



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Monday, June 3, 2013**

Pages 2751 – 2792

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Nunakput)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, June 3, 2013****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 63-17(4):  
DEVOLUTION**

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly has a vision of a territory where strong individuals, families and communities share in the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous territory.

The path to that vision has its obstacles and challenges. Now, as Northerners, we do not shy away from challenges. Our territory is built on the strength and resilience of people who have persevered and survived despite harsh climate and the sometimes harsh reality of northern living. However, there are times when the load can be lightened, the challenges met and the vision seen more clearly.

Mr. Speaker, this week Members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly will have the unprecedented opportunity to clear the path to our shared vision of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous territory. We are ready, Mr. Speaker, to lighten the load all Northerners carry, to bring decision-making and resources where they belong: home, to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, to that end, I will be tabling the results of the public engagement on the proposed Devolution Agreement and the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement. It is also our intention to introduce a motion seeking this Assembly's support for the approval of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

Should this motion pass, we will then sign the agreement that will see new responsibilities transferred to us on April 1, 2014; new

responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, and a clear path to our vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 64-17(4):  
REPORT OF THE MINISTER'S FORUM ON  
ADDICTIONS AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS**

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, we all know the terrible toll that addictions take on our people and our communities. Widespread addictions are one of the biggest barriers to achieving the vision and priorities of this Assembly. It is a driving force behind family breakdown, incarceration, homelessness, and developmental delays in children.

As a government, we have invested millions of dollars into tackling this issue and commissioned numerous reports, but we haven't seen much improvement.

This is why I convened the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness. I believe that our communities and our people have the answers.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will table the report and recommendations of the Minister's Forum. I want to thank the members of the forum and acknowledge their efforts, and I especially want to commend Mr. Paul Andrew, who chaired the forum and provided leadership to this important initiative. The forum members have produced an excellent and comprehensive report.

The forum's conclusions and recommendations are consistent with what we have heard in other consultations over the past several months. Communities are telling us that their top priority is for more investment to support on-the-land programs for community healing. A second priority is more programming for youth.

Mr. Speaker, the forum's recommendations on improving addictions treatment in the Northwest Territories are consistent with what I have heard from MLAs. Communities told us they want to see residential treatment improved, but more importantly, they want to see a greater emphasis on aftercare and detox programs.

Over the summer I will work with other Ministers to develop a detailed response to the report that will be coordinated with other action plans like Early Childhood Development and Anti-Poverty. But we will not wait until that response is finalized to take action.

This year's budget includes new funding to address some of the forum priorities, including enhancing on-the-land programs, improving residential treatment programs and aftercare, and focusing on youth addictions. That important work is already underway and will continue. Through the business planning process, we will target priorities for increased investment throughout this government.

The recommendations of the Minister's Forum will help us to build on the commitments in our existing Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, and help us to target priorities for increased investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 65-17(4): ELDERS IN SCHOOLS PILOT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, elders play a vital role in integrating languages and culture into school programming, and provide valuable skills and knowledge to our children and youth.

I am happy to announce that, beginning in the coming 2013-14 school year, we will be launching the NWT Elders in Schools pilot program to strengthen and increase elder involvement in our schools. While there are currently a significant number of elders already involved in many of our schools, this program seeks to enhance and formalize elder involvement within our school system. This pilot program will run in all schools across the territory for the 2013-14 school year, after which we will gather feedback and input from the schools on suggestions for improvements.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Elders in Schools Handbook provides details to superintendents and school principals about how to adopt the program, and answers to commonly asked questions about how to bridge the gap between generations and between tradition and technology. This handbook was modeled from the successful Nunavut program, and will be completed early in June.

We will develop an evaluation framework to monitor the program's effectiveness and ability to meet program objectives to ensure the program actually works.

Mr. Speaker, we have a vision of strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustained and prosperous Northwest Territories. Achieving our vision requires a balanced approach

that supports our citizens, preserves and revitalizes our cultures and languages, grows our economy and helps us protect our environment. This project is one of the ways Education, Culture and Employment is working towards healthy, educated people and complements work our government is also doing on the environment and the economy.

I look forward to seeing the territorial pilot in action this upcoming school year. It is imperative that we connect our generations to ensure the preservation of our languages, cultures and traditions. I will keep this Assembly apprised of the progress of this valuable program. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CANADA

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is a day of remembrance for pregnancy loss and infant death. Although this day is observed in many places around the world, it is still not well known. The Canadian Foundation for October 15<sup>th</sup>, known as CFO, is an official foundation leading the campaign to recognize October 15<sup>th</sup> as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day in Canada.

The goal of the CFO is to obtain an official day of remembrance – October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year – to ensure that all Canadian families who experience the loss of a child during pregnancy or shortly after birth are given the opportunity to acknowledge their loss, seek support and honour their child's memory in an understanding and supportive environment.

The CFO works to promote national and international pregnancy loss, and infant death awareness remembrance and support, enabling the larger community with the knowledge and skills required to assist and meet the needs of families who experience pregnancy loss and infant death.

This special day is already observed in many countries, provinces and states, through participation in the International Wave of Light, a candlelight vigil starting at 7:00 p.m. every October 15<sup>th</sup>. The result is a continuous wave of light that spreads around the globe for 24 hours, and it is a beautiful image.

A Pregnancy and Infant loss Remembrance Day is a small but important gesture for every family and community, but especially those who have felt this loss. It shows our support and our sympathy, and reminds us of the research and prevention work that needs to be done.

New Brunswick was the first province in Canada to honour October 15<sup>th</sup> as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. This is where we can help in this Assembly, and that is by designating October 15<sup>th</sup> as a day of remembrance for infants lost through miscarriage, stillbirth and SIDS. I would like to see our territory join other jurisdictions in honouring this day each year, in support of those who have suffered the pain of losing an infant during pregnancy or shortly after birth.

I bring this topic up today in the House at the request of a young mother in Hay River who lost her first child at 24 weeks, and has subsequently happily given birth to another healthy child, but that loss and that remembrance of that child that she lost – and many other people have experienced the same thing – never really fully diminishes. It never really fully goes away, and yet, when people go home from the hospital, sometimes with empty arms, there isn't much knowledge or support or, even in our society, a good understanding of how we can support and remember and help those families.

I will have questions later today for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ECOLE J. H. SISSONS SCHOOL  
STUDENTS HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to introduce to the House a group of students from Ecole J.H. Sissons School. These students in particular, who are all here in the gallery today, are an amazing group of young people who, through hard work and dedication, decided to invoke change within their community. What change do you ask? Well, these students decided that they were going to do something about homelessness.

In December of last year, Miss Anna Pontin approached her principal, Mr. Bennett, and expressed an interest in helping the homeless people in Yellowknife. Anna, a Grade 4 student at J.H. Sissons, was inspired by the work of another young person who was determined to make change: Ms. Hannah Taylor from Winnipeg. Although Ms. Taylor is now at the ripe old age of 15 years old, Ms. Taylor started helping the homeless when she was just five years old, and today she now has an organization called Ladybug Foundation that has helped homelessness across Canada in many major cities. That should remind us that you are never too young to start.

With the determination and energy like no other, Ms. Pontin enlisted five of her cohorts, five particular young people that she knew would bring

special skills to this movement she was changing. Although, through this collaboration, these young folks were able to launch and focus their mission. The first thing they did, knowing it was an enormous topic, they called upon Mayor Heyck, who met with them to discuss the issues so they could learn more about homeless people in our city, about the programs and the partner organizations.

After learning a fair bit about this particular issue, and at the same time realizing how large this issue really was, they decided they should focus their efforts specifically at the downtown day shelter. As such, these students then called upon Ms. Bardak to meet with them to talk about what they could do to help.

One particular area that they found that could make an immediate difference was they found that many of the clients had no access to crafts and music, so with an unwavering focus before them, they now were off and running with their mission.

The students decided to first raise some funds for this project for providing crafts, arts and music to the people at the downtown day shelter. As such, our young homelessness team, or crusaders, went on to present to all the other classes at J.H. Sissons, and they did this with such excitement, I'll say that their excitement drew out enthusiasm, and it certainly was utterly changing and infectious.

May I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. HAWKINS:** Their enthusiasm was infectious. Within a few days, these students raised \$576, with several donations of musical instruments, but it didn't just stop there. Since their initial presentation, they have pledged many other types of assistance. One particular student said, please don't bring gifts to my birthday party; make a donation. She was able to raise \$120.

The kindergarten kids proved that they are not too young, as well, to provide an additional \$30 with their fundraising. They collected many things, such as winter clothes, mitts, gloves and toques for the shelter. Further, they continue to raise money for craft programs. They continue to have a weekly fresh bread drive that gets dropped off at the shelter once a week. Finally, these individuals continue to collect dry goods and canned goods for the Food Bank.

If you have been keeping tabs, which I know you have, you will now realize that they've raised over \$700, along with collected musical instruments, new clothes, weekly bread drives, and they donate to the food shelter. The result of these young people is profound and has had an enormous positive effect, including on myself.

To bring this to a close, this all started with one student's determination to do something, to lead a life-altering project strengthening partnership with six amazing students. They work together with their school and their community. In Rehtaeh Parsons words, everyone deserves dignity. The work of these fine students is bringing some dignity back.

To close this off, later today I will recognize the hard work that these individuals have done, and I will be asking for the attention of this House to recognize them individually. The work of the homelessness continues. Thank you to all of these fine students for reminding us how important it is and how young people can make change in their community. Thank you one and all.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR TRADES APPRENTICESHIPS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how I'm going to be able to follow that one. With just under 500 apprentices in the NWT, a recent ITI Economic Opportunities Panel reaffirmed the North needs more skilled workers but, more importantly, that these workers be Northerners.

I say this is a great observation, but no one really wants to talk about improving the process of our apprenticeship programs. We keep hearing the promise, finding the people committed to the trades. I say let's fix and tweak the process and hopefully the people will step forward.

To achieve this, one must take the time to talk about our current apprentices and ask them what have been the roadblocks, what have been their barriers.

With limited time today, I will focus on one such barrier, which is the current Targeted Wage Subsidy Program. Currently there are four wage subsidy programs through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. While the programs differ slightly in their targeted audience, the spirit of the subsidies is to provide employers with incentives to create implemental employment opportunities for Northerners.

Now, this may appear to have all the rigours of a well-oiled machine, yet when you peel back the fundamental of this incentive, the employer is in the driver's seat and not the apprentice. Why is this of concern? For starters, the control and leverage of wages lie in the hands of the employer. Now, I wish I could say all employers are equal in design, but I can assure you that some employers will use this opportunity to their advantage at the sacrifice of the apprentice.

Knowing your employment contract money in your future education is in the hands of the employer

offers little hope for those apprentices in not-so-favoured situations. Of course, like any employee, you can give your notice, but now your record book, your logbook, and your Apprenticeship Program is now put on hold until you are able to find another employer willing and able to take you on as an apprentice. I can tell you that many apprentices just say they will tolerate what they have. As well, your new employer would then have to reapply for funding, causing even further delays in the apprenticeship process. Again, most apprentices just can't afford the delay.

What we have currently, in the eyes of northern apprentices, is a grin and bear it program when it comes to the Targeted Wage Subsidy Program. It is this barrier to the program success. The solution, I say, is let's tip the process on its head and make the apprentice employee the one in the driver's seat. Let this apprentice have the ability to assign wage subsidy certification with the employer of their choosing. Let the apprentice decide which employer is best suited for the success for their continued program.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Furthermore, let's make sure this Targeted Wage Subsidy Program is owned by the apprentice and not the employer.

I will have questions later today for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on finding better ways to achieve a better balance that we currently see with the Targeted Wage Subsidy Program and our Apprenticeship Program as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm taking the opportunity today to go down memory lane, like my colleague Mr. Miltenberger, who often talks about history.

Back in 1992, while I was taking my business degree in finance at the University of Lethbridge, I had the opportunity one summer to get a position as the economic development officer trainee, before I completed my last year of university. I returned to Hay River, became the economic development officer there, and since then purchased a home in Hay River and have lived here in the Northwest Territories since then. I think this is one of the draws that kept me in the North and kept me as a productive Northerner.

As students return from universities and colleges this summer, often the issue of employment comes up, whether it's summer employment or some of them who are completing their education are looking for permanent employment. This government knows these students. We have financial assistance programs for them. We should be linking something to the students we know we have out there to the current jobs and what the government is looking for.

We have an aging population. We know there are going to be demands in the future of how many employees we're going to need. The government is one of the major employers in the Northwest Territories, so we should have a direct link to those students when they first start their education, to what the opportunities are there, what the opportunities are for employment. We need to link that, because we are seeing in our riding, as well as hearing stories throughout the North, where there are students coming back and they don't have a job. They could be lawyers. They could be doctors, teachers. We have teachers who are Northerners but don't have any full-time employment. We've had a lawyer, recently, looking for a job in the Northwest Territories. Couldn't get a job in the Northwest Territories; finally she was able to line one up.

Whether you're a teacher, lawyer, welder, mechanic, we should be supporting our youth and getting them jobs, and linking our education system with the human resource commitment to the Northwest Territories government.

I will have questions for the Minister of Human Resources on how we can create this kind of a link between the Northerners who we've given financing, and finding them jobs out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PERSONAL MEDICAL TRAVEL FROM SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since being elected, I have been pointing out some of the ways people in small communities are at a disadvantage when it comes to receiving services provided by our government. Medical care is one of the biggest and most important. As we all know, there are many medical services that are not available in the small communities, so people have to travel. In my region, that often means going to Yellowknife.

There are no commercial flights and people can only travel by road, either by taxi or by private vehicle, and it is a pretty rough trip for someone who is in pain. Many travel by taxi. It is a pretty good business for taxis. There are often up to three people riding in the cab with different appointment

times. It is common for them to wait in the cab and bring their own lunch. The trip takes at least three hours each way, so unless the medical appointment is very well timed, it can easily turn into a two-day trip.

Use of private vehicles seems to be discouraged. In such cases, the Medical Travel Policy does not make any allowance for meals and accommodation. Most hotel rooms in Yellowknife cost between \$150 and \$200 a night, and with the price of meals you're looking at close to \$300 a day. It's a lot of money and many people can't afford it. I'm sure some people decide not to go to their appointments at all unless their condition is pretty serious.

In the long run, this results in more medevacs, which are far more expensive to our government than travel allowances. NWT residents who get medical care in their hometown don't have to bear these costs. Why do people from Fort Providence and other small communities have to pay for their meals and accommodations when others do not? This is a clear example of unfairness and the way government discriminates against people living in small communities. We have to do better, Mr. Speaker.

I'll have questions in this regard later. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING FOR TEACHERS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As pointed out in a recent report from the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, teachers are turning down job offers for small NWT communities because of a lack of adequate housing. The report goes on to say that in the past 11 years, the Department of Education has spent \$13.9 million moving teachers out of these communities, and that doesn't include the added cost of recruiting new teachers to replace those who have left.

Since 1996, when the GNWT got out of providing teacher housing, there have been many things tried but, unfortunately, most of these solutions have not been successful.

Currently most districts in the NWT do have some sort of off-the-books arrangement for housing and have had for years. Here's a snapshot of housing options that are out there in the eight district education councils and authorities that we have.

Both Yellowknife Catholic Schools and the Commission Scolaire Francophone do not provide any form of housing to teachers. Yellowknife Education District No. 1 owns Nordic Arms, an apartment block here in Yellowknife. In the Sahtu,

specifically in Colville Lake, the DEA either owns or manages the teacher housing there through a creative arrangement. In the Deh Cho, GNWT assets were turned over to the education council years ago, when no one locally would purchase them. There are houses in Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte, and a lease with the First Nations in Jean Marie River was turned over to the board. At Kakisa, Education, Culture and Employment gave the district education council about \$60,000, and the council built a house. Public Works and Services has since taken over the maintenance and associated costs for that house. There have been a few ups and downs with that arrangement, but the best part of the deal, the council still collects and keeps the rent.

Alternatively, the Tlcho has housing in at least Behchoko for nurses. We have housing for RCMP in all of our communities where they're stationed. To be honest, the GNWT and its agencies, departments of Health and Justice, do provide housing. The government can argue that they are locum nurses and that the RCMP are contracted but, in my mind, it's a matter of semantics. Government money is being used to supply housing for people who supply services in NWT communities.

We struggle to solve the teacher housing riddle. Can we not find a solution that works? I have a suggestion: One potential solution would be amending the current regulations to allow authorities and councils to own property.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** DEAs and DECs who are allowed to own property can then legally set about acquiring housing for their teaching staff. Education districts need many options to help them deal with housing. One solution will not work for every one of them. The GNWT needs to be flexible and supportive, and good, strong northern housing must be available, well maintained and reasonable in price when it comes to rent.

Teacher housing in the NWT is hampered by regulations which forbid educational authorities to own properties, and this is perhaps not a solution for all of our communities, but as ECE consults with their partners on this housing issue, they must seriously consider revising the regulations so DECs and DEAs can maybe begin to solve their own housing woes. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I had the opportunity to attend a ceremony here at the Legislative Assembly, which was near and dear to my heart, and that was the World No Tobacco Day on May 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. It was really nice to see, although I missed part of the ceremony. It was nice to see that the Department of Health and Social Services and its partners were promoting not only talking about the commercial uses of tobacco but promoting the cultural and traditional uses of tobacco that we have in the Northwest Territories, and promoting spirituality, healing, respect, offering prayers, but also talking about the commercial use and what that causes: the cancers, the strokes, heart disease and even death.

The ceremony finished with the feeding of the fire, and everyone that was in attendance participated and they all got to say a few words. But some of the strongest words were from our elders. Actually, the Stanton Territorial Health Authority Elders' Council was there, a very strong voice. They didn't have to read from a paper to tell us what they knew and how they grew up, and a lot of it wasn't in terms of commercial tobacco use. They talked about the traditional uses. Very powerful words, very strong words, very wise words, and those words were that we've got to start focusing on prevention and promotion and educating our people to live healthier lifestyles.

I was very happy to hear that, and although we still do have a very high prevalence rate of smoking in the Northwest Territories – I think second across Canada – the numbers have been dropping. What has been increasing is the amount of people that don't start smoking and that's what this government needs to promote, educate and continue to strive for. In fact, it will lead us into that new generation of healthy, educated adults with the youth coming up and educating our youth.

Actually, in terms of education awareness, this morning in one of our public sessions, we heard from Mr. Wise Old Yakeleya here. He made a comment. He did say give a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime. This government has got to start educating and teaching our residents to live a healthier lifestyle so that we can create lifelong healthy, educated people and residents of the Northwest Territories.

I thank our wise colleague here, Mr. Yakeleya, for those words.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF  
CONOCOPHILLIPS FOR HORIZONTAL  
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING  
(FRACKING) PROJECT

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final comments are due today as the Sahtu Land and Water Board decide whether to refer to environmental assessment the proposal by ConocoPhillips to test horizontal, multi-stage fracking. I'm urging the board to issue direction for a review.

Only last year the board issued a decision referring a similar proposal by MGM to environmental review. In issuing that decision, the board noted that because this is the first proposal of horizontal fracturing in the NWT, significant public concerns have been identified. There is concern regarding the environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing given the controversy elsewhere, and given the potential risks to surface and groundwater, referral to environmental review was warranted. All of these concerns are just as valid and pressing with the ConocoPhillips proposal.

Most importantly, we have yet to set limits and thresholds based on publicly set goals in relation to cumulative impacts. Regulatory mechanisms do not exist to actually enforce those targets, and monitoring enforcement and adaptive management processes on which to base permits and management of unconventional oil and gas exploration and development have not been developed.

More specifically, there are no plans for detailed monitoring or mitigation of greenhouse gas impacts including those directly related to the ConocoPhillips application, ongoing project activities or resulting from combustion of any oil or gas that eventually may be produced. Given the comprehensive and daunting understanding that humankind simply cannot afford to burn 80 percent of the already proven global reserves of hydrocarbons, this is surprising.

Public concern remains high in the Sahtu, territorially and beyond. Several jurisdictions in Canada and globally are realizing greater impacts than predicted and moving to restrict or even ban fracking. Questions remain about financial liability from environmental damage of extractive operations. The public is already paying enough to clean up or stabilize the toxic consequences left behind after inadequate reviews.

Our Ministers of Environment and development repeatedly purport to be environmental stewards. In recognition of the hazards of premature fracking and testing prior to establishing limits and thresholds with plans to limit cumulative impacts, and the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms needed to assure this, have the Ministers urged the

board to remain consistent and refer the ConocoPhillips to environmental assessment to protect our people?

I will be asking questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member for Sahtu, the wise old Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
HARRIET GLADU HEALTH CENTRE IN TULITA

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my honourable colleague from Boot Lake. It sure goes against my affirmation this morning. I looked in the mirror and said I'm getting younger, I'm getting younger, I'm getting younger. And then he calls me old and wise. I appreciate that.

I want to talk about the Harriet Gladu Health Centre in Tulita. The Harriet Gladu Health Centre is a central, crucial piece of infrastructure in our community, and now more so important because of the heavy oil and gas exploration last year and the amount of activity that's been happening around in the Sahtu communities, especially Tulita where the health centre wants to provide the best quality service that they can provide, and needs to be updated to serve the population that they are serving.

That's why it is a concern to me that the plans to build a new Harriet Gladu Health Centre in Tulita are off the books. Our health centres are busting at the seams. We have the urgent need for the Stanton Territorial Hospital here in Yellowknife. We have the Midwifery Program in Hay River. We have the Colville Lake Health Centre. We have the Tulita Health Centre in Tulita. When we have the dental care services and the eye doctor's care services come at the same time, it is jam packed. They are crowded like sardines in there.

Also, our health care is in crucial need of nurses. It has been noted that there are eight communities that have no full-time nurses in those communities. We have our work cut out for us.

However, I want to talk about the 32-year-old building in Tulita that was promised that they will get a new health centre. The design was put in place. We approved \$100,000 to get it going and to see what will happen.

It is crucial that we get the tender loving care and that we get CPR for the Tulita health centre. Bring it back to life, put it back in our books, and tell the people we give you assurance that we will build you a health centre. The people were looking forward to this. I was doing my research. I noticed that the health centre is no longer in the books in the capital plan. I want to ask the Minister why.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
SCHOOL REPLACEMENT IN TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to continue the thoughts of Mr. Yakeleya. He was speaking about broken promises by our government to our communities. This reflects upon the issue of Trout Lake and their school.

More and more families are returning to Trout Lake and the community is growing. It is a beautiful place. It is not surprising that people in the region are coming back after leaving for school and other pursuits. This is really good for the community and the people are happy about it, but the growth is putting more pressure on the school.

It is basically a one-room school that is more than 30 years old. The small renovation that was done cannot hide this fact and did not solve the problem. It is not a modern school with modern features or conveniences. It is overcrowded, with about 20 students. Replacing the school is a high priority for the residents and the community leadership. I have brought that message to the Education Minister many times and raised it in this House, as Members well know.

Given the critical need for a new school in Trout Lake, I do not understand the slow pace of advancing the project. Work is not due to begin until 2018. That is simply too far away. The school is already bursting at the seams. I have asked the Minister to initiate a planning study, but we are still waiting. The government has focused attention on larger infrastructure projects, and in the larger communities, I might add, that seems at the expense that is badly needed in the small communities. I don't want to say that this is the pattern, but I am beginning to wonder.

I want to get at the most important issue here. Our young people need a good education. We know that education, good employment and good health are closely linked. We have worked hard on the Anti-Poverty Strategy and early childhood education programs. If we are going to see that pay off for our people, we have to deliver high quality schooling from kindergarten to Grade 12. Trout Lake needs a new school. It is as simple as that. We need to get on with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. McLeod.

### Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 232-17(4):  
HIGHWAY EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
PROTOCOLS

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Hawkins on March 12, 2013, regarding highway emergency response protocols.

The Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol, or HEAP, was developed by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to assist the RCMP and selected community fire departments in responding to vehicular accidents on territorial highways and winter roads.

HEAP describes a uniform plan for emergency response to highway accidents in the various zones designated across the Northwest Territories. It is intended to establish a process and procedures to be followed by various agencies in responding to highway accidents. More specifically, HEAP guides:

- establishing command authority;
- dispatching resources;
- accident reporting;
- emergency landing strip procedures; and
- clarifying medevac coverage areas.

MACA is leading an interdepartmental advisory committee, composed of Justice, Transportation and Health and Social Services, to implement a plan to strengthen community-based ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT, and to explore options to ensure the safety of residents and visitors who need medical assistance in remote locations. The committee's work plan includes a thorough review of HEAP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Hawkins.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's statement today, I would introduce the special team of energy and determination from J.H. Sissons School. First I'd like to recognize Anna Pontin, who is the organizer of this initiative. Next I'd like to introduce Krianna Strowbridge. Krianna has a special talent speaking and she was an enthusiastic presenter. Followed by Arjun Budgell, who is a very articulate young man and he provided some enthusiasm as well. Thank you very much. Next, Matthew Weibe. He was the accountant on this project. Next I have Kea Furniss. She has a special talent speaking. As well, she was the young lady who I highlighted who donated her birthday money to this initial project. Certainly last but not least of this amazing six, we have Jack Kotaska. He brought focus and good money management skills to this initiative. The next I'll run through really quickly. They're supported by Principal Paul Bennett, who should be in the gallery right there. As well, to their aid they have David Pontin, who is the father of Anna; M.S. and Kay Naidoo, who are the grandparents of Arjun; Nalini Naidoo and Steve Budgell, who are the parents of Arjun; Doris Weibe, who is on the side there, sitting

next to her son Matthew; and I believe I have Carri Lauder and Jim Strowbridge here for Krianna. Again, I want to support all of these young students. Thanks very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Paul Andrew and Laurie Sarkadi, from the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness. I'll be tabling their report.

I see I'm also given opportunity to represent a couple of other folks who are supporting people: Dr. David Pontin, president of the NWT Medical Association, and Mr. Paul Bennett, principal of Sissons School. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see the amazing team working on homelessness is off to their next project already; very quick moving on their feet.

I would like to recognize some of the Weledeh residents. In particular, of course, Anna Pontin, also her dad, Dave Pontin, here today. This family is very active in these areas and Anna is carrying on the tradition.

Also, Jack Kotaska and also all those working on this, and other residents of Weledeh that might be behind me. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a resident of Tulita, however, he's living here in Yellowknife: Mr. Paul Andrew. I'd also like to congratulate the young team on their achievements. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd like to welcome everybody in the gallery here today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings, and welcome.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 286-17(4): PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CANADA

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today, I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what would be involved in proclaiming a day of recognition for families who have lost children that were yet unborn, children that are born

stillbirth and children that are lost to sudden infant death syndrome. What would be involved in our government when we declare a day as a day of remembrance or a day to recognize something like this? What's involved? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I am no expert in this area, but I notice that over the last couple of years a lot of the days that are dedicated to things such as this were started off by interest groups. So my first recommendation would be that if there's an interest group that wants to discuss this with our department, that would be a good place to start.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I'm not aware whether there is an actual developed and formed territorial organization as yet, but I'm sure that even by bringing the awareness to this in the House today there could very well be responses to this. We would be following suit of other jurisdictions in Canada, such as New Brunswick, which I mentioned, which have already taken the lead to do this. I don't think it's something that would be costly to the government and I'm not exactly sure how the proclamation of certain days is undertaken, but I would certainly encourage anybody who shares an interest in this topic of remembering young people, young lives that have been lost, and remembering family members, if they could communicate that to us I'm sure that we could get a formal presentation and request to the Minister. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Also, once the information is in, I think the next process we'll have to look at is maybe a motion from the Member from the House to look at designating such a day. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

#### QUESTION 287-17(4): TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR TRADES APPRENTICESHIPS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Admittedly, the North needs more skilled workers than ever before and it's paramount that we need to do everything possible to make sure that our residents succeed at being given those skilled jobs of the future.

I rise today as a follow-up to my Member's statement in which I talked about some of the barriers facing our northern apprentices. One of those barriers is the current way we legislate and regulate our targeted wage subsidies that flow from the employer to the apprentice employee. My questions today will be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Can the Minister indicate when was the last time the Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act was reviewed and has this act kept up with current changes in labour market development agreements across Canada? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. I do believe this question is timely. As you know, the Minister of ITI delivered an economic development report that was tabled last week. Part of that consisted of training, training Northerners. With the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupation Act, it was recently revised. It came into force October 2012, and full implementation this August 2013. So that is part of ongoing development that we're going through.

The review also consisted of various partners involved, stakeholders, industries, apprentices and the Apprenticeship Board. So those are just some of the processes that we have to go through to review and implement the current act that we have. But it was done back in 2012. That's when they last revised the version. Mahsi.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I appreciate the Minister's response to that. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment supports the development, maintenance and delivery of designated trades, occupational training programs and the development of our skilled northern workforce.

Can the Minister describe, in the event of an apprentice having employer difficulties, what are the options of this apprentice to seek help or assistance?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, part of the process is, of course, we have our ECE staff that deal with apprentices, and just to make them aware of their obligations within the program itself, being an apprentice. My staff is, of course, available any time if there is a challenge or a barrier in the way that the Member has alluded to earlier. Those are areas that my departmental staff are available to meet with certain individuals, especially those apprentices. We also have a regional representative, as well, that deals with the service centres in the regions. They are available to help and support these, whether it be the trainees or apprentices.

Those are just some of the key highlights of resource support staff we have at the headquarter level, regional level and community level.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Earlier today I spoke of the barriers of the targeted wage subsidies being in the hands of the employers wherein, I think, a perfect

scenario, would be more suited in the stewardship of the apprentice.

Could the Minister indicate by what process in today's landscape could the apprentice play a more active role in the control of directing such targeted wage subsidies to would-be employers? Is this possible?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Part of, again, the process is apprentice training on the jobs that we have. We currently have a wage subsidy, and that's provided to the small employers so they can be competitive with the larger employers as well.

Most of the programs, as you know, there are limited financial resources with a high demand exceeding supply. With the feedback from my colleague, the Minister of ITI, on the Economic Development Panel, part of the role, I guess, is apprenticeship is something that we will review in light of supply and demand, and as you've heard from the panelists, there's a high demand for northern apprentices, northern journeymen. We are fully reviewing that, as well, working side by side with the ITI Minister.

Part of the NWT is our GNWT has a remarkable subsidy program that we provide assistance to apprentices, assistance to small employers so they can hire and train those individuals. On average, there are 90 to 100 apprentices on an annual basis, journeymen that successfully completed their program. We're very proud of them. Again, reiterating that developing northern jobs, northern training for northern people.

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

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response. Knowing that this Minister seeks the highest standards in forming industry partnerships, as we've heard, and the quality of the skilled workforce, would the Minister commit to investigating the current barriers of the Targeted Wage Subsidy Program delivery, work within our Canada-Northwest Territories Labour Market Development Agreement, and report back to this House a strategy and an action plan to improve such a barrier?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The uptake and successful completion of the Apprenticeship Program continues to increase every year, as highlighted earlier. The Labour Agreement is under review this year. That is a program that has been very successful. It is a federal legislative program and it's coming to an end in 2014. We are focusing and monitoring that program and the overall review. Of course, the suggestions and ideas that are being generated in this House will be captured and will be considered as part of the review process. I will continue to work with the federal Minister responsible, Skills Development.

Also, I would like to commit today that we're dealing with the partners in the industries, as we've done in the past, having them in the room, providing a true partnership. Those are the areas that we are continuing to discuss, my department discussing with the regional representatives. Industries are part of the representatives, as well, so they will be part of the process when we are dealing with the wage subsidy to the employers. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 288-17(4):  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today will be to the Minister of Human Resources. What currently does the GNWT do to link students with job opportunities throughout the GNWT?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of different things that we do. One of the things that we do is the Graduate Internship Program. Since 2001, over 300 northern graduates have been supported through this Graduate Internship Program. We do market this program to students through a number of different ways. The GNWT Messenger, posters displayed in Yellowknife, through the Human Resources, direct e-mail blast from Student Financial Assistance, newspaper advertisement and Bear Facts. We have a budget of \$1.3 million. We can support about 33 internships a year at \$40,000 an internship. We also have summer student employment for returning students.

To date, this fiscal year, we have hired 197 students with 17 more job offers in the queue. Last year we supported 308 students. We expect to support around the same number again. I have had conversations with my ministerial colleagues, encouraging them to have their departments hire as many students as we can reasonably.

Through the Department of Health and Social Services and Maximizing Northern Employment, we have the Graduate Placement Program for nurses and social workers, and through Education, Culture and Employment, graduate placement for teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister for those answers. What priorities are given to those NWT students returning for employment in the Northwest Territories and the GNWT?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, for the Internship Program, the northern students are given priority as outlined in the Affirmative Action Policy, because the internship programs are just for returning students so it is offered to them only. Summer Student Employment, the program is in place to help summer students get jobs for the summer months. Once again, the Affirmative Action Policy applies. For graduate placement for nurses and social workers as well as teachers, once again affirmative action applies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, what is the GNWT doing to link these students that are starting out in their first or second year and they talk about what they want to be, whether they want to be teachers, doctors, lawyers, businesspeople? What are they doing linking those students in the potential employment that we know that aging population is affecting the GNWT as well as many industries? What are we doing to link those students as early as possible to those positions in the NWT?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, for things like nurses and social workers and teachers, it is a little easier because we have programs designed specifically for those. We do know the students that are in the northern program here in Yellowknife for social work and for nursing, for education as well. That one is a little easier to link to.

For students in the South who are interested in coming to the North to work in a variety of professions – the Member mentioned things like a lawyer or these other trades – it is a little bit more difficult. Through Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, we do have some limitations in our ability to go through Education, Culture and Employment and directly link to those students. It is a challenge. It is something we are in discussions with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, finding a way so that we can direct contact those students based on the area of profession that they are interested in, but we are not, and more work is required on that.

For the Summer Student Program for the students who are going to be going back to school, we do have a Related Experience Program, so those individuals who have identified what profession they are pursuing, we can bring them in as casuals in areas where they need to or if they are interested in working in the future, and by that way we do develop a relationship with those students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, along the lines, we talked about decentralizing and devolution. Obviously, this is an important factor for students coming in as well. How does the human resource development work to develop not only the big city of Yellowknife – you mentioned Yellowknife, obviously

– but throughout the regions and throughout the smaller communities?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The Member, in his opening statement, made reference to the training program that he went through, and the government used to have a number of training programs from entry-level and officer-level positions. We don't have that per se today, but it is one of the things we're looking at through the Regional Recruitment Plan. The Regional Recruitment Plan will be put in front of committee in short order here. One of the things that we're talking about in that particular plan is on-the-job training programs that will help individuals obtain employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Interjection

**MR. SPEAKER:** Okay. I was going to give you a fifth one but, Mr. Bouchard, I'm sorry. My fault. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 289-17(4):  
PERSONAL MEDICAL TRAVEL  
IN THE DEH CHO

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a statement on medical travel, and my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Medical travel involves, especially in my riding of the Deh Cho, either patients travelling from Hay River Reserve or else by plane, if they have the choice, or else from Fort Providence, Kakisa or Enterprise travelling by vehicle. Unfortunately, sometimes people are not given the choice to travel that long road between here and Fort Providence, so it becomes quite the experience.

Who decides if it's okay for a patient to travel home by taxi after surgery? Is there a doctor involved in this decision, and if so, how is it communicated to medical travel staff? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The decision on medical travel is a clinical decision, so it would be a physician. It could be a doctor; it could be a nurse practitioner or possibly even a registered nurse, when the person is in recovery and going back home. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** How does the Health Minister justify not paying for meals and accommodations when a patient has to come to Yellowknife for medical reasons? Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it's an issue in the medical travel. Right now the budget for individuals to come and travel to a community is very, very minimal, and we are

examining that and recognizing the fact that the amount of money allocated on a daily basis, the per diem for meals, is insufficient to cover the amount needed to be able to eat three meals when you're on travel. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** I understand that a couple years work went into the review of the Medical Travel Policy but it remains unchanged. What is the status of that review? Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, the review is complete. We are actually looking at making actual changes to the medical travel, to improve the medical travel system for the patients. I don't have the specific dates on when the changes will occur, but the review is completed. We know what the problems are. It's just a matter of incorporating change into the system now.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, as the Minister indicated, if medical travel is required, a physician is required. Communities that don't have health centres, in particular Kakisa, if a patient has to travel to either Hay River or Yellowknife, they make a decision. If there's going to be a review of the policy, can that be considered to accommodate the needs of residents from Kakisa that doesn't have a health centre? Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, yes, that is going to be part of the review. In places where they don't have any nursing or places that don't have any actual health centre or nursing station, we're going to try to accommodate those communities as much as possible in the new changes to the Medical Travel Program.

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

QUESTION 290-17(4):  
HOUSING FOR TEACHERS  
IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement. I mentioned in my Member's statement that a possible option to assist with the teachers' housing is to change the regulations to allow education authorities to own property. So I'd like to know from the Minister why the department has not considered that as an option to date and why it's not allowed for district education councils and authorities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is an area with a broad perspective beyond the ECE department and beyond the school

boards. It is the GNWT as a whole, because we do have all the professions within the GNWT. So if we need to change that regulation, then it would have to be the GNWT changing the regulation. If we do it for one, then there will be others lining up.

So I think we need to strategically look at the overall regulations we have, how they impact on different departments. So that's what we need to discuss, and we have discussed that with the Housing Corporation and Human Resources in the past. Maybe we can review those areas.

There's also the education renewal engagement that we're going through, and part of that is small schools and professional staff. So I'm sure that will be captured as well. So those are discussions that we are currently having. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** I'm not quite sure why these regulations would be so far-reaching and so widespread, but I'll take him at his word and wait to see what comes of any discussions that go forward.

Another possibility that I didn't mention but that could conceivably be out there – and it's something that was previously done and then was dropped, but it has happened in the past – is that the NWT Housing Corporation has bequeathed property to education authorities and has maybe even set up mortgages with those authorities.

I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not he would consider discussing with the Minister for Housing to allow education authorities and education councils to receive NWT Housing Corp property and enter into a mortgage at a zero or a preferred mortgage rate, if possible.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** There is a partnership approach and I'm working closely with the Housing Minister. They do have a strategy in place to deal with the shortage, whether it be housing for staff in the communities, especially the most isolated, non-market housing. They are in the process of developing multi-family rental properties in non-market housing in the communities, so focusing on where there's a high demand. So there is already work in play. I'm really working closely with the Housing Corporation and also the Minister responsible for Human Resources because we need to capture all the proficiencies in the Northwest Territories.

My interest will be, of course, the teachers. We need to house those teachers every fall time. To date we've been lucky, but we know there's high demand. So we're going to be focusing on those areas.

**MS. BISARO:** I appreciate that the Minister is working with different partners. He's mentioned that a number of times and that certainly was something that came through in the NWT Teachers' Association report, was that this is not an issue that can be dealt with by just one entity. It is a difficult

problem and I don't think it's going to be something that's going to be solved easily.

I'd like to know from the Minister if he can advise, considering all the number of different pieces and all the number of balls that are in the air, how he is going to be able to coordinate the work that needs to be done. How is he going to involve the partners that are out there and set up what is necessary? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The Member already alluded to some areas where management of property arrangements have been made with DEC's and DEAs, and either with the local bands, local development corporation, private companies or even the other unique partnerships. With this, there is also – I've just been informed by the Housing Minister – some home units in the communities, homeownership program, that could be potentially converted to be made available to these professions in the communities. Those are some of the key areas that we are currently discussing, and we want to make as many units available, especially in the most isolated communities. Those are our targeted approach.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to say to the Minister, he mentioned we've been lucky so far. We've been lucky to put teachers into housing, but it hasn't been acceptable housing. It certainly hasn't been housing that has been to the standard that we would expect if we were living in it.

The other possibility with the Housing Corporation is that, yes, they may provide an actual building, but it does not necessarily mean that the rents are going to be acceptable.

I'd like to ask the Minister, he's talking about working with different partners and working closely with the Housing Corporation, working with the NWT Teachers' Association. I realize that there needs work to be done, but I'd like to ask the Minister when are we going to see a report with the recommendations that the various partners are suggesting to get us out of this housing issue for teachers.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** As we indicated, there are various partners involved, the Housing Corporation, again, Human Resources, and our department, ECE, working hand in hand with the DEA and DEC's. We need to get their feedback. That's what we're engaged on. Even through various venues such as educational renewal, ASA, we've heard over and over about the housing shortage, providing us with the solutions. This is an area that we want to deliver in house. Once it's available, we're going to deliver it to standing committee, potentially from the three or two of us as

the Ministers responsible for those areas. When that opportunity arises, we will definitely be before standing committee if we need to make any changes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 291-17(4):

AWARDED CONTRACT FOR DEMOLITION OF  
SAMUEL HEARNE SECONDARY SCHOOL

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are of the Minister of Public Works in regard to a project and some questions I had raised in regard to this government awarding contracts to southern contractors and coming back with change orders that increase the cost of the initial project.

The project in question is the demolition of the Samuel Hearne Secondary School. I'd like to ask the Minister: What was the original cost of the contract, and to date, what is the total cost of the contract on top of what was originally awarded in the tender bid and the amount of change orders applied to the project?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original cost, or the value of that contract, was \$1.25 million. Since that contract was awarded, there have been three change orders, one for \$741,000, one for \$373,000, and one for \$86,000, which brings the current contract value up to \$2.451 million. The costs are related to the removal of asbestos and asbestos-contaminated material discovered during the demolition, which was not included in the original Hazmat assessment completed by a northern consulting firm prior to tender. In this case, anybody who bid on that contract would have been bidding based on that original study, and all firms, regardless whether they are southern or northern, would have had to have change orders.

**MR. MOSES:** There are a couple concerns here. Obviously, one from our local contractors not getting the awarded bid under some discrepancies with the Business Incentive Policy, but then also coming back, in their eyes or their perception, the southern contractors getting a change order without...(inaudible)...details. I'm glad that the Minister made reference to the Hazmat assessment, because right now we're going to be going through some more demolitions with the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, not to mention the Aurora College family housing units.

Will the Minister agree to fixing up the Hazmat assessment protocol so that when we get those bids coming through, the bids reflect what the

Hazmat assessments do and we don't have to keep on creating these change orders?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. We have already taken those steps, lessons learned from the demolition of the Samuel Hearne. We have the original contractor who did the Hazmat assessment of SAMS was the same one who did Samuel Hearne. Since we got back the information on Samuel Hearne, we have actually gone and got a secondary Hazmat assessment done. But in the contracting of this next school and any future projects, we will provide a complete up-to-date Hazmat. We are also going to require contractors who wish to submit to go through the school or go through the area that we are going to do a demolition on and do their own assessment so they can put in a fair and accurate price. We will be looking more on a fixed price, based on an accurate Hazmat assessment. This should eliminate the need for significant change orders like we have seen in this particular contract.

Just as a note, although there have been some change orders, this project is still within the established budget. We haven't gone over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MOSES:** Mr. Speaker, in regard to this project, the timeline, I wanted to ask the Minister in the initial contract that was awarded, is this company on time to get the demolition work done or are they progressing beyond the timeline that was allocated that they had mentioned when they put in the tender bid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, originally this project was slated for completion for March 31, 2013, but as the Member knows, because he lives in Inuvik and he has seen the school which is still standing, we didn't finish on March 31, 2013. The new date is June 20, 2013. That is when we expect the school to be done, the site to be open.

The reason it was delayed is because ceiling tiles and fume hoods not identified in the original Hazmat were identified during Hazmat deconstruction. There is asbestos in the drywall that wasn't identified in the original Hazmat assessment and mudded pipe joints which contain asbestos were also not in the pipes. We had to get those things out of the school before we could move forward with the actual teardown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am obviously trying to stay on top of this project here, as well as getting concerns from some of the local contractors as well as local residents in terms of how the asbestos is being discarded, those kinds of things.

Just by seeing what is happening in the community, what is the percentage of local workforce on this project in terms of the employees on the job site? What is the percentage of our local workforce? Does the Minister have those details? If not, can he provide them so I can make another statement in the House before the session is done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As for the contract awarded to the successful proponent, 55.1 percent of the work is going to be done by local people in Inuvik and 3.2 percent is going to be done by NWT outside of Inuvik. I will confirm to get some additional numbers to the Member, but I can confirm to the Member that there are 50 local Gwich'in residents who started the training required for the Hazmat removal. Of those, 30 local individuals in Inuvik were hired to actually do the Hazmat removal. Most of those remained employed until recently, as the Hazmat removal has actually come to a conclusion to get ready to drop the building. So 30 of the 50 people that were trained did actually obtain employment.

As far as the other numbers, we will get those numbers from the successful proponent and I will share those with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 292-17(4):  
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)  
ACTIVITIES IN THE SAHTU

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are a follow-up to my Member's statement earlier to the Minister of ENR regarding fracking activities in the Sahtu and the permitting process. This Assembly has approached this new and controversial form of development on both sides of the House, to achieve better understanding of what fracking means for the NWT. EDI's recommendations report clearly indicated the need for development of policy and regulatory framework, assembly of data, having thorough information and control before potentially damaging decisions are made.

Is the Minister committed to heeding this advice, living up to his own statements that fracking must be environmentally sustainable in ensuring vital monitoring and management plans are in place before fracking goes ahead? Mahsi.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the government is hard at work, along with working with community members, on the whole issue to do with fracking. We have been doing work now for the last six months or so. We have come up with a

draft. It is a best practices policy paper which is being shared within governments and is being shared with the regulators. It is going to come back and be shared with committee. It identifies a lot of the critical best practices across industry. We believe that if they are complied with and they are clear, unequivocal and understandable, we will be able to manage and protect the interests and the balance of economic development of this particular practice. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you to the Minister for that response. I am happy to hear that things are progressing on that front, and hopefully they will be coming to committee soon. I guess it won't be until the fall, but it will be after these decisions are being made.

Last fall the Sahtu Land and Water Board referred an MGM Energy proposal for a fracking test well program to environmental review, citing significant outstanding concerns meriting detailed resolution before work went ahead. Today the board is receiving final submissions on whether that same still valid logic should be applied to the proposal by ConocoPhillips. The Minister has said repeatedly that fracking must be sustainable and based on sound environmental information and regulatory controls.

Does the Minister support the ConocoPhillips application to environmental review and has he communicated his position to the board?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I think we should make the distinction between the two applications, the MGM Energy one and the ConocoPhillips one. The ConocoPhillips application is very comprehensive. It covers a whole host of areas, which is one of the reasons there was a different decision made by the Sahtu Land and Water Board when they looked at the MGM Energy proposal. It didn't have the same depth and level of comprehensiveness as the ConocoPhillips one does.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has coordinated a response to the Government of the Northwest Territories and there has been review by all of the appropriate departments, Education, Social Services, Health, and Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the best practices that we are using as our guide, when we look at what ConocoPhillips has put in their application, there is a great linkage there. We are of the opinion that if in fact ConocoPhillips complies with everything that they promised plus the extensive list of mitigating measures put forward by the Government of the Northwest Territories, that this project could proceed, in our mind, without any further requirements, other than meeting those commitments by ConocoPhillips and addressing the

concerns raised that we have supplied to the Sahtu Land and Water Board. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I will take that as a no, despite our Minister reporting being environmentally responsible, and that we do not have policies in place and that we have no decisions made on monitoring and follow-up.

There is nothing in their application on greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation management. We are going to support that going ahead without review. I am very disappointed to hear that.

As I pointed out, we have yet to set goals and limits on cumulative environmental impacts and thresholds. Regulatory mechanisms don't exist. Unfortunately, adaptive management processes on which to base permits and management have not been developed, and there are no plans for detailed monitoring or mitigation of the greenhouse gas aspect of the proposal.

In keeping with his stated commitment, will the Minister recommit to these requirements and the recommendations of the fracking report as minimum first steps before any exploratory or test permit application is approved? Please reconsider.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have to balance many things, and we need to balance the environment and economic development and resource development. We have taken the appropriate steps to ensure we have the policy base that work is underway. We are, at the same time, recognizing that the world is not going to stand still and we need to maintain that balance as we catch up with our policy work. We are going to do that. We have looked very carefully, very thoroughly at the ConocoPhillips application and we are, once again, confident of what ConocoPhillips have put in their application in terms of commitments and if they address the concerns, extensive concerns we've put forward to the land and water board that this project is safe to proceed, recognizing that there is still work to be done, that this is a whole area that is new and we are doing a lot of the further detailed work to catch up that is going to allow them to more effectively address some of the concerns the Member has raised.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I guess I'll just leave it at this. This government is obviously open for business at any cost. We are always in favour of development and we always fail to protect our people and our land. I think that's a pretty consistent record. So maybe I could just get the Minister to define for me what he sees as balance. Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member has made a harsh condemnation of the House and, by extension, the Legislature. He's made some sweeping, universal condemnation of this

government and the position we take on the balance, the priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, the balance between protecting the environment and at the same time balancing that with the need to be able to look at having an economy that is resource-based in this case.

We are doing that. When you look at the work we're doing across the board as a government on water, on the tools devolution will give us, when you look at the work we're doing on wildlife, on dealing with caribou, when you look at the work we're doing on developing comprehensive policies for fracking that I believe we have demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate our commitment. Alternate energy, the Greenhouse Gas Strategy, we are thoroughly committed and this has been imbedded in our approach as a government. So there is that quest for balance. It's a constant quest, but the Member's sweeping condemnation is harsh. A sweeping condemnation of the government I think is clearly unwarranted. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 293-17(4):  
STATUS OF HARRIET GLADU  
HEALTH CENTRE IN TULITA

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. What is the status of the Harriet Gladu Health Centre in Tulita?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The planning study for the new health centre in Tulita will be completed this fiscal year, the '13-14 fiscal year. The hope is that after the planning study is completed that it will be included into the '15-16 capital acquisition plan. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Will the Minister reconsider bumping up the construction of the Harriet Gladu Health Centre earlier than '15-16 into the capital? That means that this health centre, the way he explained it, will not probably be built until '17, '18 or '19. Can the Minister consider bumping up the inclusion of the health centre into earlier dates than '15-16?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The decision on where the capital... Like, this lands on the overall infrastructure capital plan; it's not mine. That decision is made by the House as a whole. What I can do is tell the Members that I will ensure that the planning study is completed this fiscal year and that the department will put the planning study into the capital acquisition plan for inclusion as quickly as possible. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I certainly look forward to the Minister's effort and support to finish off the

planning study for the Harriet Gladu Health Centre. I've also asked him, too, because he is a Cabinet Minister and that has a little more weight in terms of what type of infrastructure gets put into the overall capital infrastructure on behalf of his department. I'm asking that. I know we're up against some other significant health care facilities; however, the need for the Harriet Gladu Health Centre could possibly rank as one that needs to be put into an earlier date for construction.

I would ask the Minister if he will work with his colleagues and give this commitment to the people in Tulita and the Sahtu that he would do his darndest effort to put that into an earlier date than '15-16.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** As I indicated, we would do the planning study this fiscal year, and recognizing that the health centre in Tulita is about half the size it should be to accommodate the needs of the community will be a factor when we move this capital plan into the capital allocation process. That's something that we're going to indicate loud and clear, that this centre is inadequate for providing all of the services necessary to that community at this time.

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

#### QUESTION 294-17(4):

##### TROUT LAKE SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the Trout Lake School and the need to also advance that project.

I was doing my recent spring visit to Trout Lake, and the community, of course, raised it once again. The principal also showed me the facilities. As I said, the renovations I don't think were properly completed. But there is still a need to upgrade that school and even build us a new school in Trout Lake, so I would like to know if the Education, Culture and Employment Minister has updated the forecast for the number of students in Trout Lake as people have returned to the community and the population continues to grow.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We've been closely monitoring Trout Lake, the population and the number of students in the school, as well, along with other schools that are in a similar calibre. Currently, we have approximately 19 students. That's 58 percent being utilized in the school.

Those are just some of the numbers that we have in play. But we are in the process of visiting the community, and I want my staff to be in the community to look for themselves, because they are a part of the capital planning process, then I

think that will make a difference. We are planning to visit the community within the next couple of weeks.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Certainly, the Minister has taken my offer to come and visit the community of Trout Lake, I believe it was June 24<sup>th</sup>, and they're looking forward to his visit.

The Minister, I don't know where he gets his facts when he's saying it's 58 percent underutilized, but at 20 students the school is already full. But anyway, the Minister can see for himself when we attend the school there.

Since February, when I last raised this issue in the House, what has the Minister and his staff done to advance the Trout Lake School project?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This particular school, Trout Lake, along with the Colville Lake school, has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions, even through a Rural and Remote Committee that I sit on, and also the Members. We are pushing that forward.

Part of the process of, again, education renewal will focus on the small community schools. We're fully aware that some of the small, isolated communities are feeling left out when it comes to infrastructure. Those are some of the areas that we are currently discussing and engaging the community, the DECs, DEAs, and also meeting with Aboriginal leadership on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June to discuss further, even for them to provide solutions to our department as well. Those are the types of discussions we are currently having and we want to deliver that message as well. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. I'm glad he spoke about some of the processes, but is the Minister prepared to get it started? After this June meeting, what will be the process for getting the planning study into the books and into our budget? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we are engaged with the community and the DEAs. The planning study is proposed for 2014-15, so that is earmarked that we are proposing as a department and then moving forward towards the capital projects based on that. A decision will be made from there. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister has mentioned 2014-15, a planning study and, of course, it was on the books for construction in 2018. In my Member's statement I was speaking on behalf of the people of Trout Lake. That is too far away. I would like to have the Minister perhaps have the ability going to Trout Lake on June 24<sup>th</sup> with some positive answers to the community to advance this project. Is the Minister prepared to do that? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, that is 2014-15 we have earmarked for the funding for a planning study. If there are any changes, we will definitely let the Member know in advance. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 295-17(4):  
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in November 2012, I had asked the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources about identifying quotas for herds. When I say quotas, I mean, I am referring to numbers that herds rise up to a particular identifying number that we can then say once they reach this level, we can open up outfitting whether it is for resident hunters or, of course, open it up to the outfitters themselves. What work has been done on that particular issue since October?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is work being done by the government. There are discussions among the co-management boards. There is a recognition that those types of thresholds, as the Member has pointed out, have value as we have seen from the successful application of the Porcupine caribou herd management approach where they have those thresholds and triggers.

As we have the discussions, we make sure we have the baseline information that gives us some common comfort that we have a clear number for a particular herd and herd size that work is being done. We expect to come forward here in the next few months with an update on exact specific progress herd by herd. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister can be a little more specific regarding the actual thresholds that help to determine what is considered a quality size of a herd before we can start implementing hunting once again. Will he be willing to publicize that information as to what these determining numbers are so everyone can understand what we are working towards? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, there is a wide variety of herd sizes. Some are literally in the few thousands to some that are over 100,000. The numbers are not all going to be the same.

We are going to look herd by herd. We are going to work with the co-management boards and all of the appropriate stakeholders. When we have any

specific information, we will bring that forward. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 296-17(4):  
EMPLOYMENT FOR  
NORTHERN GRADUATES

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on the questions asked by my colleague from Hay River North with regard to what seems to be a problem with graduating students who are born, raised and educated in the North and then seek post-secondary education under our Student Financial Assistance Program. We back them all the way, but when they get back here, it seems that whatever policies we have in place, they are fantastic on paper and even some of the statistics that the Minister quoted today sound very good, but there must be something lost in translation, just by the sheer number of students that we know of that come back to the North who have a very difficult time successfully applying for jobs within the public service of the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister who oversees, to ensure that the policies of this government, with respect to hiring young Northerners coming back to the North for a position, to make sure that at the local and regional level, these policies are adhered to. Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the one program that I think the Member may be referring to is the Graduate Intern Program, which is a program that is administered by the Department of Human Resources. Our problem is not that we aren't administering the program correctly; the problem is that there are limited funds. This year, by way of example, we had 65 applications for 33 positions. So given that there is a huge number of students who want support from the program and a limited number of seats and/or funding, we are not able to hire every student into an internship program every year.

When it comes to selecting the students, Human Resources facilitates that program and the departments are ultimately the individuals who are doing the final hires. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister, is there not an opportunity for something to be lost in translation between what the department decides they want to do, the hiring department decides they want to do, and what the policy of this government is. Is there not an opportunity that there is a disconnect there? It would appear to be that way, from what I see.

Another question is: Are there any professions for which this government will guarantee a placement

for when the student returns with a post-secondary degree or certificate? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose a disconnect could exist, but I think one of the big challenges that we face is the fact that we had 65 applications and 33 seats. That means at least 50 percent of the people are going to be disappointed or upset.

As of today, there is still a Graduate Placement Program for nurses and social workers. Were graduate nurses, graduate social workers, as well as teachers are guaranteed an offer of employment. The problem with these guarantees, in some peoples' perception, is that they don't offer you a job in the location you are from. They don't offer you a job in the place you happen to live because we can't guarantee that a job exists there at that particular time, but it is an offer of employment somewhere in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Minister spoke of 33 positions, 65 applicants. Where are the 33 positions? Are they distributed throughout the Northwest Territories at regional centres and other locations, or are they all in Yellowknife? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, it varies from year to year, based on which departments submit applications for internship positions. Not all of them are in Yellowknife, but they vary from year to year so it could be different next year from this year, depending on where the departments decide or are interested in actually setting them up. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this introduces a new element in this. So this is optional for departments to subscribe, I guess, to this program. If they have positions open within their department, it is up to them if they want to hire students or if they want to basically circumvent this student hiring program altogether. So the onus is on the departments to apply for these positions, and if that is the case, if they want someone with more experience, then they wouldn't have to bother with this. Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the Internship Program that we are talking about is actually an opportunity for a department to have a secondary or supernumerary-type position. It is not one of our indeterminate or full-time positions, but it is an opportunity for a student who has no experience but a great education to come into the public service, to develop some skills, consolidate their learning with a one-year placement in the Internship Program. From there they have the criteria to then apply on jobs as they become

vacant. So this is an opportunity for people to learn, develop, get some experience, help build a resume and apply for work accordingly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, report of standing and special committees. Mr. Nadli.

### Reports of Standing and Special Committees

#### COMMITTEE REPORT 3-17(4): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its report on the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and commends it to the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Proceed.

#### Introduction

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed the 2011-2012 Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Members would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts for her report and for her appearance before the committee at the public review on April 15, 2013.

#### Commissioner's 2011-12 Activities

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. Her primary role is to review and make recommendations on public bodies and decisions related to the Northwest Territories Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, or the ATIPP Act. The ATIPP Act requires that public bodies demonstrate their accountability by making information accessible to the public, while at the same time protecting the privacy of individuals.

In 2011-12 the Commissioner opened 27 files, up 35 percent from the previous year. She completed 10 review recommendations, up three from 2010-2011. Six review recommendations were accepted, mainly or completely, by the public body concerned. Four recommendations were rejected in whole or in part. The Department of Justice, the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority and the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority all had three or more matters requiring the Commissioner's consideration during the year.

### Recommendations for Legislative Change

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is also authorized to make recommendations for legislative change. This year the Commissioner highlighted three legislative issues, all of which were raised in her past reports and forwarded to this House for the standing committee: new health policy and privacy legislation, access and privacy legislation for municipalities and the need for a general review of the ATIPP Act. The committee concurs that these matters have become even more pressing with the passage of time.

I will now turn the floor over to deputy chair Ms. Bisaro.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Completion of the Health Information Act

In June of 2011 an employee of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority made a complaint to the Information and Privacy Commissioner about inadequate protection of medical information in Yellowknife's two primary care clinics. The investigation resulted in what the standing committee agrees is one of the most significant review reports completed during this Commissioner's term of office.

The implementation of an electronic medical records system began in June 2010 at the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre. This is, for the most part, excellent news as electronic records make it much easier and quicker for doctors and nurses to review patients' medical histories and provide swift and appropriate treatment. Members also recognize the key role electronic medical records will play in the integration of services and effective case management.

The complaint alleged that adequate privacy protections were not built into the new system. Numerous staff, ranging from senior managers to receptionists, had access to patient information in the system, including such sensitive matters as the reason for patients' visits. There were no safeguards to prevent inappropriate access to patient information, no warning system which would identify when information had been inappropriately accessed, and no routine privacy auditing. All of these factors raised the risk of inappropriate use and disclosure of personal health information.

As the Commissioner observed during the public review, the privacy of health records has a serious impact on patient comfort and safety and, ultimately, on public health. Patients who are concerned about the privacy of their records may not give their doctors important but potentially embarrassing information. They may even decide not to go to the clinic for medical attention.

In the complaint under review, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority responded to the Commissioner's request for detailed information on its new electronic medical records system. The authority also had its legal counsel conduct a privacy impact assessment, shared the report with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and committed to make improvements in line with the internal assessment.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner noted, however, that there is a disconnect between her view of what constitutes adequate protection of personal health information and the authority's view. The differences turn on two issues, both of which have legislative implications: the extent to which information can be shared without the patient's explicit consent, and the purposes for which it can be legitimately shared.

First, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority takes the position that all the information they collect is shared within a circle of care. That circle of care includes all employees who assist with client care as necessary to perform job-related duties. What this means, in practice, is that sharing of some types of patient information is broadly permitted without explicit patient consent within the Yellowknife Health and Social Services system.

I would now turn the reading of the report over to my colleague Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ms. Bisaro.

The "circle of care" concept is used in health-specific privacy legislation in some other Canadian jurisdictions to define the group within which personal health information can be shared for the purpose of providing medical help. Northwest Territories legislation does not refer or define a "circle of care."

Further, the Commissioner warns that even where jurisdictions have defined the concept, its scope is interpreted very differently by health care providers and the general public. The standing committee agrees that most people would expect that their circle of care be limited to a relatively small number of employees directly concerned with their treatment rather than the approximately 150 people employed in the system.

Secondly, the ATIPP Act provides that personal information can be used or disclosed only in narrowly defined circumstances, namely for the purpose for which the information was collected or for a use consistent with that purpose. The Commissioner's view is that the current legislation should be understood to require the patient's express consent for the sharing of personal health information beyond the purpose for which it was

originally provided. The Yellowknife Health and Social Services system, on the other hand, permits the sharing of patient information across practitioners for almost any health-related purpose unless there is an explicit request from the patient to limit the sharing.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner found, in short, that the Yellowknife Health and Social Services was not in compliance with the current NWT privacy legislation. The issues identified go beyond the specific privacy complaint. The electronic medical records system at the Yellowknife clinics is being considered as the model for the territory-wide system. Health-specific privacy legislation is urgently required to provide clear rules for the health and social service authorities and practitioners as these systems are implemented.

Work on Northwest Territories health privacy legislation has been underway for approximately five years. The new Health Information Act will establish a framework for the collection, use and disclosure of, and access to, personal health information. The Information and Privacy Commissioner recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services do whatever is necessary to make completion of this legislation a priority.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations concurs. The committee recognizes that the Health Information Act is a large and complex piece of legislation, requiring significant public consultation. In view of the risks of electronic medical records systems to the privacy rights of individuals and the speed with which these systems are being implemented, however, this legislation must be expedited.

In last year's response to the standing committee's recommendations tabled October 17, 2012, the government said it anticipated the bill for the proposed Health Information Act would be introduced in 2013-2014. However, the government also said the introduction of the bill would depend on ensuring adequate time for further consultations with key stakeholders in the winter of 2012-13. The committee trusts that this schedule is being maintained and that the Members can expect the introduction of a bill before the end of the fiscal year.

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expedite work on the new Health Information Act, with a view to introducing a bill as soon as possible.

If the government is not able to introduce this bill in the fall sitting, the standing committee further recommends that the government table a detailed progress report in that sitting,

identifying a timeline and any additional resources required so that a bill may be introduced within the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the floor over to Mr. Moses. Thank you.

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

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

#### **Information and Privacy Legislation for Municipalities**

The three northern territories are the only Canadian jurisdictions which do not have information and privacy legislation for municipalities. Municipalities collect and retain significant amounts of personal information about citizens and employees. There is no recourse in the NWT for citizens when this information is improperly used, nor are there any rules governing citizens' access to municipal information.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner says she is receiving an increasing number of letters from people who are concerned about municipal access and privacy issues. In 2011-2012 the Commissioner received two formal complaints concerning a municipality's use and/or disclosure of an employee's personal information. In the absence of legislation, the Commissioner tried to engage with the municipality in a discussion about policies, guidelines and best practices, but received no reply.

Previous standing committees have supported the Commissioner's recommendation to make municipalities subject to access and privacy legislation. The NWT Association of Communities has a standing policy on access to information and protection of privacy which supports the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendation to the extent of urging the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to prepare a discussion paper and commence consultation with stakeholders.

Last year the standing committee recommended the implementation of access and privacy legislation for municipalities, with a bill to be brought forward within the first two years of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. The committee understands that small communities might not have the resources needed to implement access and privacy measures immediately. Members concurred with the Commissioner's suggestion that legislation be developed, at the very least, for tax-based municipalities.

The government's response, tabled October 17, 2012, recognized that this recommendation was still outstanding and, once again, acknowledged the importance of this issue. The response noted that officials from the departments of Justice and Municipal and Community Affairs met with

representatives of community governments and their administrators last fall. A working group was established to review how all NWT municipalities may be brought under existing access and privacy legislation and develop a discussion paper for stakeholders. The government does not wish to distinguish between tax-based communities and others for access and privacy purposes, as smaller communities that are incorporated as charter communities or hamlets now have the option to become tax-based.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased that the government has finally started working towards the inclusion of municipalities in access and privacy legislation. The government promised to provide findings to the standing committee when the review is concluded. Members appreciate the offer. It is not clear, however, when this report may be expected and the committee remains concerned about the slow pace of this initiative.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expedite work on bringing municipalities under the access to information and protection of privacy legislation, and that a phased approach to implementation be considered in order to take into account the needs and resources of smaller communities, while improving access to information and protection of privacy in larger population centres, and that the government table its review report and discussion paper in the fall sitting.

If these are not available, the government should table a detailed progress report on the municipal access and privacy initiative, identifying a timeline for completion and any additional resources required to complete the review report within the life of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn the floor over to my colleague Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, thank you to Mr. Moses.

#### **Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

In her 2011-12 annual report, as in her three previous reports, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended the general review of the ATIPP Act. The Northwest Territories ATIPP Act has now been in force for more than 15 years. Access and privacy laws in other jurisdictions provide for regular reviews at five- or 10-year intervals. The Standing Committee on Government Operations forwarded this recommendation, along with others, to the Assembly last May.

The government indicated its response to last year's standing committee report that it supports the committee's recommendations to undertake a comprehensive review of the act, including an examination of the role and the powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The review was identified in the Department of Justice 2013-2014 Business Plan, but completion is dependent on resources and timing.

The Standing Committee is pleased that this is on the government's agenda. The committee appreciates the efforts and commitments of the Minister of Justice and the Government of the Northwest Territories access and privacy office to advance this work during the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

#### **Recommendation 3**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a detailed progress report to this Assembly on work done towards a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, identifying the timeline and any additional resources required to complete the review within the life of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

#### **Progress Report for Recommendations**

Last year the Standing Committee on Government Operations expressed a concern for the government's lack of action on many of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's long-standing recommendations for legislative and ministerial improvement, most of which has been supporting the standing committee reports and motions in the House. The committee recommended that the government provide a privacy report.

In their response of October 19, 2012, the government tabled a detailed progress report on the work it has done on the committee's access and privacy recommendations since 2008. Although the progress has been painfully slow in some areas, the committee found the report to be a useful tool in determining the government's intentions and following up on key recommendations. Members commend the GNWT's access and privacy office for their work on the progress report and would like to see an updated version on an annual basis.

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table an updated progress report and implementation plan for the committee's recommendations concerning access to information and protection of privacy presented in the House since 2008, during or before the fall of 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I now turn the floor back to the chair of the committee, Mr. Nadli.

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

#### Conclusion

Northwest Territories residents are fortunate to have had Elaine Keenan-Bengtts, a lawyer in private practice, as the Information and Privacy Commissioner since 1997. This length of service provides the Northwest Territories with remarkable continuity and expertise in the complex and involved field of access to information and protection of privacy. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is grateful for Ms. Keenan-Bengtts passion for information and privacy rights in northern Canada. It respects her work in reviewing complaints and making thoughtful, well-considered recommendations for legislative change. Members are committed to giving the Commissioner's recommendations due consideration, forwarding them, as appropriate, to this House and following up with the government on their implementation.

#### Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

MOTION TO RECEIVE  
COMMITTEE REPORT 3-17(4) AND MOVE  
INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the review of the 2011-2012 Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 3-17(4) be received by the Assembly and moved to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 3-17(4) into Committee of the Whole for consideration today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** The report has been moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

#### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 79-17(4):  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2013-2014

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014." Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 80-17(4):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANDS AND  
RESOURCES DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

TABLED DOCUMENT 81-17(4):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANDS AND  
RESOURCES DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT:  
A PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

TABLED DOCUMENT 82-17(4):  
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO CONSENSUS  
DRAFT DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT  
AND SCHEDULES DATED MARCH 11, 2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 83-17(4):  
RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
ON THE PROPOSED NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES LANDS AND RESOURCES  
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents, entitled "NWT Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement," "Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement: A Plain Language Summary," "Summary of Changes to Consensus Draft Devolution Agreement and Schedules Dated March 11, 2013," and "Results of the Public Engagement on the Proposed Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Lafferty.

TABLED DOCUMENT 84-17(4):  
ELDERS IN SCHOOLS HANDBOOK

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Elders in Schools Handbook." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 85-17(4):  
 MINISTER'S FORUM ON ADDICTIONS  
 AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS:  
 HEALING VOICES – APRIL 30, 2013

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Minister's Forum on Addiction and Community Wellness: Healing Voices – April 30, 2013."

TABLED DOCUMENT 86-17(4):  
 SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR  
 THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 6 TO MAY 28, 2013

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the Period of February 6 to May 28, 2013.

Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 17-17(4):  
 SUPPORT FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE  
 NWT LANDS AND RESOURCES  
 DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that this Legislative Assembly express its support for the approval of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 15 on the Order Paper, notices of motion.

---Unanimous consent granted

### Notices of Motion (Reversion)

MOTION 18-17(4):  
 ORGAN DONATION/HUMAN TISSUE ACT

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Government of the Northwest Territories revise or replace the Human Tissue Act in order to create a framework for organ donation that reflects the best practices across Canada;

And further, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Yakeleya.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 24:  
 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIQUOR ACT

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, I will move that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 17, motions. Ms. Bisaro.

### Motions

MOTION 16-17(4):  
 SUPPORTING FEDERAL ACTION  
 ON CYBERBULLYING,  
 CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS Members of this Legislative Assembly recognize that bullying is a significant concern for Northwest Territories residents, and on February 16, 2012, passed Motion 5-17(2) on anti-bullying measures;

AND WHEREAS the use of social media, smartphones, and other information and communication technologies to bully, also known as cyberbullying, has become increasingly prevalent in recent years, with tragic consequences;

AND WHEREAS recent events in Canada including, most unfortunately, suicides of young people who were victims of cyberbullying, have brought this issue to the forefront of national attention and highlighted the need for changes to our justice system;

AND WHEREAS Justice Ministers across Canada are working to combat cyberbullying;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that this Legislative Assembly supports the efforts of the federal, provincial and territorial Justice Ministers to better protect children by combatting cyberbullying, including changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that would make it a specific criminal offence to share intimate images without consent;

AND FURTHER, that the Speaker transmit this motion to the Prime Minister, federal Opposition leaders, and federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Justice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Canada over the last year, we have had to endure too many young people's lives lost due to suicide, suicide brought on by bullying. Most recently, we heard of the untimely death of Rehtaeh Parsons in Atlantic Canada.

I bring this motion forward so that this Assembly can show its support for work currently underway by provincial, territorial and federal Justice Ministers. They are working hard to effect change to the Criminal Code of Canada, change which will hopefully limit cyberbullying, which will allow for the prosecution of those who take advantage of our young people through social media by cyberbullying, and hopefully, it will keep more of our young people alive for many years to come.

The parents of Rehtaeh Parsons were forced to make a decision that no parent should have to make. They were forced to terminate the life of their child. I know the misery that that decision meant for them, and I do not wish it on any parent. Seventeen-year-olds are not supposed to die before their parents do. But Rehtaeh Parsons had earlier chosen to end her life by suicide, a choice she was forced into as a result of bullying; cyberbullying, specifically.

Like Amanda Todd before her, Rehtaeh Parsons had very private and personal images of herself posted on the Internet without her consent. The ensuing bullying, harassment and blackmail were too much for both of these young ladies, and they turned to suicide as a way out of what they felt was an untenable life.

We are legislators. It is our job to make law, and by doing so to make our territory safer and a better place to live and work. When circumstances drive our children to take their own lives or to harm themselves, it is our job to do whatever we can to change those circumstances and reduce the risk to our children.

If cyberbullying is a circumstance, one way to reduce that risk is to hold to account the bullies who terrorize our children, the bullies who taunt and humiliate via the Internet and social media.

As legislators we have a powerful voice, especially when it is a unanimous one. As legislators we can lobby for change to the Criminal Code to make it illegal to share intimate images without the individual's consent, and our voice will carry considerable weight with those making the law.

This motion asks us to lobby. It asks for the support of this Assembly for the work being done by all Canadian Justice Ministers, work which will change the Criminal Code of Canada to make it a criminal offence to share intimate images without consent. It is not a partisan motion by any stretch of the

imagination. We all should be concerned in this House about the safety and security of our children and young adults.

I ask all Members to support this motion. Let us be together on this issue and send a united, strong, one-voice message to the Justice Ministers of all Canadian jurisdictions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. I'll go to the seconder, Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Ms. Bisaro for bringing this motion forward. Obviously, a very important motion.

In this House we've spoken of bullying. We've worn pink to eliminate bullying. We need to include in bullying social media and cyberbullying. The youth of today use social media as a communication to talk to each other, but also now we see this bullying being used.

My colleague has given several examples of people that have committed suicide over this situation. It's a very grim situation for our youth but we need to support it, for giving direction to the territorial government to implement this type of law. I think it is very important.

Again, I would like to thank my colleague for bringing this forward. I would look for everyone to support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Speaker, I too rise again today here and to support this motion. I would like to thank the mover of the motion, Ms. Bisaro, and the seconder, Mr. Bouchard. We spoke passionately here in this House about cyberbullying for our time here. I know there have been other Members of the Legislative Assembly of years past who have done the same.

The message is quite clear: we have to go beyond what is in print. We have to go beyond what we do in promotion. We have to go and do everything possible as legislators. This motion does speak to this. This motion asks us to put some meat on the bone when it comes to cyberbullying. I think it goes to the very fabric of what we have to do here as legislators. I am going to reach out to our colleagues across the table here.

They have been asked to do this as a free vote, to send a united front, as was asked by Member Bisaro. I will be asking them to vote in favour of this motion, along with our side of the House, so that we can actually truly give that right response that we need to give to the people, not only Northwest Territories but the people of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Mr. Speaker, I also rise in favour of this motion. I commend Member Bisaro for bringing it forward and all Members who are in support of this motion as well. With the common use of cell phones, I-pads and computers in this day and age, it has become a common theme and a common occurrence that youth — not even youth — employees, adults do get bullied on a regular basis, and this definitely needs to be addressed and in the school system. Rather than just having one department take a look at it, I'd focus on the Department of Justice looking at how we can make the crime fit the issue of cyberbullying.

I do rise in support of this. I do hope that we get full support moving forward and that this can be addressed so that people can live in a healthy lifestyle and healthy role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to believe there is a day and age where we still allow people to treat others in an inferior manner, in a way that bullies, and not pull out every single stop to say no. I have spoken before about losing a friend because they trod a different path. I remember people bullying.

I remember about not standing up at the time because, being young and intimidated by others, you watch people do that. I'm not the only one who has lost friends over the years because of bullying. For whatever reason, it has driven people to horrible steps that they feel that suicide is the only way out or the only answer. That is a terrible thing, a terrible state of affairs for anyone to allow that. Yet, that seems to be, if not needs to be, the call to action or the call to arms by asking ourselves, can we continue to sit idly by.

It is quite frustrating knowing that people do this out there and yet there seems to be no powers or authority to stop them. Often we will say, don't create laws that are difficult to enforce if not impossible to enforce. I think that if we really believe strongly in this type of initiative, we will find a way.

I'm not speaking from personal experience, but you often hear these stories about people who go home and feel humiliated because they've been humiliated by what they thought were their friends on the Internet. It's hard to compare what it's like to go to high school today when it was in my day, although I'm not as old as some of my colleagues here by far, but things were different then. The reality is that school has changed. Bullying has changed. What is important is the message that we need to find new ways and tools to stop bullying.

All I can say is that it is a difficult subject to talk about. Your heart wants to do the communicating and, in some ways, you are trying to say it with

words. But for someone with children in school, it is very troublesome to think that we allow kids to bully and we don't do enough, and I think this motion speaks to the issue of trying to find new ways to stop this behavior.

They are doing it over the Internet, which can be happening from anywhere to anywhere from anyone to anyone. A lot of times it is anonymous, and self-esteem is a troublesome thing to grow into. It is hard to imagine being attacked relentlessly by some people day in and day out.

As I said earlier, it is a shame that certain people have to go to the last resort of suicide to feel that was the only way they could send a statement. As a parent, it is quite upsetting to think that, and I hope that, I know from my perspective and I am sure you as well, Mr. Speaker, who has one of many children there, I hope my kids never feel that that is the only way they can communicate. If I ever catch them doing it, that will be another story, but the reality here is that this is a step forward and we need to fight this fight on every front to provide access and safety for all youth as well as everybody. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I too will be supporting this motion as it is brought forward today. When we think of the agonizing role that parents play sometimes in trying to find solutions and comfort children that are being bullied in school, we figuratively say it is criminal. Mr. Speaker, it should be, literally, criminal. We should not allow young people to do things to each other that adults could not do to each other.

When you see the harm that is brought about by bullying, we need to take it to a different level. It is time to stop saying kids will be kids, or turning a blind eye to this. This should not be acceptable under any circumstances. For all of the parents who have tried to support children, and for all of the children who have been victims of bullying, I think that this motion here in the House today, and the motions that will be coming forward in Legislatures in jurisdictions across the country, is a strong message that we validate that what they have been through and we say enough is enough, it has to stop. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, late last fall I met with my Justice counterparts in Regina. One of the items that we addressed was this very issue. We talked about how we could do more to help support those who have had their intimate photos shared on social media sources without their consent.

While the Internet has brought positive emotional, economic and social benefits to society, it also provides some users with a weapon to inflict real harm. We have seen those results in several heartbreaking cases over this past year. Typically, the destructive actions start with someone sharing intimate photos of a person, with the intention of humiliating them or to seek revenge. The victims we have heard about recently have been female, but it can affect anyone. The distribution of these images is so rapid and pervasive, it can have devastating consequences for the victim.

The Criminal Code currently has provisions relating to child pornography. While this is one means of dealing with this issue, when the victim is a teenager, this remedy doesn't address all of the situations. For adults, exchanging nude photos is, under most circumstances, illegal activity. There are several sections of the Criminal Code that can be used in some situations if they contain certain additional elements. Currently, when police throughout Canada receive complaints on this issue, there is very little they can do, unless it is accompanied by additional elements that may bring it within the existing criminal offence.

The taking and sharing of nude photos of people under the age of 18 is a violation of Canada's child pornography laws; however, the child pornography section of the Criminal Code of Canada is intended to prevent the sexual exploitation of young people and is not necessarily focused on the issue of non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

Nova Scotia has recently requested that a new criminal offence be created as a hybrid to cover the publishing, printing, distributing, circulating, selling, advertising or making available, including visual recording, intimate images for malicious purposes. In April the Ministers responsible for Justice from across the country met in Ottawa and directed the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Cyber Crime Working Group to expedite its efforts in this area and bring its recommendations forward to the federal Minister as soon as the work is complete.

Later this month western Premiers will be discussing the steps being taken to recognize and address bullying and cyberbullying attacks on young people by their peers, and will be raising this important issue with the Council of Federation meeting in July.

As discussed with our colleagues on the other side of the House last week, I and my Cabinet colleagues are in support of this motion and will be voting in favour today. Our Legislature could stand with those across Canada, and the most recent being Saskatchewan, to support a legislative tool that will enable the justice system to deal with the malicious and destructive behaviours that are not yet able to be fully addressed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank Member Bisaro and Members who spoke on this motion. I certainly will be supporting the motion. There was a time and a place in our history growing up that cyberbullying wasn't even talked about for us older generations. Now these young ones need to be taught that it's not okay, that it's not okay in society to hurt other people and hide behind the computer, and hide behind technology, and go beyond their years of their adulthood and thinks it's okay. It's time that we say, as a Legislative Assembly, here that enough is enough and these young ones need to be taught to have respect and value life, and that the easy way out to pretend you're not to go into this cyberbullying stuff and hurt other people. That is not right and that's not cool.

So I support this motion and give a strong message to the young ones, from the wise old one, that to not value human life and not have respect is not okay. That's the society that this Assembly is stating. We do not want to live that way.

I thank the mover and the seconder of this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'll allow the mover the closing remarks to the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for their words of support. I'd like to thank Mr. Bouchard for seconding the motion and allowing it to come to the floor.

I'm extremely appreciative that Cabinet has provided us with an opportunity to have unanimous support for this motion and to make our vote unanimous. I previously stated that a united voice has weight. I remind all Members of that now, as I ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member is seeking a recording vote. All those in favour, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

All those in favour: 18. Motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 15-17(4):  
REFERRAL OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES  
COMMISSION 2013 FINAL REPORT  
TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** WHEREAS Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report, has been tabled in this House;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabled Document 70-17(4) is moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. McLeod.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 20:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
TLICHO COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 21:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bouchard.

BILL 22:  
TERRITORIAL EMBLEMS  
AND HONOURS ACT

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 23:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2013-2014

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, has had first reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 11:  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC  
AGENCY STATUTES (BORROWING  
PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Financial Administration Act as well as statutes respecting five public agencies to enhance Financial Management Board oversight of activities of the government and public agencies that constitute borrowing for the purposes of the Northwest Territories borrowing limit regulations made under the Northwest Territories Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act, has had second reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 11 moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

---Consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 11 is moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 12:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
EDUCATION ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Education Act to:

- establish a definition of bullying;
- provide for the establishment, by regulation, of a Territorial School Code of Conduct;
- require divisional education councils or district education authorities, as applicable, to ensure the development of safe schools plans.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, has had second reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod.

BILL 13:  
AN ACT TO REPEAL THE  
CURFEW ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act, be read for the second time.

This bill repeals the Curfew Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act, has had second reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod.

BILL 14:  
AN ACT TO REPEAL THE  
PAWNBROKERS AND SECOND-HAND  
DEALERS ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Act, be read for the second time.

This bill repeals the Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 14 has had second reading and is moved to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 15:  
GUNSHOT AND STAB WOUND  
MANDATORY DISCLOSURE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act, be read for the second time.

This bill requires that all gunshot and stab wounds, other than those stab wounds reasonably believed to be self-inflicted or unintentionally inflicted, be reported by health facilities and ambulance services that treat those injuries. The bill outlines the information that must be reported and the circumstances that trigger the reporting obligation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 15 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 16:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Justices of the Peace Act to provide justices of the peace with protection from civil liability so long as they do not act maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause. The bill also includes a number of non-substantive amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 16 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 17:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PROTECTION AGAINST  
FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Protection Against Family Violence Act to remove the ambiguity respecting the duration of emergency protection orders, giving Supreme Court authority to correct minor defects in emergency protection orders during the review process, allowing the Minister to review emergency protection order transcripts for research, evaluation and training purposes, and increase the maximum fine for offences under the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 17 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 18:  
APOLOGY ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 18, Apology Act, be read for the second time.

This bill provides that an apology made by or on behalf of a person in relation to any civil matter does not constitute an admission of fault or liability by the person or a confirmation of a cause of action in relation to the matter, and does not affect the insurance coverage available to the person making the apology. The bill also provides an apology is not admissible in any judicial or quasi-judicial civil proceeding and may not be considered or referred to in relation to fault or liability in any such proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 18 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 19:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2013

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013, be read for the second time.

This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill deals with other matters of a minor non-controversial or uncomplicated nature in the statutes and repeals provisions that have ceased to have an effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 19 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Consent granted

BILL 20:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
Tlicho COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 20, An

Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Tlicho Community Government Act to modify the eligibility criteria for nomination as a candidate for councillor of a community government, so as to properly achieve consistency with amendments made by the Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act, SNWT 2013,c.9. The bill comes into force retroactive to the March 14, 2013, day of assent of that previous amending statute. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 20 has had second reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 20 moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 20 is moved into Committee of the Whole for later today. Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 23:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2013-2014

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Northwest Territories for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 23 has had second reading.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and other matters: Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act; Tabled Document 79, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014; and Committee Report 3-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Bouchard in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** I will call Committee of the Whole to order. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee would like to deliberate Tabled Document 79-17(4), Bill 11, Bill 20 and, time permitting, Committee Report 3-17(4).

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** We will commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** I call the Committee of the Whole to order. Committee, we've agreed to review Tabled Document 79-17(4). We'll go to the Minister responsible, Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014. This document outlines an increase of \$17.757 million in operations expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The major items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. \$9.7 million for the Department of Executive for funding for costs associated with the implementation of the final Devolution Agreement. The net impact on government operations is nil as these costs will be offset with funding to be received from the federal government.
2. \$2.5 million for the Department of Transportation for costs associated with repairs to the runway at the Hay River Airport;
3. a total of \$1.6 million to install wood pellet boilers in the Mackenzie Mountain School and airport in Norman Wells;
4. \$1.3 million for the Department of Transportation for funding for the increased costs associated with extending ferry operations across the Peel River and Mackenzie River during the autumn freeze-up period in the Beaufort-Delta region;
5. a total of \$1.1 million for the departments of Finance and Public Works and Services for funding for costs associated with the implementation of financial shared services in Norman Wells, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, committee. I will now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Could the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Finance, and Mr. Olin Lovely, director of budgeting and evaluation, Department of Finance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you. We will open the floor for general comments on Tabled Document 79-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2. Does committee agree to proceed to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** I'll have everybody turn to page 3. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, expenditures on behalf of Members, not previously authorized, \$2,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$2,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Executive, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$9.755 million. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a pleasure to see you in that position today. My question has to deal with this not previously authorized in the directorate for \$9.755 million. I found that number to be a bit of a shocker, given the fact that this is a supplementary estimate. These are supposed to be monies not previously deemed in the main estimate program.

My first question has to do with the fact that the Devolution AIP identified \$26.5 million, or almost \$27 million to offset any implementation costs of the Devolution Final Agreement. If I can get maybe an explanation as to what is the cash flow in representing of the money that we received from the Government of Canada, and vis-à-vis this current ask today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; there is \$26.5 million identified. We have received \$4 million to date, and we will receive the remainder of that once the final agreement has been signed.

In anticipation of that signing, we would like to get on with the implementation of the Devolution Final

Agreement and be prepared for April 1, 2014, so we are seeking the approval of new money plus money that was lapsed from the previous year, for a total of \$9.755 million.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I appreciate the deputy minister's clarification on the subject. My question more has to do with the realities that supplementary appropriations should be minimal, at best. These are gap-fill measures to keep us by or to consider maybe some unforeseen spending in any one department.

Given the fact that we've seen devolution on the forefront – it's been through our windshield now for quite a while – I was, again, quite shocked to see the largeness of that number, given the fact that almost half of this supplementary appropriation has to do with that one line entry.

My question is: Did we not see this coming? Was this something that we could not have forecasted within the regular process of the current process of budgeting, and why are we seeing this in a supplementary fashion?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did have the foresight to anticipate this broad cost, the global figure of almost \$27 million. We've been on a one-of-a-kind process here that we've been negotiating with the federal government. There's been an enormous amount of work done. Some things didn't move as fast as we anticipated with the negotiations. We are now, as was indicated today in the House by the Premier when he indicated we're giving notice of motion that we're going to have the motion on devolution with the agreement before the House, so this is a one-time occurrence and it's been moved as fast as we could move it. We've budgeted as well as we could. There were some things we didn't control, and hence, we are back before the House with the funding request and the lapses that we want to put to good use.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Again, all very good, prescriptive responses, and I'm not going to disagree. I think this money is being spent in a proper fashion. My question is, again, the large figure that we're seeing in the supplementary. So if I can get maybe, I don't need a detailed breakdown, but what are some of the high points within that \$9.7 million that would be deemed something we did not see coming? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, one of the biggest numbers, of course, is we are carrying over money because we did hit some delays last year with the process. We anticipated that we would be farther along at that point and we weren't, so we carried over that amount of money. We've been doing an enormous amount of work

with the federal government, trying to get the numbers as they pertain to all the different budgets, all the positions here and in Ottawa, the legislative requirements, doing the work on the negotiations on waste sites. There has been an enormous amount of work done there, trying to first make sure we had a comprehensive list, the type of the waste sites, the detail of the work there, the work on water and the discussions there, the work on the MVRMA, and the delegation of those authorities. Across the board, as you will see when you look at the packages that you have with the agreement of 390-some pages of negotiated agreement and attachments, that that is where all that money has been spent and will be spent along the implementation side. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I do appreciate the forensic reply here. Again, my question is not to second guess where the money is being spent. I think that is a given. I think the facts are there. We heard from the deputy minister that we received just over \$4 million of monies to offset, and again, as the note said here, that net effect on government operations will be nil. My concern is that we are now adding money on our side of the fence to top this up.

When do we anticipate to receive the full value of this \$26.5 million? Will it be in our hands prior to the April 1, 2014, so-called launch date? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, the money will be flowing once the deal is officially signed, sometime in the coming weeks. After that point all the money will flow. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Chair, just so I'm clear, all the money will flow. Is that what I read into that, that all \$26.5 million will be in our hands before April 1, 2014?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** All the money that we haven't already been given will flow at that point, yes. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Chair, I guess I just want to get clarification. Will the full amount of \$26.5 million be in our corporate coffers or our government coffers from the Government of Canada by April 1, 2014?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** That is what is anticipated, yes.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I have no further questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Directorate, not previously authorized, \$9.755 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Executive, operations, not previously authorized, \$4,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$9.759 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 5, Human Resources, operations expenditures, Human Resource Strategy and Policy, not previously authorized, \$1,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Management and recruitment services, not previously authorized, \$1,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Employee services, not previously authorized, \$1,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$9,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Labour relations, not previously authorized, \$1,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$13,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 6, Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$179,000. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just confirm that under the Housing Corporation we are talking about some additional fuel costs because we went to synthetic natural gas which is the most expensive, as I understand it, of the three gas options, and we had to do that because of the emergency there. I understand that the liquid natural gas is about one-third less expensive, and natural gas itself, again less expensive.

Inuvik has recently chosen the liquid natural gas option so I am anticipating that this is a one-year cost, or at least next year should be less. I would just like to get that confirmed, and at the same time, the Minister has identified earlier that the biomass is a better option yet in the long term. We know that the Housing Corporation is looking at the possibility of biomass, including for the public housing in Inuvik. I am wondering if that is still considered an

option that is being examined, and if so, when we might hear on the results of that examination.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs are, of course, predicated on the assumption that the liquid natural gas prices are going to stay within the range that we have budgeted for, so yes, we anticipate that there will be less costs compared to synthetic natural gas compared to diesel. Should the day come when natural gas is available locally that is appropriate for use, then yes there could be another lowering of costs.

We are committed to the biomass piece. Seven hundred thousand dollars was voted in this last budget for Housing to do the work to determine and sort out some of the technical and policy and liability issues in having biomass units in public housing. They are doing that work, and I would anticipate that as they come forward in the fall and the coming months with the business plan process, and we look at the budgets and main estimates in March, the Housing Corporation will be in a position to update the Assembly and committees on the results of their work and the \$700,000. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for that response from the Minister. I guess my last point is: We have been hearing from this government that they expect natural gas prices to go up considerably, and I understand that there might be some efficiencies, that we might be able to get liquid natural gas from closer source and ameliorate and mitigate that rising cost, but recognizing that the Minister does not have a crystal ball, what is our vulnerability there and what weight does that play in the decisions to go with a fossil fuel versus renewable energy alternative? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** If the Member will think back, we started on an emergency basis where the running out of natural gas in Inuvik was declared imminent, that there was a need to minimize the load and pressure on the existing gas reserves. That work was done, recognizing that synthetic natural gas was the short-term emergency option. That work was done. In the meantime, the market in the development of liquid natural gas has proceeded in Canada where that type of resource was available. We recognize at the same time, as we move across to the Northwest Territories with our alternative energy, that there is potential for biomass.

The issue with liquid natural gas, of course, is it's going to be generating the power in Inuvik come October. The biomass piece where the type of technology that's readily, I believe, available to have that combined heat and power in Inuvik on such short notice. So we are now into sort of the mid-term, mid-range response to the energy

situation in Inuvik. We've invested some money to do the biomass. That work will be done, it is being done and as we look at the broad change potentially or involvement or inclusion of biomass in Inuvik as we have other communities like Norman Wells or Yellowknife or Fort Smith or Hay River, and especially in public housing, we have some technical issues to work out and liability issues. So that work is all underway, as well, in the longer term.

We don't want to forget, as well, that we're also looking at wind power at Storm Hills as a site where there is a potential capacity of four to six megawatts. So there are a lot of energy options on the books with Inuvik; we just have to stage and sequence them in a way that makes sure that the community has a safe, secure supply of energy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$179,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Office of the comptroller general, not previously authorized, \$560,000. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to just spend a second here on the \$667,000 entry on this line and it reads, "To provide funding for operational expenditures related to new office spaces for financial shared services in Norman Wells, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife." If I can get a little bit more explanation as to what is the scope of that amount within that framework description. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$667,000 that the Member is referring to is costs for the Department of Finance for setting up offices in Norman Wells, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Yellowknife, and it's costs for moving, furniture, costs for bringing in phone services and wiring of the offices. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I guess, for just an explanation, what are these new offices, which weren't on the so-called operations plan last time we did this, supposedly going to be providing in terms of service?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These offices will provide a location in those communities listed for the site of the financial shared services where, as we've laid out to committee and we got committee support to bring

these services together, so that we could hopefully be more coordinated and effective as a government. On the financial management side and the very many services that had previously been dispersed out among various departments, now we've taken a step starting with Inuvik and moving on to these other communities to integrate those services. I'll ask, Mr. Chairman, your indulgence if the deputy minister has any further detail he'd wish to provide.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess further to what the Minister has commented on, this will be where we will gather all the transactional, routine transactions of the government, allow them to take place in what we feel will be a more efficient manner, and leaving the departments to undertake the broader financial management of their operations and relieving them of those duties and responsibilities. Also providing, I guess, a more coordinated approach and opportunities, particularly in the regions for more career pathing around the finance sector for those who are interested, and bringing a more solid base at the regional level to providing these services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I appreciate the explanation. I'm trying to bridge what we passed just last week in another supplementary infrastructure appropriation, which is about three-quarters of a million dollars for tenant improvements and office space. Now, I'm trying to combine this with this new component, all under the guise of financial shared services, so now we're looking at... In my mind, if I add the two together, now we're at \$1.3 million of, I call it, unforeseen, or sometimes it's always put to us here at committee as a one-time capital cost or one-time cost here.

With that in mind, these one-time costs, as we move and prepare for the next budget cycle, are we going to see more of these in the financial shared services, or with this appropriation we are going to be at our quota in terms of making sure that we're up to speed and have the full model implemented?

**MR. AUMOND:** I would expect that perhaps you may see in the future perhaps some tenant improvements as we look to consolidate operations in Yellowknife, once the office space in Yellowknife gets figured out. As Members may recall, the original plan for the implementation of financial shared services was over a two-year period. Once we became more certain around devolution, we took the view that it was advantageous of us to try to get ahead of that curve and accelerate the implementation of the financial shared services, which is why you're seeing these types of requests

coming through the supplementary appropriation manner rather than through the normal business planning.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I'm satisfied with the explanations. No further questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have some questions, as well, on this particular expenditure, the financial shared services. Mr. Dolynny has mentioned two numbers, but there's one more number under Public Works and Services a little further on in this document. It adds up to close to \$2 million. I think it's \$1.9 million, give or take. I appreciate that these are one-time costs, and I appreciate that we are doing this for the better. This is going to presumably make our financial services somewhat better. But it is a large amount of money.

I guess I would like to know from the Minister, and again, I have to say, I appreciate the fact that we have approved this going forward with the financial shared services, but the kind of bottom line question is: What are we getting for this \$2 million? If I could get an explanation of the benefits of spending this money to establish our financial shared services together.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are going to get is some efficiencies and economies of scale where, recognizing that as a large organization, a corporation, there are some core services where you need to have consistency and integration where there is some standard volume directed processes, transaction issues, as Mr. Aumond indicated, where you need that consistency yet you can have more economies of scale. We are better coordinated. We tried to have a very devolved, decentralized type of model, which works in some program areas, but as we've discovered with information, IT, with finances, with procurement services, with our planning for capital planning, that with a big organization, with the volume of money we generate in a number of programs we are involved in, there is a core service area that requires this type of coordination. That's what you're going to get for this investment, and you're going to get on the procurement services and you've gotten on the shared TSE services.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for the explanation. I have to ask the question, and I think I probably know the answer, but we are spending this money, we are going to probably be providing better services in terms of our financial services. Are there any savings from bringing things in together and doing things in a consolidated way? Are we saving money?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The savings issue would be, I believe, addressed through the cost avoidance of the inefficiencies we've just talked about and the better use of our manpower that we've discussed would be some of the key areas where you can equate the two, I believe. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Office of the comptroller general, not previously authorized, \$560,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$739,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 7, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$68,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** School of Community Government, not previously authorized, \$1,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$10,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$57,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 8, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$858,000. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** I have a question here with regard to the Procurement Shared Services Centre. We have an explanation here where there is a transfer of money in from various departments to centralize our procurement services, but we are taking in \$515,000 and yet we are spending whatever \$515,000 plus \$165,000 is. I don't have that number here. We are spending \$680,000. If we are doing the job in the various departments and it is costing us \$515,000, why is it when we bring everything in together that we can't provide the same services for the same amount of money? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chair, initial resources are required for setting up a government procurement desk, a tender desk, and also for the funding of an

additional procurement officer to help out with the unit. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I can accept that explanation, but I guess I'm still wondering. If I was doing procurement within a department previously, now I'm not doing procurement any more. We've now set up a procurement officer and a centralized desk, so why would there not be savings on me as an employee, because I'm not doing procurement anymore?

Can we not see savings in each department that equals the cost of providing this service in a centralized place? I'm having trouble trying to understand how we have employees who are not doing as much as they were doing before, but it is still going to cost us money to bring this service into a central location. Thank you.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chair, in some departments the procurement function was split between or being undertaken by a finance officer, and so when the monies were allocated out, partial PY money or partial money funding was allocated from a department to the receiving Department of Public Works and Services. At the end of the day, there was a shortfall because it wasn't dollars for one PY going for one PY over to the Procurement Shared Services Centre.

What we looked at was what the shortfall amount was and then provided an allocation for that to make up the shortfall. Like I said, the tender desk and the procurement office and also some money to top up the funding for the benefits portion in procurement shared services where we are funding the departments at 17.5 percent for benefits but the actual cost was 23 percent, so there is an allocation for that. At the end of the day, when it all shook out, there is about three-quarters of the PY money that the procurement shared services was short for, plus the additional requirement for the top-up to get to the \$165,000. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chair, thanks to Mr. Aumond for that. I have to ask the same question I asked with regard to the financial shared services. We are spending money here, nearly not as much money, but we are spending a bit of money here. Do we have expectations that we are going to have savings through the centralization? I think the Minister alluded to it a little bit, but are we going to basically... If we are spending \$165,000, are we going to gain much more than that by having these services centralized? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the procurement side, one of the clear areas, of course, is anticipation through volume discounts when we have more coordinated and integrated procurement processes. Those

economies of scale will become more clearly evident across the board. In a number of ways we have different departments, different regions all doing their own purchasing. I believe I mentioned, in a previous sitting, using the bundled water plants as an example, where we recognized that as a government we did five water plants in a coordinated way, we had a common procurement policy, we had a common construction approach, we would save money not only in the construction and development side but in the maintenance and be able to move the common parts and those types of things. Again, we would be avoiding those costs that if we just keep doing business the way we are doing, we would be spending that extra money that we hope now we would realize through the integration of these processes. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to continue on this path where we are trying to figure out if, really, at the end of the day of this request, are taxpayers ahead in terms of savings. Now, the deputy minister talked about a cost benefit of 23 percent versus I think he said 17.5 percent. If I could get some clarification, what does he mean by that? Are we seeing savings of a delta of possibly less than 5 percent going into a procurement shared system? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I understand these numbers to mean – and I will get the deputy minister to help me on this – the departments are funded for the benefits to employees at about 17.5 percent. The actual costs of those benefits are 23 percent. Normally what is expected and what we keep running into issues with costs and how people use vacancies to cover off the shortfall, that 6 percent gap is substantial. This process has closed that gap, so that deficit of 17.5 percent has been closed and they will be funded at 23 percent, so this area here won't have that particular budgetary challenge.

I will ask the deputy minister to hopefully tell everybody that I was pretty close to the right track.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Aumond is a wise man to agree with the Minister. I am still trying to wrap my head around this. Are we seeing savings in the benefits of the employees or are we seeing benefits in that we are more centralized in our procurement? At the end of the

day, we are seeing a monumental shift in the procurement shared services of the organization and we are seeing a whole shift in this financial shared services model kind of overlapping on the same framework. What is the savings predicted to be under this procurement shared services model? With us spending all this extra money on the supplementary appropriation, what are the savings to the taxpayers at the end of the day? Are we going to be seeing millions of dollars, tens of thousands of dollars? What can we expect to see in savings in doing a procurement shared model? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are going to see is efficiencies in effectiveness and service delivery. We are going to see avoided costs, especially on the procurement model side. This is not a cost savings where we are going to realize, as the Member said, millions, hundreds of thousands of dollars of money. What we are looking at with the resources we have available, how do we better organize ourselves to be more responsive and effective and this is what you're going to get, and you will have, over the long-term, the avoided costs, the realization of the coordinated approach we're taking on buying large amounts of goods through our procurement processes and back to the example of the benefits that we realize through the bundled water plant approach. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I'm not sure if I'm totally in agreement with that statement from the Minister. You don't do something unless you see a cost benefit to the taxpayer. You just don't do it because we think it's going to save money and efficiencies where the economies of scale that tend to pop up from time to time.

I've got a hard time wrapping my head around what are the true targets. I know that there are bean counters out there – and I mean that in a positive way and in a positive light – that calculate by as doing this there's savings, and I think if we're going to be true to form and we're going to be asking for money and say follow us, we know what we're doing, I would hope to God that we have the ability to quantify what those net benefits are, what are the scope of savings. Why do this, then, if we don't know that number? There's got to be some preliminary numbers in which the department, the Minister and deputy minister should be able to share with this committee in terms of we're doing this because we're saving this much money, because we're doing our procurement on a more shared and standardized basis. Why don't we have that type of information? Why is it so secretive?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe there's a previous commitment to share, I guess, the goals and objectives of procurement shared services with committee, and we will do that, but we've got to take the opportunities.

The incremental ask here is for \$165,000 and what we're trying to do here is create, I guess, for lack of a better term, a centre of excellence around procurement. As a total, the government takes hundreds of millions of dollars of procurement every year and rather than having that left to people who aren't practiced in that area, or in some cases even hold a professional certification in that area, is to create a centre of excellence so that that hundreds of millions of dollars in procurement gets undertaken by those professionals who actually have certification in that area and have experience in that area.

The other benefit I would suggest would be is that all procurement would be undertaken in the same manner, and we've heard from business that, depending on which department they deal with, the experience is different, the processes are different, and to bring some consistency to that process and some certainty to that process. So when industry or business undertake a contract or compete for a contract for the Government of the Northwest Territories, they will do so in a manner that's consistent every time they do it.

So, as I said, we will share the goals and objectives of the procurement shared services that will be used to measure the success of that in the years to come. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I do appreciate the deputy minister's response. I mean, I'm not going to deny creating a centre of excellence, as was mentioned here today. That should be the goal of any organization, whether it's in government or in business. But it has to be said that if you're going to do this, you need to quantify or at least predict what your savings are going to be and we didn't hear that today. We heard it's only \$165,000, we're going to be doing a whole bunch of changes, we're going to have all these topnotch people come down and do the buying for the government, and trust us.

I would expect that in the future that the department come here armed with information that if we legitimately ask what are those savings in dollars and cents, that should be provided to committee. There should be a quantifiable reason and a scope of savings and a true cost benefit to the taxpayers by doing changes in how we do such things as procurement. I think that's a legitimate question and a legitimate ask from committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Taking that as a comment, directorate, previously not authorized, \$858,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Asset management, not previously authorized, \$1.620 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.478 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 9, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$89,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$108,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Community wellness and social services, not previously authorized, \$22,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$219,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 10, Justice, operations expenditures, service to the government, not previously authorized, negative \$91,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Legal aid services, not previously authorized, \$4,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Court services, not previously authorized, \$5,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$24,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total Department, not previously authorized, negative \$58,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 11, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, directorate and administration, not previously authorized, negative \$46,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$364,000. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to ask, the student information system that we failed to implement last year and we're proposing to bring the money over into this year to implement this year, I understand that this is an

important program. There is, you know, sort of an urgent need to get this done.

Can I get a little more information on that? What is the urgent need to get this done? What are the challenges to getting it done, and how are we going to work on this differently to make sure we complete this this fiscal year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The student information system is used to track information such as student demographic data, report cards, support plans from K to 12. The department undertook to implement the system last year, but for some reason due to delays was unable to complete the training. The \$306,000 that is being requested to carry over to this year is to complete the training for the new system. Replacement of the new system was required because the vendor who was supporting the previous system no longer was able to provide that support.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, I'm not totally clear yet on what the system does. I understand that we don't have a system because the other one hasn't been maintained. Report cards, I think, was mentioned. Obviously, that sort of information, following students and making sure we capture information on them seems pretty critical from year to year.

Could I just get a little more in-depth explanation of the student information system and what it is that we don't have in place at this moment?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the key point is the system that was previously there has been discontinued and the service for it stopped last June, basically a year ago. We have a non-functioning system that contains all the basic data we have about students across the land, grade K to 12 in all the schools in the Northwest Territories, as well as the specific information for report cards, all the plans they do, the student plans and the demographic information. We have a fairly mobile population, so there are people, families, children moving around. That system that provides all that information that can be moved and track all the key elements of our education system, which is our students, is non-functioning and we need to get it replaced and a new system up to date and in place to fill that gap.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chair, again, it does seem like critical information to know when we're talking about our students here. The Minister mentioned a couple of things why we want to be tracking our students. We have a lot of special needs students, as we know, across the Territories. I assume this means we're not tracking these sorts of things, because we have a non-functioning system. When

will this be up and running once we approve this budget? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, the intent is to carry on with the work and get it done as soon as possible. They have another school year coming up in the fall. The anticipation is they'd like to have this system functional by then. I would point out one of the other purposes of the student information system of course is tied to the funding for DEAs and DEC's which is based on enrolment as of October. The plan would be to get it done and hopefully to be up and ready by the upcoming school year in September.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chair, thanks to the Minister for that additional information. That does sound like important use of this system. I don't know whether the Minister is aware or knowledgeable in this area, but covering the bases and this information obviously sounds so important that I don't think we can really exist without it somehow. How are things being handled in the meantime until we do get a new electronic system in place?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, I am going to turn to the Minister of Education and see if he can speak to the system issues as they now exist. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, regarding the student information system, there have been some changes to our current system. In order to be trained on a new educational system, we need to have that mechanism in place. We are tracking the students, as the Minister alluded to earlier, because everything is based on enrolment. We have to monitor the student progress, attendance and so forth. The conversion from one system to another does take time and that's the reason why we had this training mechanism in place to convert to another system. That is what is before us today. It is continually improving that system. We are hoping that by fall it will be up and running fully. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$364,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Advanced education, not previously authorized, \$41,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Income security, not previously authorized, \$9,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$368,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 12, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$3,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Airports, not previously authorized, \$2.512 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Highways, not previously authorized, \$13,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Marine, not previously authorized, \$1.398 million. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Mr. Chair, last week, through another supplementary appropriation, we approved capital upgrades to the Louis Cardinal to the tune of about \$380,000. Now this week we are seeing another infrastructure amount for almost \$1.4 million. Can we get some clarification as to why we are seeing such extra costs moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chair, there are capital upgrades of \$380,000. The annual ongoing operation costs are estimated at \$1.377 million plus \$20,000 of one-time operation expenditures for training costs in 2013-14. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The operation of any ferry service usually follows a fairly preordained path. I mean, water freezes, water thaws, there is a week or two here and there, the trips are pretty much consistent. Can you give an explanation of why we are expecting to see that almost \$1.4 million more?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The single biggest operation cost is going to be the crew compensation for the extended season in the neighborhood of almost \$433,000. We have fuel for the ferry and the backhoe at \$182,000, and we have shop supplies and mechanical/electrical at \$187,000. We have ice removal from the hull done twice at \$40,000. We have props and shafts at \$20,000. Wood chips for the deck are \$20,000. If you add it all up, it comes to the cost of \$1.37 million.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thanks to the Minister for the detailed list. I guess my question is – and I know the Member for Mackenzie-Delta is going to be more well-versed in this than I would be – the Louis Cardinal is a much smaller vessel and I know we have the Merv Hardie, a class 2 icebreaker which is way more efficient in design in terms of moving at capacity and yet I suspect not as fuel efficient as the Louis Cardinal. Was there any thought or

design to moving the Merv Hardie in lieu of the Louis Cardinal position to get more maximum use and possibly more capacity of use in terms of size, in getting all these extended ferry services during that freeze-up period? Is there any rationale except maybe the efficiency of the motors that went into play here? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department set out and did a thorough analysis of whether or not they could move the Merv Hardie there. It was determined that a better economic fix was to retrofit the Louis Cardinal. It is less expensive to operate the Louis Cardinal.

On the Mackenzie River, the best way to explain this is we had the Merv Hardie run up until December and sometimes even into the first week of January, while the ice road was being put in. Sometimes it could operate until the ice road came in. That extended service to the North Slave region until the end of December or beginning of January. The same thing is envisioned for the Mackenzie Delta at the Peel River crossing for the Louis Cardinal, being able to operate in ice conditions maybe up until Christmastime or maybe a little bit past Christmas. It is going to have a profound impact on the cost of goods in the region, and for people travelling and any commerce that is taking place up there and the movement of goods. It is really going to impact the entire region in a positive way. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister of Transportation's clarification. I do know that the Merv Hardie is a class 2 icebreaker. What is the classification of the Louis Cardinal? Thank you.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** It is anticipated that the Louis Cardinal will be able to perform in ice similar to the Merv Hardie. The other thing I should mention, as well, the Merv Hardie would have required a big retrofit and replacement of some engines on the vessel. That would have probably been another \$1.5 million in one-time capital costs immediately. Again, that was all factored in. I think Minister Miltenberger mentioned the use of a backhoe on the Cardinal to clear ice. It will perform and we look forward to the Louis Cardinal working well into December this coming fall in the Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** I appreciate the Minister's comments. When the Minister is able, I'm sure he can probably provide the classification of the vessel. Again, these classifications have a certain capacity in terms of definition. So at least we can compare apples to apples when we talk about the efficiencies of these vessels.

Mr. Chair, I'm going to leave it at that. If there are any other questions, I'm sure the Member for Mackenzie Delta, if he wants to weigh in, he can; but if everyone feels that this is the go-forward and this is the best way to provide services and costs to the people of the Beau-Del area and the Mackenzie area, then I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. I'll take that as a comment. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd just like to ask whichever Minister decides to answer. This year it will be sort of a pilot project on this service. If this doesn't play out as the plan goes, next year will the department look at bringing the Merv Hardie down to Tsiigehtchic? Thank you.

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is the first year that we're going to be trying the Cardinal, extending the season in the region, and our engineers and our folks at DOT marine believe that the Cardinal has the capability to perform. We'll see how it does this fall.

Failing that, with an investment of \$1.5 million on the engines, the Merv Hardie is a very capable backup vessel for us system-wide. So we do have that at hand as well.

**MR. BLAKE:** I'd just like to make a comment. I'm really looking forward to this fall to see how this project goes. I know the people in the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort-Delta will be very happy and encouraged by this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you for those comments, Mr. Blake. Marine, previously, not authorized, \$1.398 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Boat licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$3,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.929 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 13, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, negative \$96,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Mineral and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$343,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$3,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$15,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$265,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Page 14, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, negative \$95,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Environment, not previously authorized, \$2,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Forest management, not previously authorized, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$13,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Does committee agree that we've concluded consideration of Tabled Document 79-17(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister and witnesses. Ms. Bisaro, sorry.

COMMITTEE MOTION 53-17(4):  
CONCURRENCE OF SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS  
EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2013-2014,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move, that consideration of Tabled Document 79-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 79-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** The motion is being distributed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Minister and witnesses. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move we report progress.

---Carried

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

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

### Report of Committee of Whole

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 79-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that consideration of Tabled Document 79-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be concluded, and that the House concur with this estimate and that an appropriation bill be based thereon and be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 23:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2013-2014

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, has been read for the third time.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

**Orders of the Day**

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

**PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 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
  - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act
  - Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act
  - Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act
  - Committee Report 3-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
  - Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT