. I want to follow up on Mr. Abernethy's question about the expense for the GNWT office and records centre warehouse tenant improvements. When I read the justification for the expense, it sounded to me as though the tenant improvements were going to be in the Semmler

Building, which I gather is where this particular program is now. So are the tenant improvements for this new building, which I kind of don't think is built yet, or is it for the building that the division is currently in?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Sorry, I probably was not clear on my response. It's in the current building, the Semmler Building, that the leasehold improvements are at.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for that clarification. I have a general question regarding facilities and capital expenditures and so on. I presume this is the right place to make it.

Mr. Chairman, if you want me to wait until the summary comes up, I can, but I wanted to ask a question about the 20-year facilities needs study that the Minister mentioned earlier today and that has been mentioned in other conversations prior to today. I'd like to know if that study is complete. If so, when can Members get a copy of it? If it's not complete, when is it expected to be done?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, it's complete. We sent an electronic version, because it's quite massive, to the committee. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I'd like to know from the Minister when that was sent. My concern is that, and I'm kind of following up from the discussion that I had with the Minister earlier today with regard to housing and facilities for adult disabled residents who need supervisory care, assisted living and so on. I didn't get a sense from the Minister that this plan has any specific buildings or facilities identified for that sort of care. I guess I will wait until I see the plan to ask further specific questions, but if the Minister could advise when that plan was sent to committee and, I guess, also if the Minister can advise if there are any facilities in that plan scheduled to be built for assisted living. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Just to answer the Member's first question, as the Member knows, we did have a prior briefing on this and we did send some documents that the Member has asked for. I believe it was sent in an electronic version and I'm assuming those were made available. If not, I could make that available to the Member.

Secondly, I know what the Member is asking. I think she wants to see right in front of her how many beds in how many communities, in what communities, in what year for the next 20 years. I think what we need to discuss about long-term care. We know that the Department of Health along with Public Works has completed a long-term care facilities review that gives us a plan to go forward on where the population projections are and what the requirements should be for long-term care.

When we are talking about long-term care, we often think of seniors' care, but it also includes institutional caring or facility caring of people who cannot be taken care of otherwise.

But what I also need to tell the Members is that there are other ways of taking care of residents who need assistance, and a lot of that work is being done in Yellowknife already. We may not know it, but there are many streets in Yellowknife where there are group homes and they have them in other communities in a limited sense. My point is, there is more than one way of taking care of those residents who need assistance.

There is never enough space. There are always people on the waiting list, and how fast we move on that is a question of resource. That's what we do every year, is to try to find money as the Legislature, to see how quickly we move that and how much budget we have allocated for them. The way to do that is to have a needs study, and we have just finished that needs study. It's something that we need to work together on. The institutional setting is the last resource, I believe. Going forward, we want to put less and less people in these institutions. What we want to do is to be able to support them in other ways. I can undertake to provide the Member with how many beds we have in different communities to help persons with the need for assisted living that are not necessarily in institutions. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I wasn't necessarily asking for institution. I'd like to know if the Minister is referencing the capital needs assessment, the 20-year capital needs assessment. It's a summary of all departmental needs. If that's the document the Minister is referring to, yes, I have that, but I had understood her to be referencing a facilities needs study just for Health and Social Services. Could I get a clarification on which document she's referencing? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, that is the one I was referring to. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chair, I have to ask the Minister what that one refers to. Is it this document which I have in my hand, which is labelled Summary of Departmental Needs, Capital Needs Assessment, 20 Years, Five-Year Capital Planning Process? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, I will do my best to answer questions. I will get back to her on all the documents I gave her. We gave a bunch of documents to the committee. There might be some breakdown in communication. Whatever she needs, whatever I have, whatever I can give her, I will give her.

In terms of long-term care facilities needs study, the Member knows that the department just finished looking at long-term care needs of the Territories

for the next 20 years. We talked about the need to review that every five years. That was part of our discussion in the Standing Committee on P and P and Social Programs when we reviewed the capital plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I think the report that was being referred to was the report in regard to the review that was done by Public Works on the infrastructure of the department. If you can get that report, great. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I will have to figure out what document we're talking about there.

My concern with the capital needs assessment for the capital planning process is that it only looks at existing buildings, and my concern is with the need to fill in this gap for assisted living as there is no indication in this document for any accommodation of persons who need assisted living with supervision.

I agree with the Minister that institutions should be the last place that people go, but certainly there should be some planning, in my mind, for homes, whether they be homes that are owned by Health and Social Services or owned by the Housing Corporation, and programs are run by Health and Social Services. But I don't sense that we have a plan to deal with that anytime in the near future. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm done.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question on the small capital replacement, the evergreening sorts of things. This is sometimes a cumbersome process to put it through this sort of capital planning. Is there some thought to going to a routine evergreening process where we don't have to examine each microscope being replaced, so to speak, please? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister of Health.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current process is that we are part of the, sort of, replacement of small equipment, under \$50,000, is it? Capital? But we are working to see if we could have a separate category for medical equipment, because they have different requirements and some of them are urgent. If something goes wrong, we need to be able to replace them, because otherwise our people do need those machines to do things or to do diagnoses or whether it's an X-ray machine or... Anyway, we are working to separate that and come up with a different evergreening process for medical equipment, and I do really appreciate the support and the feedback that we've received from Members. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That's really all I had. I look forward to that coming forward and I certainly would support such a process. Streamlining would be appropriate here. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question in this area, health services programs. I was wondering if the Minister could advise if there is any planning study scheduled for the replacement of the health centres in both Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. As the DM mentioned earlier, we have reviewed every health facility in the Territories in the last year. Many of our facilities are over 30 years old and I can advise the Member that Fort Resolution is one of the ones that needs major renovations. As well, Lutselk'e is one that needs to be looked at in short order. It will be part of the next cycle of planning studies going through the process in the next two or three fiscal years. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I just wanted to know if either of those two health centres are actually scheduled to a point of the planning study through the process. I see that there's planning studies that do occur and then following the planning study, usually the following year there's a determination of whether or not that's something that should be replaced within that year or the next year or the year after or whatever. So at this point I'm just looking for the timing of the planning study for the two facilities.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** As we're all aware, we're dealing with the capital plan for '11-12. The resolution planning study is up for next fiscal year as soon as possible, because it needs to get on the books. We are dealing with a land issue there and we know our review of the facilities show that Lutselk'e needs to be in the cycle by 2015.

Now, I can't speak for what would happen for the future Assemblies, but our studies have shown that Lutselk'e is one of the five Level B facilities that needs to get into the next stage in the planning and the capital plan process. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, am I eligible to ask questions from the next section, community health, or do we have to approve the page first?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I think we will complete this section first before moving onto that, community services. So I have next, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question to the Minister is: I was surprised to hear a comment today, or a question of the Minister earlier today, in regard to long-term care facilities where

we have residents from Nunavut in long-term care in the Northwest Territories. I'd like to know if there is a situation of number in the Northwest Territories, an increase in the numbers of elderly care, especially in long-term care facilities. Can the Minister tell me exactly how many long-term care residents in the Northwest Territories are in the system from Nunavut?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the numbers on me right now, but some of them were ready before division. It's not huge in numbers, but we have a few. So I will get back to the Member on the numbers. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Back in I believe it was the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly, there was a political decision to establish long-term care facilities in communities throughout the Northwest Territories, such as Aklavik, Deline, Fort Resolution, Gameti, and also Fort Simpson and throughout the Northwest Territories. I think one thing this government has to seriously look at is the economics of establishing these types of facilities where there are economic spinoffs for employment, job opportunities and benefits of these care facilities and the opportunities for jobs in our small communities.

Right now we have 40 to 45 percent unemployment in a lot of our communities. Looking at a facility such as the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik, it generates eight full-paying jobs in that community. Eight jobs in a small community, that's a lot of economic stimulus to a small community. I noted that it seems like there's a major shift towards the regional centres, but I'd like to know is this government seriously considering some sort of an economic shift to communities where we can offer these care providers in those communities and, more importantly, look at the social and economic benefit to the Northwest Territories in regard to the economics of making these political decisions? So I'd like to ask the Minister, has that been taken into consideration in light of these facilities being put in place by way of long-term care facilities?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I do appreciate what the Member is saying. The jobs or the positions or the people that are in our communities do serve in two different areas. Economically those are jobs and they have those jobs and those are important to them. Then in terms of care, it is so much more preferable for our people to be taken care of on our own. So I agree with the Member that there is room in our health care system, health and wellness, where we train and we have people in communities to take care of those who need assistance. Largely those are usually elders or they could be people with chronic conditions, they could be young people. We are having people with disabilities in small communities that need to be supported. So

going forward, looking down 20, 30 years from now Canada-wide and in the NWT, not an exception, we need to have our people taking care of our people. That happens as home care support workers, wellness workers, those actually probably would have better economic return.

Our occupancy rate then, what we think of typically from a more acute care setting, because we still don't have a lot of registered nurses or some of the other care members, they're usually locums or fly-in staff. I mean, even communities the size of Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Lutselk'e, already we have a lot of nurses that are not locally from there, but I think our planning going forward could have a result that goes hand in hand of providing quality care on one side to our residents who need it and then care providers being from the communities. That's possible under our long-term care model that we have developed. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I believe that you have to look at the economics of the Northwest Territories and see exactly the have and have-not communities. I think one thing that you can clearly illustrate in those statistics or information that's out there, I think most of our communities we have employment that ranges from 12 to 13 percent of people that make a pretty decent income, and you know who those 12 to 13 percent are. Those are professional providers in our communities. It's either the nurses, the teachers or the RCMP. That's the makeup of the 10 or 13 percent of those jobs in our communities.

Now, you have 45 to 55 percent unemployment with people making under \$30,000 a year, which is almost 50 percent of your population. Something tells you there's something wrong with that picture. When you have the large regional centres where you have almost 50 percent of your population making over \$100,000 a year, there's something telling you that this government is stimulating those economies.

Government is an industry, government provides that basic service model as so-called jobs, and for ourselves in our communities that is what we'd like to see this government really focusing on.

I know that you're going to talk about national standards and everything else, but my view is the Northwest Territories is unique, it's different, we have regional centres throughout the Northwest Territories, we have cultural distribution of different cultures throughout the Northwest Territories, we have geographical challenges. So I think that we have to be realistic when we do these things.

I do not support the direction this government is going. I strongly feel that you have to really be, when we're making these capital decisions, what are the social impacts on the rest of the Northwest Territories when we make the decision to establish a long-term care facility, take it out of a small community, and make sure to realize that is going

to have a long-term economic impact throughout the Northwest Territories, just not in those communities that are affected.

I'd like to ask the Minister, I know you mean well when you say you're looking at home care workers, but those jobs don't really pay as good as someone who is a caretaker in a long-term care facility or someone who is trained up to ensure you have a community health nurse on staff or the resources to assist those people. I'd like to ask the Minister why this government has not seriously contemplated the previous decisions of this government by looking at the demographic and population needs throughout the Northwest Territories and focus more on the need than the government continuing to grow at the regional centres and forgetting about the rest of the Northwest Territories.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** For many, many years now we have not had a long-term care facility in small communities funded. There were long-term care facilities built by the Housing Corporation and I do support what Member Beaulieu said, for example, that we need to work to make those rooms available to our elderly and other people who need those rooms in our communities as assisted living facility, which is what it was meant to do. So I don't think there's much change in what we are doing, what we have been doing in the Territories for the last 10 years.

What is different with the recent work that we have done is that the Department of Health, along with DPW, have done a long-term care planning, and the deputy minister can go into more detail on that.

I do understand that the NWT is different and unique and we need to do everything we can to support our local people to take on some of those jobs. We would like to do that. But we need to balance that with the risks and the other factors that we need to adhere to. It's not something we have an option on. What we need to do is make sure that we can do a lot more to provide support and strengthen our system and resources in small communities so that our people take on those jobs to take care of our own local people, because the demands are just going to get more severe 10, 20, 30 years from now. We need to plan and we need to work harder to build the local resources. They don't necessarily have to be a 24/7 long-term care facility. We need to do things differently to support our elderly and people who need our care.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list I have Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just getting back to the discussion we had earlier on whether or not either one of the Fort Smith or Hay River centres is going to be deemed to be the regional centre. It was a bit confusing for me. Are there not requirements like staffing and programming levels in a community that would

suggest you spend \$28 million there? If that is the case, maybe the Minister has stats or figures on what the staffing level is at the facility in Hay River and the one at Fort Smith.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The part of planning study would have included the programs that would be offered in these facilities and planning on what the staffing makeup would be. I'd ask the DM to give more information on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you. They're both little C facilities and have connections with long-term care, so some of the staffing is the same. At this point there's more diagnostic capability at Hay River, but in the future we will need to expand that. For example, currently for both staffing and water issues we're not doing dialysis at Fort Smith, but given our population of diabetics and the need for dialysis, this will be expanded. So current staffing and what will be required will depend on those populations. For example, with diabetics, they fluctuate on dialysis. So we feel that we're going to need the ability at both sites. Sometimes they may not be running full dialysis at Fort Smith. We have wait-lists on colonoscopies, mammographies and a few others, so we want to expand these out from Stanton and Inuvik. Hay River is doing some, but we think Fort Smith can take on more.

The population and the travel routes make those the best two sites for us to take a lot of pressure off Stanton. Inuvik is already pulling most of the North and that will keep Stanton to be doing the more specialist review and some of the more in-depth procedures. There is a difference and we're going to need both, as far as the ability and flexibility on diagnostics and day surgery.

**MR. RAMSAY:** That's nice and that's good to hear, but I'm just again trying to understand. Okay, so currently how many registered nurses and resident doctors are there in Fort Smith and in Hay River? Does the Minister have that information?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsey. Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that number handy. I think Smith is budgeted for five doctors.

**MS. MEADE:** We don't need them because we're going to use the...

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I don't think we have the exact numbers of nursing positions there, but we could get back to the Member on that.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** I want to relate this back to us spending millions and millions of capital dollars. Is it the department's intention, if we are going to build up these facilities in close proximity to each other, are we going to have a resident doctor or doctors in Fort Smith and Hay River? Is that the intended purposes here? If that's not the case, then maybe we need to rethink some things here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** We actually just recruited a permanent physician to Fort Smith, but we've lost them already to a better offer in B.C. So this is a constant. It's more about how we can keep them. So if you add this to the work we're doing on community call coverage, if we can lessen and use more of the physicians in the Territory, it will reduce the number of nights. Currently in Hay River or Fort Smith you would have to be on call every second night and that doesn't encourage anybody to come and be a permanent doctor. We are using the nurse practitioners effectively, especially in Fort Smith, so we think that first of all if we pool the physician resources, we'll be able to recruit the numbers that we need and have more permanency.

The advantage that we do have right now is we're starting to get more long-term locums. It's the same people that are coming up. That's the first way of starting to attract permanently.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I guess that's my point, is that if you are building up the health care infrastructure in communities like Fort Smith and Hay River, we had better have the horsepower or the manpower to back up the programs and services that residents in those communities are going to be deserving. It doesn't make a lot of sense to spend \$28 million on a facility that you can't staff and you can't have programs in. That's my fear. If the Minister's confident that spending this money on the facility in Fort Smith is the right thing to do, to me it's still, I'm not 100 percent sold on this. They're too close to each other and I don't understand how they could both serve as Level C communities within an hour and a half by highway. That's something I'd like the Minister to respond to, whether she's confident that those two communities we're going to be able to get staff in there that are going to have programs and take the pressure off Stanton here in Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I see the Member's points, especially when we're talking about the overall financial pressure on our system. The fact is that I think we only have three resident doctors outside of Yellowknife in the NWT. We don't know that it's going to get better in terms of being able to recruit and retain physicians in communities outside of Yellowknife. Yellowknife has been highly successful in recruiting and retaining doctors.

Now, what we need to do, and the things that we are grappling with in the Department of Health and Social Services is that we need to have a system-wide plan on how we are going to provide services to our residents. What we are building is a facility where likely, probably visiting physicians, mobile teams, nurse practitioners, or any other specialist services can move into any of the B-C level facilities and provide care to our residents so that it will reduce the need for medical travel, will reduce the workload at Stanton so that Stanton can do what it should be doing, that people feel confident that when they go to Hay River or Smith or Simpson or Norman Wells that in combination with technology and the visiting professionals that the service they get there is good, that they can rely on that. This is what we need to build for the future.

I know \$28 million seems like a lot of money, but when you're planning a 20- or 30-year facility, I don't believe that's too enormous. The fact is our people expect to be able to get services at least at the regional level and if we have any hope of having a territorial-wide system and avoid everything being done at Stanton, we do need to build some support. Not that I don't think things should be done at Stanton, but we need to have a hierarchy, so to speak, of health facilities so that we specialize and decentralize at the same time wherever possible. With technology we can do that. With modernization we can do that. In future I see our facilities and programs being delivered in a very multi-faceted and multi-sided way and that's the future of health care delivery.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on my list I have Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I just want to follow up on some of the questions my colleague Mr. Ramsay was asking. It got a little confusing for me, but to sort of put it into perspective, I was wondering if the Minister could tell me what a Level A health and social services station is responsible for.

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

**MS. MEADE:** Level A is basic health care nursing coverage. Tulita can do very few diagnostics or labs. As you move up to a Level B it would be Fort Providence. Again, I know that the levels were handed out to standing committee when we presented our prototypes for long-term care. When you get into C you're able to do day surgery and diagnostics we were talking about, at least diabetic education, more of the laboratory work, and they will have the ability to have much more interaction with specialists through technology. As you go up each level you can handle more diagnostics and also levels of acuity. Hay River and Fort Smith, then, are at the next level, Inuvik, then followed by Stanton. So each level allows for greater levels of

acuity and management and usually much more diagnostics.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** It's my understanding that Level A is a health station with no nurse. It's my understanding that a Level B is a community health centre, which does have nurses but is more specific to providing services in that community. It's my understanding that a Level B-C facility is a regional health and social services centre, which does have regional outreach responsibility to Level A and B communities. It's my understanding that a Level C is also a regional health and social services centre but with a greater degree of diagnostic capabilities and some additional services, which is, I think, the point that my colleague Mr. Ramsay was trying to get at, is when you look at a map, you've got only two Level C facilities in the Northwest Territories and they're both in the South Slave. In fact, they're right next door to each other. If you think about regional outreach, which is what I understand a Level C is supposed to have, clearly Hay River is going to get outreach from Fort Res and Hay River Reserve and Enterprise and Kakisa, but I'm not sure what regional outreach Fort Smith is going to get. So we spent all this money renovating and fixing this facility in Fort Smith, adding some additional capacity, and I'm hearing you talk about additional capacity, but by the definition provided by the department, it must have regional outreach to be a Level C facility. So if there's no regional responsibility for this particular health centre, I'm curious why we have two Level C facilities.

I hear the deputy minister saying, oh, well, we're going to add all these services. Who are the clients? Where are the clients coming from? Are they coming from all over the Northwest Territories? Is this going to be a place where we can bring people from anywhere in the Northwest Territories to? Can we bring somebody from Fort Res here? Can we bring somebody from Deline here? Can we bring somebody from Paulatuk here for the services that are apparently being expanded in Fort Smith? How do we justify two Level C facilities right next door to each other? That's, I think, the point that my colleague Mr. Ramsay was trying to get at, and I didn't really hear an answer as to the justification for two Level C facilities next door to each other.

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

**MS. MEADE:** Certainly the Member is correct, and one of the issues is regional outreach. But for times when we have to have surge capacity or when we have a population requiring certain diagnostics, then the beds and the services are quite specific. We also know that we've had greater luck in keeping and retaining the specialists. It's also close to Stanton when you have to have mobile teams. A bed is a bed right now.

As Alberta is really full and Stanton these days is often close to capacity, a bed is a bed. If we can do a procedure somewhere else or move somebody temporarily, we will have to do that. It's centralized bed management we have to move to.

We also have a population south of the lake that while we have high diabetes everywhere, the dialysis use is high, and it may be an hour and a half drive between the facilities, but we need to expand dialysis to Fort Smith. If you're doing dialysis three times a week and looking at that kind of drive, that's quite significant. We know we will have to bring some patients in. Certainly, we've already done that. When we had a greater wait-list on mammograms and colonoscopies, we used Hay River to take from different places besides their close region. That's the flexibility we have to build into this system.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** For clarity, the answer is yes, we're going to be bringing people from any community and every community in the Northwest Territories to Fort Smith and Hay River as the need exists and as programs are available. I think it's a simple yes or no answer. These two facilities are going to be used for everywhere in the Northwest Territories. Is that right? Yes or no. No explanations. Yes or no works for me.

**MS. MEADE:** Yes, as the ability to take the pressure off Stanton, certainly, every type of case, when we need them, would be used.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Next I have Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. I wasn't going to speak to this, but I need to jump in here.

I understand the rationale of the questioning of my colleagues; however, Fort Smith and Hay River, first of all, are not right next door to each other. They may both be in the South Slave, but we're really stretching it to say an hour and a half. You'd have to be driving about 150 miles an hour to get there in an hour and a half.

As far as being back up or taking pressure off of Stanton, it's a flight of about 30 minutes to get between Hay River and Yellowknife and it's probably a flight of about 50 minutes between Fort Smith and Yellowknife, so I suppose you could make an argument for all three hospitals would kind of be right next door to each other. Most people who are seeking medical attention are not probably driving. Most of the people who come to Yellowknife, for example, for medical attention are flying over here and it's about a half-hour flight.

As to the order in which and the magnitude of the capital projects that are on the books for Fort Smith and Hay River, these two projects were, for lack of a better way of saying it, neck and neck for a long time in which one would go first and what kind of planning needed to be conducted, what kind of

groundwork needed to be laid for these projects going ahead. Hay River is the second largest community in the Northwest Territories. It does have a service area surrounding it. When we talk about Hay River's population, we have to include the Hay River Reserve, Enterprise, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution to the other direction, to the east. It is a centre for some degree of commerce and services and makes a lot of sense, in my opinion, for medical services.

Whether or not Hay River has been able to recruit and retain and whether Fort Smith has been able to recruit and retain resident physicians is also a bit of a red herring. The fact is there is enough interest from locum physicians to fill these positions. Maybe it is not ideal and it's certainly probably not the most cost effective for the department, but the services are there, the locums are there, the people can be treated, examined, hospitalized in their own community. We're hoping that the ability to recruit and retain physicians will improve as medical institutions have increased the number of seats they have available and as we still are in this long pulling out of the reduced number of seats for physicians in Canada. That was a bad mistake and we're still paying the price for it. We're hoping that as time goes on, that the situation is going to be improved.

As I said, Hay River has a population of around 4,000 and a service area of closer to 8,000 to 10,000, and a facility like what is proposed, I think, will also go some ways towards facilitating, as the Minister said, the locums, the specialists, the itinerant teams that will come in and deliver services in the communities. You still have to have a facility to operate out of and, hopefully in the long run, doctors who will want to practice medicine there and have a hospital to do it in.

I don't think the government wants to pay to have everybody from Hay River transported to Yellowknife everytime they require the services of a specialist or a procedure like a colonoscopy or a mammogram or a... You know, all of these services and specialists clinics that are all now currently operated out of the hospital that's there. I don't think the government wants to start to quantify the cost of bringing a population the size of Hay River and the needs of a community the size of Hay River to Yellowknife for service, or to Fort Smith, for that matter, if you want to talk about them being close by each other.

I can't explain the rationale. I mean, that's not my job to explain the rationale for two facilities, one in Fort Smith and one in Hay River, but I know that the one in Fort Smith did make significant progress on their planning and was able to get started on that.

I can tell you that we are looking forward to the Level C facility in Hay River as well. It has been on the books for a long time, practically as long as I

have been an MLA. We will make sure it gets used. I don't know what my question is. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Committee, we are on page 6-6, the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to get clarification from the Minister in regards to when we go through the briefing for this particular department. It came to our attention that there was information that was being provided that the long-term care facility in Norman Wells will replace the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik. I would just like clarification from the Minister. Is that the case?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, we have already established that that is not the best way to describe that project. Long-term care facility and wellness centre being built in Norman Wells stands on its own. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister what is the plan for the Joe Greenland Centre in light of this new information to establish these long-term care facilities elsewhere in the Northwest Territories. More importantly, what is the transitional plan in place for the residents of the Joe Greenland Centre? More importantly, the status of the employers, the individuals who work there so that we can give them some comfort that there will be a transitional period that they will transition out, that basically there will be more research and development done to really look at the potential of the facility which served the Northwest Territories for some 40 years. I would like to know exactly what is the transitional plan for this facility in the Department of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Krutko, I am going to ask that we hold off on that until we get to community health programs, if you will and stick with this. It starts to get a little bit into program. So, committee, if we can just confirm on page 6-6, the health services programs, activity summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$15.491. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that I'm talking off of was information that was provided on the particular line item which is before us, which is the Norman Wells Health Centre and long-term care facility, which basically clearly stipulates that long-term care facility was going to be to replace the Joe Greenland Centre

from the information that we received in the briefing that was given to us. So that documentation is the department's documentation and it is dealing with that particular capital item that is presently before us. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. It is clearly related, Mr. Krutko. I am going to allow that question here. Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I already stated, the regional health centre/wellness centre/long-term care in Norman Wells stands on its own. It is the only region in the Territories without a Level C care facility for all the reasons that the deputy minister mentioned. The 48 repatriation rule that is under effect from Alberta facilities, the surge capacity, the need for us to use technology more and to have facilities in place where our local travelling specialized staff could go to different places and provide services, we just don't have that in the Norman Wells facility.

That facility, I think, was built in the '60s. It is really a mobile home. They really cannot provide the kind of services that they need to do in that region. That project stands on its own.

Joe Greenland Centre will remain the way it has been for what it was meant to be, which is assisted living facility for elders, and the Housing Corporation has agreed to renovate the facility and to create additional capacity and additional bed spaces for elders in Aklavik that are desperately needed.

We will be able to use the money still to enhance the home care services in Aklavik and I believe that would provide opportunities for elders to be provided in the communities. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, for the sake of progress, I will agree to ask my question on the next page.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Part of Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$15.491. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. We will move to community health programs, pages 6-8 through 6-10. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to discuss a little bit with the Minister and ask the Minister questions on long-term care and what seems to be the general philosophy of the department to regionalize long-term care.

As indicated by my colleague Mr. Krutko many times in this room and in committee, we talked about the need for the communities to care for their elderly, their seniors, and most of us are affected. I

don't want to get into a long story, Mr. Chairman, but at one point, when things were a lot simpler, the elders and the seniors got to stay in their communities in what was referred to as a senior citizens home that was owned by the NWT Housing Corporation, and a service was provided by Health and Social Services in kind of like a variety of scope sort of setting where there were some people that needed more care than others. When some seniors needed more care than others, that care was provided to that senior. We had provided service through that system as a government to people in wheelchairs, to people who were in fact even to a point where people were bedridden. That allowed the communities to retain their elderly in their last days.

Now, when the policy changed and Health and Social Services withdrew from some of those smaller centres, smaller senior citizens homes that didn't have enough beds to warrant that type of base expenditure, it left some of these homes empty. I know this is a capital discussion. I am going to get to capital. I am wondering if the Minister looked at the feasibility of putting some capital into some of the homes that at one time did provide long-term care. I am specifically referring to Our Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution. Has the Minister looked at putting some capital into that home to make it possible for the people that are in long-term care from Fort Resolution in Hay River or Fort Smith to repatriate those people into the community and allow, too, the variety of programs that they used to care for those elders in their last days, if that was something that the Minister would consider or if that is something that the department has considered to date. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The policy or however you want to call it, the work that we are doing in the Department of Health and Social Services is pretty much in line with what has been there for as long as I have been here, I believe.

I know the Member is right, there are some facilities in the communities that were built by the Housing Corporation in at least three or four communities, but those were not meant to be long-term care as Department of Health and Social Services know it. When we are talking about long-term care, we are talking about acute care or more intense care. I believe there is room for those other facilities in the communities as we go forward, to look after the people who need more assistance, but that can be done outside of the acute care that the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for.

We really need to invest in home care and wellness workers so that we can support our elders in the small communities, or small community or

anywhere, even in Yellowknife, we do need to do more home care, or in bigger centres, so that we keep our people in their homes, supported by resources that are not 24/7. I could ask my deputy minister to speak to you more about why there needs to be a minimum level of service for us for when we talk about acute care health and social services facility of long-term care and why we need to have certain makeup of staff and a certain number of patients.

With the advancement in pharmaceuticals and treatments and many things, a lot of people can live in their home with support and we need to keep people who need more intense care in long-term care facilities, and there is a certain specified staffing makeup that we have to have there.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** This is, I think, a fairly simple problem and can be resolved fairly simply, but it has... The policy is in the way. It is kind of an odd situation, because, previously, there were people in these homes, they remained in the homes until their very last days. Health had some involvement in there. Home care was providing some service directly in these facilities and that is all that we are asking for, nothing greater than what was already there, nothing greater than what was there prior to the withdrawal of the program by the Department of Health and Social Services. We are not asking to bring people back into the community that would require the department to have a nurse on full time, anything like that. There is nothing more than what was already there. The people in Fort Resolution fail to see or understand how could something that has worked without any problem whatsoever no longer work because of something that happened on paper, a policy change. The same people, the same service people will be there, they will sit in there and reactivate the home.

Essentially what is happening is there are no seniors in that home living there, so the seniors that do come in don't even feel like it is their home. Even if they come from next door and it is a satellite unit, they don't feel like the facility belongs to them. When the four people were actually living in there, the community felt like that facility belonged to them, the elders, the seniors, and it was a very good feeling to go in there. There was lots of activity, so to speak, and now it has kind of dwindled away to nothing more than a place for the select few elders that are eligible to go in there and have a lunch.

I want to go to the extreme end; I just want the department to see a common, sensible approach to this and say we can provide a limited amount of service, maybe a little bit of additional service, a little bit of extra capital to accommodate the residents that would live there. I am trying to get the department to see that this is a policy-driven

decision that has caused problems in the small communities or the facilities.

I know that a place shut down in Deline and I know that they are targeting Joe Greenland in Aklavik, and Fort Resolution was shut down as well. What I am saying is, let's get something in between with support. Discuss it with the community, find a way to bring people back and let's just let people live there and provide support to them, not necessarily 24 hour nursing care.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I have had that discussion with the Member and I have undertaken to work with the Housing Corporation. It is the Housing Corporation unit. I know the Member is saying we are not talking about 24/7 level 3-4 care, can we not work together, where the Housing Corporation provides those units available to elders and we have home care and more support there so that elders could use that facility to the extent possible, and I am willing to look at that and I believe that we could do that under the existing policy. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have a similar question in regards to the Minister and just looking at the statistics that we see from the department. In the Inuvik region, based on 2006 statistics, people over the age of 70, there are 250 individuals identified in 2006. Again, I think these numbers are a little low, from the information that I have been pulling together. I have tabled information in the Legislature in the last sitting in regards to the information that was pulled together from Fort McPherson, which identified some 122 individuals over the age of 60 and 86 people over the age of 70 in Fort McPherson. I know that Fort McPherson has raised this issue with the department. There was a motion passed at the Gwich'in Assembly requesting that they consider looking at some sort of a care facility for the number of elders in Fort McPherson.

Again, I think that with the policy decisions in other jurisdictions, in regards to Alberta and in regards to the 48-hour rule now in place, because the majority of people that we do send to the southern health centres are the aged, they are frail and also, more importantly, patients that are diagnosed with cancer and whatnot are going through that process. I think it is something that we should be seriously looking at.

But again, I think just looking at the statistics and the demographics of the different regions, I think that at some point the facilities that we already have are not going to be able to accommodate the growing population, especially the seniors population. I believe your information is a little... It is from 2006, but I don't think it really includes all those individuals that I mentioned by way of the statistics that we have.

Again, I would just like to ask the Minister with the issues raised by my colleague from Tu Nedhe, in regards to the... We do have to have some means of community care in regards to elderly care, some sort of a transitional process so that as you age, you are going to move into a different structure regardless if you are lame, you need a wheelchair, you need wheelchair access, you have different needs because of physical needs, and the facilities that we have that can't accommodate a simple home in our communities, you are going to have to make some revisions there. So I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of the issues that are being raised in our communities, what is this government doing to provide that care facility that may be less than a long-term care facility but more of having care facilities in our communities that actually offer something close to 24-hour care. I believe there is a need. There is definitely community support for this and regional support in the region I come from. So how open are you to look at those alternative care facilities in other communities, which will be provided either through arrangements between our aboriginal governments, Department of Health and Social Services and, more importantly, the NGOs and groups that do provide these types of opportunities so we can keep our elders in our communities as long as we can? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** This capital plan is for this upcoming fiscal year. We have based it on the long-term care planning facilities needs study, but this is not a final sort of document that's not to be changed forever. The long-term care needs have to be reviewed every five years. The populations will tell us where the needs are and it is possible that Aklavik and McPherson combined for the Gwich'in Nation, that they may be able to establish a long-term care facility that they could jointly share.

The important part is that this is a template that we can work on, and I think the department has done really good work in terms of having a long-term kind of view on where we need to go. We have worked out a prototype on long-term care facilities, the staffing needs, what we should look like, what should be provided there so that you don't have to reinvent the wheel every single time. Future Legislatures, this is something that's going to be on us every year. We're going to have to look at what the long-term care bed needs are in our Territories.

For now, we are presenting the best plan we can at the moment and at the same time supporting communities in a way that can allow our elders to stay in the community, create local jobs as much as possible, and they don't necessarily have to be done 24/7. Home care is still a good option for many communities. That has to come hand in hand with long-term care facilities. The less we have people staying in long-term care facilities, the better. That means our population is being taken care of better. Modern technology and treatment

options allow for that, but there will always be our people who need to be in a more acute care facility and we have to address that separately.

To answer the Member's question, this is an ongoing concern. This doesn't end here. We need to constantly review to see where the needs are, and these plans are subject to change. This is a plan for this year at this time on the information that we have. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I think one of the biggest cost drivers we have as governments, and other governments throughout Canada or around the world for that matter, is the aging demographics that we're starting to see in regard to the baby boomer population. It is now coming that that age and that's going to be one of the higher population service areas in all governments and I think that we can't rely on statistics from 2006. I think that we need to get more actual statistics on what those real numbers are. I think that we're projecting 2026 in regard to that population.

So I think that just for statistical information we have an opportunity here coming up shortly in the next statistics in the Northwest Territories by Stats Canada, I think it's 2011, and I think that's something that we should very much demand is that part of the collection of data and information does look at the aging of population and the demographics in regard to the disabled, the frail and the actual type of care people need. So I think it's something that we have to be cognizant of and realize the importance of community programs.

I think a lot of times when it comes to community programs we're sort of the poor second cousins and all the bigger facilities seem to be built at the regional level. We need to start looking at developing these systems from the centre up, not from the community down. So I think that we do have to change that concept and actually see programs and services being delivered in those communities, and for the aging population that are being treated differently simply because of where they live, those days should be over.

I'd like to ask the Minister, you keep referring to the different types of care, regardless of if it's in home care, but, again, a lot of times in our communities it's treated differently because it's based on population distribution. It's based on half days, it's not a full-time position. I think to be realistic about the programs and services, in order to make them work you have to have a full gamut of programs and services that work like any other larger centre such as the Inuvik region. The only community that has larger numbers than the Inuvik region, 250, is Yellowknife with 305. For 18,000 people having 305 elders over 70 compared to the Inuvik region of 250, that tells me demographically there are a lot more elders in the Inuvik region spread out over a wider area and in more communities than in

Yellowknife. I think that has to be seriously taken into consideration.

So I'd like to get some assurance from the Minister that they will seriously take a look at this and ensure that we actually have programs that really work for the elders' care in our communities and long-term care, regardless if it's a long-term care facility or it's one notch down from that type of care, 24-hour care. Make it 23-hour care and that way we'll be satisfied. So we'll give you an hour back. How's that for savings?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Home care worker jobs are not inferior jobs. They're not part-time jobs. It's going to be a more important profession. They get schooled to do home care work. They do anything from post-op care or working with persons with disabilities, looking after the elderly, working with the nurses and doctors and looking after their medication. Home care is huge and it's going to be a more and more important area for taking care of our residents all across Canada.

Those will become, actually I think those are better economic opportunities for our people in small communities where our people in our communities can take those jobs and they'll be good paying, long-term jobs for years. Whereas, I think the Member would be the first to agree that not all of the jobs in the health care field are being taken by our local labour, and the Joe Greenland Centre right now, the plan is in place. So I think that's a really good plan. I think the Member worked hard to win the battle, so to speak, and he has done that. The Housing Corp has committed to renovate that facility. That needs to be done and we will be able to accommodate a larger number of seniors than who are there now, and a large portion of the money we're already using on labour. We will be able to have strengthened home care service in Aklavik and that is really good news.

I don't think we should be judging the work of senior care by how many 24/7 care we have. I think we've got to look at the quality of care we're going to provide our seniors. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I just have a question for the Minister, maybe she can provide the information. Can you give me the information on how many northern aboriginal people are working in the health care system when it comes to long-term care facilities in the Northwest Territories and what are those statistics, since you keep saying that we have not been able to fill all these jobs? How many long-term Northerners and aboriginal caregivers do we have in the long-term care facilities in the Northwest Territories to date? Broken down by each community or facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. That question will be appropriate when we get into mains or during formal proceedings. Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could get that information, because every facility I go to there are many, many aboriginal people that work in these long-term care facilities in the Territories. I also need to add home care, because that's what I'm talking about. Home care jobs are good jobs and they are jobs that our local people can take on. Home care has many aspects to that profession. I will provide that information to the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I ask the Minister and Members to stick to capital infrastructure here. Any further comments? Questions? Page 6-9, Department of Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$800,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. We will return to page 6-2, Health and Social Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the Minister about the Behchoko long-term care facility, which is going to be added onto the existing health facility. Right now there's a long-term lease commitment for that facility in Behchoko. I'd like to know, once we make the investment of some \$14 million, who is going to own that facility. Will we continue being committed to the long-term lease arrangement for the existing facility in Behchoko?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. That's appropriately under community health programs. Did you wish to return to that section?

**MR. KRUTKO:** I'm talking about the overall investment summary, so I think it falls within this department. It's okay. It can be answered here, because it is dealing with the total amount.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** You're asking a question about the Behchoko community facility specifically which is under community health programs.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Okay. I'll go back.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Does committee agree to return to community health programs, page 6-9?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Mr. Krutko, you've asked your question. Are you prepared to answer, Ms. Lee?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The land tenure issue or whether a building will be

leased once built, those are all responsibilities under DPW. We apply for a project under function and once it's approved, DPW takes care of that. I could undertake to get that information from the Minister.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Maybe just for clarification to the Minister, my understanding is the existing health facility in Behchoko is a leased facility from the local community development corporation. You have a long-term lease for that facility. What happens when you develop this new facility? Who will be responsible for that long-term lease? Do we have to pay it out or are we going to eventually take full ownership of that facility? Will there be some buy-out option to that lease arrangement? Are we locked in for the long-term of this lease commitment?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** My understanding is that the long-term care facility is an NWT Housing Corporation asset. I think the Member might be referring to the health centre which we have a lease arrangement with. That's separate from this project. Any future arrangements that might come to play would be something that would be done by DPW.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Under the Tlicho Health Authority, under the Tlicho Government, this facility, will it be a part of an asset of the Tlicho Government through the self-government arrangement with them with respect to developing assets in the Tlicho region?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** No, this will be a GNWT asset.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Okay, just clarification on the existing facility. What happens to the existing facility in the Tlicho community in regard to the Lee Erasmus Facility?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** My understanding is that building will come down and the new building will be built on that site to replace it. That existing building has flooring problems or roofing problems and where using the same site.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Under the new regulation it stipulates that you have to have, to operate under a new model that you're using, you have to have 18 beds and it has to be adjacent to a Level B or C health centre. Will the health centre be in the new facility?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The B-C health centre has to be in the community so that we have access to physicians.

**MR. KRUTKO:** So who owns the Level B or Level C health facility?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I need to get more detail. I don't want to get the facts wrong. I believe some of it is leased. Government is leasing from Tlicho the B-C health centre, but not the long-term care centre that is there right now. I will confirm that. I just want

to make sure that I have my information correct. That's my understanding.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Unless someone else has information that can answer that question, either Public Works or whatnot. I believe it is important that if we do lease facilities and we are building new facilities, is the objective of the government to own its facilities outright and get out of these leases and own our own health centres in our communities?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I thought I answered the question on the long-term care facility. It's a GNWT facility. We're going to build it. Health and Social Services will own it. It will be a GNWT asset. We'll provide O and M for it. Tlicho Community Services Agency doesn't have anything to do with it.

The reason I wanted to follow up is that I know we have some lease arrangement on the health centre for a part of it. I don't know if it's the office or what, because we've done some renovations there. They're not related. That's not related to this project. This is a GNWT facility.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Maybe I'll allow the Minister to get that information, but I think it's sort of irregular to have ownership of a facility on one hand and then telling the communities that you can't formulate these partnerships or leases for other facilities such as long-term care facilities in other communities. Yet you're allowing it to happen here with the lease of a health centre in Behchoko. I think it's something that has to be taken into consideration in light of what precedent is being used in this case.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We will await further information on who owns the current health centre in Behchoko. That will be provided by the Minister, unless there is somebody else here who can comment on that. Thank you very much. Committee, I think that I don't see any more questions on page 6-9. Page 6-9, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$800,000. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Return to the deferred summary on page 6-2, Department of Health and Social Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$16.291 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes Department of Health and Social Services infrastructure 2011-2012 Capital Estimates?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the Minister and her witness, Ms. Meade, and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witness from the Chamber.

Does committee agree that we will next do the Department of ITI?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'll ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I do, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Committee, I'm going to call a three-minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Could I ask the Minister to please introduce his witnesses?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left I have Peter Vician, deputy minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment; on my right I have Doug Doan, assistant deputy minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome witnesses. Committee, we have before us the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Page 10-2 is the department summary, which we will defer until after the detail. The first section is tourism and parks, page 10-3 through 10-5, with the financial summary on page 10-4. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that we do have to seriously look at the capital investment in this portfolio, especially in the area of tourism and parks. I think that, if anything, we, as government, have basically let this department down by the lack of capital investment that we put into the area of tourism and parks, especially for the Northwest Territories when we look at the economic sector when it comes to tourism and the increased amount of road traffic we're seeing. We have more tourists and on the Dempster Highway we're seeing more and more RVs coming up the Dempster from Whitehorse. Most of the tourists are from Europe off of direct flights between Frankfurt, Germany, and Whitehorse in the Yukon, where we're seeing a lot of European tourists. Again, I think a lot of facilities that we have designed in the Northwest Territories were not really designed for that type of road traffic.

I believe that we do, as a government, have to really seriously make some major capital investment in the area of parks, and more

importantly, the other parks that we established up and down our highway systems, especially for the amount of road traffic we are seeing in the area of tourism on all our highways, except the challenge of travelling Highway No. 7. I think, if anything, if that highway was in the shape that it should be, we would probably see more increase in road traffic on that highway.

Again, one thing that we need to very much look at is how we develop the capital planning process for tourism and parks. Most of the capital we do in the area of highways is building infrastructure based on a 20-year needs survey looking at actual replacement costs. I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of the lack of capital investment we've put into this area, what can we do to make more investment to improve or, basically, bring in more tourism revenues. More importantly, how can we make better use of those facilities that we have by bringing them to a better standard than they're presently at compared to other jurisdictions such as the Yukon, B.C. or Alberta, in regard to their park facilities? I'd like to ask the Minister what are we doing to improve our image by way of the road traffic or RV tourists and, more importantly, having the facilities to accommodate them. Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Basically, we are focusing on marketing and also we have been doing work to maintain our parks with utilizing more O and M money and it is a matter of when you have a limited amount of resources to work with, you have to prioritize your investments and focus on those areas that are the most...to do the work that's most required. I think it must be working because our preliminary statistics 2010 camping season show that our camping permits are up by around 2 percent overall across the Territory and all regions have recorded an increase in camping permit numbers. We have done some surveys to make sure that we focus on the areas that our clientele feel are most important with regard to our parks. We are also focusing on developing marketing partnerships within the regions. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** The other area that I think we have to do more for by way of working with the aboriginal organizations that have established territorial parks and protected areas regardless if it's the Gwich'in Territorial Park or the CANOL Trail. Again, those are areas that I think do have major economic potential and cultural potential, but more importantly, the ability to promote the regions and also the cultural and aboriginal groups that are basically represented in those parks and also build a sort of park management plan with them. I'd just like to know what we are doing to work with those aboriginal organizations to take advantage of the

territorial parks that we do have in place under the establishment of the land claim agreements.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** On the protected area side, we work very closely with aboriginal governments. We have been approached by a number of regions to sponsor some protected areas and we have looked very seriously at the proposals and very recently we've agreed to sponsor the Five Finger Lakes proposal out of Jean Marie. Also, through the Gwich'in Territorial Park Master Plan we met with the Nihtah Gwich'in Council and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to discuss their views on the future of the park, and we've hired a consultant to prepare a revised plan to address the future operation and maintenance of the park. We've also supplied a recently completed parks planning manual to all stakeholders to help us assist in revising the plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Committee, page 10-4, tourism and parks. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a quick question with regard to the two projects for the Sixtieth Parallel Visitor Information Centre. One of them references preliminary design and design guidelines, the other one talks about interior interpretive signage for the facility. In the backup documentation that we got on the second project, on the interior displays, it talked about the new facility being built, I think, in this year, which I don't think is accurate. But if I could just get an explanation as to the difference between these two projects, please. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess there are two parts to this project. One is improving the outside exterior part of the Sixtieth Parallel Visitors Centre, the facilities that people see on the outside; and then we are also, on the inside, it's our plan to have interior displays. I think we are moving a large part of the equipment that we had at Canada's Northern House that we will be moving inside, those types of displays so that people that come into the centre will be able to see a lot of these visual displays inside the visitors centre. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for those comments. I guess I would just like to know if the new visitors centre, if we are going to replace the current Sixtieth Parallel Visitor Information Centre, and if so, when would we be anticipating to start construction. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I did go and visit the Sixtieth Parallel Visitor Centre and I know the construction was completed this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MS. BISARO:** Now I'm really confused. Are we finished constructing a new centre? If so, why are

we conducting preliminary consultations and preliminary design guidelines for a new visitors centre? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I'm not sure what the Member is looking at, but in 2011-12 we are putting the finishing touches to the visitors centre at the border. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MS. BISARO:** I'm referencing page 10-5, third item down, description: conduct preliminary consultations and develop preliminary design and design guidelines for new visitors centre.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Well, that's obviously incorrect. I'll ask the deputy to clarify what we're spending. We spent \$740,000 in prior years to build a visitors centre. In 2011-2012 we are proposing to spend \$60,000 to complete the work at the centre. So through you, Mr. Chair, I'll ask the deputy to clarify that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Deputy Minister Vician.

**MR. VICIAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is misrepresented. The preliminary consultations were complete as part of the project and in terms of referencing the specific spend proposed for 2011-2012, it will essentially be warranty work to complete the final finishing on the project. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Vician. Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Committee, page 10-4, we have the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, activity summary, tourism and parks, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$599,000. Committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. That wraps it up for detail. We'll return to page 10-2 for the department summary. Industry, Tourism and Investment, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$599,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment 2011-2012 Capital Estimates? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the Minister and his witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Mahsi. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I move we report progress.

---Carried

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

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. Do you have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 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 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project

- Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits
- Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
- Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
- Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012
- Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future"
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
- Bill 8, Social Work Profession Act
- Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act
- Committee Report 3-16(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services 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 Tuesday, October 26, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:50 p.m.