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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 23, 2014****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 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. In light of the tragic events that happened in our capital yesterday at the War Memorial at Parliament Hill, I would like to ask that we observe a moment of silence and reflect upon those who experienced loss and injury, particularly to the families and loved ones of Corporal Nathan Cirillo.

---Moment of Silence

Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Mr. Jose Antonio Torres-Lacasa, Minister Counsellor in the political and public affairs section of the European Union to Canada. Mr. Torres-Lacasa has travelled here from the embassy in Ottawa. Welcome to the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 102-17(5):
NWT CORONERS

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the Northwest Territories Coroner Service 2013 Annual Report. This report sets out some information on the history of the coroner's service, the role and structure of the office and some information on their work in 2013. This report reminds us that in the Northwest Territories, we have a number of dedicated volunteers who are deeply committed to assisting those in their communities at times of tragedy. They work with circumstances and situations that most of us are unable or unwilling to face.

Coroners play a vital role in our justice system. They are at the forefront of investigations of deaths. Their jobs are stressful and difficult, as many of their investigations involve people that they knew within their home communities. They are all too often called out in the middle of the night to deal

with scenes that most of us could not face. They must have the strength to deal with the partners, children and parents who are now at the worst moments of their lives. Yet despite these profound challenges, they will tell you that they find their positions extremely rewarding, as they play an important role in helping to bring closure for most families and they help prevent tragedies in the future.

Mr. Speaker, each coroner has within their mandate the ability to conduct investigations into deaths when required and, based on what they learn, to make recommendations that will assist in preventing serious injuries or deaths from occurring in the future. They remind us to be safer and to critically re-examine our own practices. The role they play can never be understated.

Tomorrow we will see NWT coroners from 15 communities come together for the next three days to train. They will become familiar with the latest techniques and technologies in their field and have discussions with peers and professionals who best understand the work they do.

We have coroners who have been performing their duties for many years and are coming to a time when they are ready to pass their knowledge to others. Currently, we have openings in several communities, and we expect that in the near future there will be more. If you are aware of people in your communities who are inquisitive, courageous and community minded, and are looking for truly rewarding work, have them speak with their local coroner, or the chief coroner of the NWT located here in Yellowknife, to be part of a proud tradition.

For the coroners making the trip to learn and share over the next three days, we hope that they are able to be rejuvenated and return with new skills of value to their understanding and delivery of the services they provide. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I want to express gratitude on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories for the thorough and professional jobs coroners do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 103-17(5):
ALTERNATIVE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are just over 16 months away from the next Arctic Winter Games being hosted in Nuuk, Greenland. As you know, there are six sports which Greenland is unable to host: dog mushing, gymnastics, curling, speed skating, figure skating and midget hockey. Today I am pleased to announce that Whitehorse, Yukon, has agreed to host an alternative multi-sport event, the Arctic X Games, to coincide with the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Greenland.

Mr. Speaker, this is great news for our athletes and territorial sport organizations affected by the exclusion of some sports from the 2016 Arctic Winter Games. They now have an event to train for and compete in, which will ultimately contribute to further development within their sport.

For many of our athletes, the Arctic Winter Games is the pinnacle of their competitive career. For others, the Games provide an opportunity to use this as a stepping stone in their development. Many of our athletes continue on to the Canada Winter Games and some have even continued on to the international stage, including the Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine Michael Gilday and Brendan Green not having participated in the Arctic Winter Games and how that may have affected their development as the athletes and the people they have become? The opportunities and experiences provided through their participation in the Arctic Winter Games certainly helped them to represent our territory and country at many national and international events, including the 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, the 2016 Arctic Winter Games and the Arctic X Games will assist with the development of our athletes as the Northwest Territories prepares to host the 2018 Arctic Winter Games and send teams to both the 2015 and 2019 Canada Winter Games.

The department is committed to work with the territorial sport organizations and the Sport North Federation to prepare and send athletes to the Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland, and the Arctic X Games in Whitehorse, Yukon, in March of 2016.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Government of the Yukon and their sport partners for committing to host the Arctic X Games and the permanent members of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee for their commitment to send their teams to these Games in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes they hear us on the other side of the House. Mr. Speaker, there was a concerted message from this side of the House that we needed to do something in the Northwest Territories about early childhood development. They heard us. They developed a plan within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, but in doing so they have missed the mark and I'm going to tell you why.

Mr. Speaker, they have decided to implement Junior Kindergarten in communities where the ramifications and the fallout from it is actually going to have the opposite effect from what is desired. In communities like Hay River, we have long-standing institutions like the Hay River Cooperative Play School, the Head Start program on the Hay River Reserve, we have Treehouse, we have Growing Together and we have the French preschool. We also have some very good licenced day homes and child care services as well.

Early childhood development in the regional centres – and let me just speak for Hay River – was being very effectively addressed, but when the government comes along with their solution to the problem, there is no target. The targeted area, because they wanted to see better educational outcomes than what we have, should have been those communities, small communities mostly, who had nothing in their community for early childhood development. That's where it should have been, but in their, I don't know, enthusiasm to address this issue, to address the fallout of early childhood development, the fallout is actually going to be quite substantial.

Mr. Bouchard and I have met with the Hay River DEA. To add another class to our existing education system without any funding is going to erode the entire educational system from K to 12. It's going to take away from that because we say we are going to have better outcomes by starting those little four-year-olds in Junior Kindergarten. I have a five-year-old granddaughter; Mr. Bouchard has a little guy who's five years old; and I can tell you that those little gaffers come home from school, all-day kindergarten – we used to only have half-day kindergarten; now we have all-day kindergarten – and those little guys come home from school that they both just started and I tell you they are dead tired on their feet. Now we're going to put little four-year-olds in all-day kindergarten.

I would like the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, before the rollout in the larger communities in the regional centres, to rethink what

they are doing by putting this load onto the DEAs and DECAs without additional funding for the education system. I think it will be catastrophic. I think it will be devastating. You are going to gut the services that are already there, and please, please think this through. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOOD FIRST FOUNDATION

MR. DOLYNNY: [Translation] ...As a result, our children are eating convenient, ready-to-eat, highly salted, sugared and overly processed foods. The Northwest Territories has the second highest obesity rate in Canada. This has a potential to lead to a lifetime of multiple mental and physical health problems and increase our health care costs.

Canadians have less knowledge about choosing and preparing healthy foods for their families. In many cases children are arriving at school hungry and are unable to learn because they have not eaten a nutritious breakfast. Healthy food increases school attendance, improves academic performances and fosters school and community spirit.

Food First NWT is one of the leaders in nutrition education and it has developed a program for upper elementary students called Taste Makers. It teaches students about nutrition, food purchasing, food and kitchen safety and how to cook healthy foods. The goal is to build confidence, knowledge and skills for children to adopt a lifestyle of healthy eating.

Taste Makers was delivered in Northwest Territories schools in December 2013 and received good evaluations from educators and students. It has potential to be of immense value to students across the Northwest Territories.

Food First Foundation received a \$50,000 Anti-Poverty Fund grant in 2014 in order to distribute and support Taste Makers in Northwest Territories schools. Over the next year, Food First will investigate logistics and cost to translate the program into French.

Mr. Speaker, this program provides the opportunity to give Taste Makers a wider scope. Food awareness and preparation is an essential skill for all of us. There is also potential for application of mathematics, science and biology from this program as students learn to buy, cook and eat the food.

Our continued multi-year financial and moral support to maintain and improve this program is critical for its success. It may take a decade to see concrete results, but it's in the interest of our people and our government to make it work.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is Small Business Week, and Hay River being one of the communities that I think is strongest in business, I'd like to make some of the statements about some of the products and services.

One of the industries that is definitely needed in Hay River is the Hay River Fishery. We've talked about this in this House before. The Hay River Fishery and the Great Slave Lake Fishery needs assistance. We've been working with the Department of ITI to look towards opportunities in the future. We've been looking at infrastructure, but we need to continue to work on training for these types of individuals, getting more individuals into this industry. We need to train some of our local people and encourage people to become entrepreneurs.

We see almost weekly from some of the fishermen, they show us pictures of the Great Slave Lake. It's dangerous work; it's hard work; but it's challenging work and it's beneficial.

We know that some of this industry is changing in other provinces such as Alberta – we know recently Lake Athabasca closed down its fishery – and we're looking to see what the opportunities are. Does that include fishers coming up here? Does that include being able to market our fish and sell our fish in Alberta?

We need to encourage fishery in this territory. We need to help the fishermen of the Northwest Territories and Great Slave Lake fishermen. Obviously, I encourage that we continue to support Hay River fishermen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SANDY CREEK LODGE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment recently tabled the Economic Opportunities Implementation Plan. Tourism is a key component of the plan to diversify and enhance economic opportunities throughout the NWT. The conference bureau initiative is among the programs ITI is funding through this strategy, and I wanted to highlight some of the opportunities that program creates for small communities in the NWT.

The conference bureau needs to look beyond the regional centres of Yellowknife, Inuvik or Fort Smith to see the amenities smaller places have to offer. The newly built Sandy Creek Lodge in the Deh Cho

riding is a good example of a facility that should be promoted through our Tourism Strategy.

Just beyond the Hay River Reserve at Sandy Creek, the K'atloodeeche First Nation has built the wilderness lodge in a place rich with history. The lodge seems remote, yet it is easily accessible by road from the town of Hay River. What better place to take newcomers to the region and residents alike?

The Long Spear People came to the area 7,000 years ago, and records show the Hay River Reserve first appears on a map in 1854. The Hudson's Bay Company built a trading post there in 1868, followed by the Roman Catholic and Anglican missions and eventually a nursing station and a school by the turn of the century.

The site of the lodge was most recently used as a Pentecostal Mission Camp in the 1950s with a wooden church, cabins and cookhouse. Ken Norn, a member of the K'atloodeeche First Nation, who built the Sandy Creek Lodge, remembers visiting the area with his grandparents.

The Sandy Creek Lodge is a brand new building with modern comforts, designed to be a gathering place for the community, an educational facility, a conference venue for government and industry, and a wilderness retreat. It's currently open for seasonal use, but it could be used all year round. It would only take short notice to go out there and fire up the generators and heat the building for a winter retreat.

The K'atloodeeche First Nation invested a lot of time, effort and resources into the development of the lodge. There are likely many other facilities like it across the NWT that need to be promoted through the conference bureau initiative. Many people coming to the NWT for the first time are intrigued by what it has to offer. Business travelers come to work but also want a comfortable way to experience something they would never find in cities in the South that can show them more than just a boardroom. What better introduction to the North than a visit to the Sandy Creek Lodge? Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

MR. HAWKINS: [Translation] Mr. Chairman, the environment is important for each of us. We have to make responsible choices for our future. [Translation ends]

Mr. Speaker, I've been trying to make a concerted effort to learn a little French, and what I'm trying to tell everyone here today is that the environment is important to all of us. We have to make a responsible choice towards our future.

We all have an important role for promoting and developing and getting behind responsible development, but when our government says to the public it's open for business, I'm cautious to wonder what type of industry they're courting. Are they mindful of the future that they are inviting to the dance?

The public impression is that if the territorial regulator is the same Minister promoting the industry, how is that honestly fair? Often I've heard, and people have wondered: why isn't the Minister of Environment not the territorial regulator? Some say the Minister of Industry snuggles up just too closely to industry; obviously, he'll take their side. People wonder: does it really matter if he's on the prime rib circuit; does that prejudice the future decision?

At the same time, some would wonder, if the Environment Minister was the regulator, would the Environment Minister be just too cautious to allow projects to proceed? That too would be fair criticism.

The point is it's a challenging responsibility that every single one of us is involved in. We must be part of a responsible process that develops for our future generations. So while we make choices here today, we must be mindful we're not making them for ourselves, we're making them for down the road.

I support responsible development. I welcome the choices, but may all the choices be fully informed. We need all the information on the table. So, when my good friends in the Sahtu want to pursue their opportunities, their hopes, their dreams – and sometimes that may include fracking – we must be fully informed of the decisions that they're making because we are making choices that will have effects in the future. But let us not forget, while this government pursues a fracking policy, that really is telling you they've decided fracking is okay, we're just waiting for what type of fracking is okay. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SMALL BUSINESS DAY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we've heard already today and earlier this week, this is Small Business Week across Canada and in the NWT. A small business in Canada is defined as having from five to 100 employees. Today I want to specifically acknowledge Small Business Day this Saturday, October 25th.

Small business owners represent the best of the Canadian spirit. They're entrepreneurs, innovators, job creators and an integral part of our communities, large and small. From coast to coast

to coast, Canadian small businesses help drive local economies and keep our communities strong. Small businesses with less than 50 employees, including businesses with no employees at all, represent almost 98 percent of the total business establishments in Canada. They are the heart of our economy.

Here in the NWT there are hundreds of hardworking small business owners. In my Frame Lake riding alone, there are, at last count, over 50 small businesses. To keep our small northern businesses as strong and going concerns, they need greater consideration from the GNWT and our procurement system.

We should be doing all we can to get GNWT contracts to our local/northern small businesses. But the system seems to work against that premise. Do we design RFPs, contracts and tenders with a view to make them easily filled by a northern small business? It often seems we do not. So if government can't help our small businesses, we, as individuals, as northern consumers, can help our small businesses.

We can stop searching out products and buying them online. Instead, find a northern supplier. Search out local small businesses. Ask them to special order what you want or what you need. We must frequent and buy from our local small businesses to keep them thriving.

So, two days from now, on Saturday, you can show your support for NWT small businesses. Go shopping and shop small. Your neighbours and constituents will thank you for it. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION
25TH ANNIVERSARY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Recreation and Parks Association recognizes dedicated recreation professionals and volunteers in northern communities for their continuing efforts and achievements in promoting recreation and active living for all Northerners.

Well, I think it's about time that this territory and this government recognize the NWT Recreation and Parks Association. We've got to recognize this great association for 25 years of excellent service in the Northwest Territories. I was fortunate enough to attend part of the conference that they had a couple of weeks ago, earlier this month, and celebrate with them their 25 year anniversary.

Over the 25 years, they've dedicated themselves to training residents and professionals and their development as well. They've been strong advocates for health, recreation and wellness not

only in the Northwest Territories but they do sit on national boards and bring the northern voice to these national boards.

Some of these trainings include things like the HIGH FIVE training, Elders in Motion, on-the-land programs, the NWT conference and awards aquatics, something that's been brought up in the House many times to help develop lifesaving techniques in the cold water or when you're just out in the canoe or out swimming.

I just wanted to highlight a few of their achievements over the past year. The NWTRPA had 40 training events in 16 communities. Of those training events, 473 people participated in the training. In the Walk to Tuk Challenge, over 1,600 people participated. In their Get Active events, over 6,000 people participated. They also developed four new Elders in Motion programs and eight on-the-land programs are also started. All these are for residents who are youth, to adults, to elders.

I just want to highlight one other thing with the NWT Rec and Parks Association. With their Walk to Tuk Challenge, the NWTRPA was selected as one of six Play Exchange finalists chosen from over 400 submissions in Canada to possibly gain up to a million dollars to launch that challenge nationwide. That will be...

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MOSES: As I mentioned, the RPA's Walk to Tuk Challenge was selected as one of six Play Exchange finalists. It will be showcased on a national television show in January of 2015 where they will be eligible for up to \$1 million to launch the Walk to Tuk Challenge nationwide. That shows some really great leadership not only in the NWT but in the nation.

I'd like the Members of this Legislative Assembly to join me in thanking the board of directors, the volunteers, the hardworking staff and members for their dedication to a healthy lifestyle, a healthy wellness for people of the NWT and the residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CANADIANS FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An exciting movement is gaining momentum in Canada, growing from a seed planted right here in the Weledeh riding of Yellowknife. Weledeh and other territorial youth approached former Premier Stephen Kakfwi with a new vision for the relationship between Canada and First Nations, a chance to redefine the partnership between those

who settled here and those who welcomed them. This movement is called Canadians for a New Partnership.

Composed of exceptional leaders from across Canada, including former Prime Ministers and Premiers and obviously our own former Premier Kakfwi, national indigenous leaders, youth leaders, a former Supreme Court justice and one of Canada's most respected auditors general, it is built on the principle that indigenous and other Canadians can together build a strong society and economy that will benefit present and future generations. It is a principle shared by a growing number of other Canadians from all walks of life, including churches, businesses, academia and the public service.

The overriding mission is to build a better and stronger Canada, and many are signing their name to a declaration pledging to do so.

Canadians for a New Partnership profess that the relationship between First Nations and mainstream Canada has reached a critical turning point. Efforts to improve the health, education and welfare of First Nations people are destined for the same failures of the past, unless we build this new partnership in a renewed spirit of trust and optimism. They believe that we must embrace the notion of partnership fully and place it at the very heart of our endeavors and not be deluded about past challenges nor deterred by present circumstances.

The movement is shepherded by the accumulated wisdom of respected leaders and driven by energetic, resourceful youth – intergenerational, cross-cultural and borderless. It bases its work on the nation-building principles recommended by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples: mutual recognition, mutual respect, mutual responsibility, and cooperation and sharing. Members, all volunteers, are committed to crafting a new level of trust between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this government's support of these visionary Canadians and their efforts here and throughout Canada to press the reset button and begin building a new relationship based on trust and cooperation between all Canadians. Please join me in thanking them and wishing them the best of success. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONTRIBUTIONS OF BUSINESS SECTOR

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to finish off this week with words of encouragement mostly to our small business people in the Northwest Territories, especially to the ones in the Sahtu region.

We have small business owners in Deline who guide people for world-class fishing. We have people in Tulita work in the business to serve the oil and gas sector of the government. We have business people in Colville Lake, where the best furs in Canada are trapped. These young trappers are business people. We also have business people in Fort Good Hope looking after the community through the housing initiatives. Certainly in Norman Wells we have 38 members who belong to the Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce. Just in the community of Tulita and Norman Wells, through the district structure, we have 39 registered business owners.

One of the biggest business contributors to the Sahtu region has been the oil and gas exploration stages, with \$150 million invested into the Sahtu since 2011-12. That type of money had a lot of people thinking about what they can do for themselves.

Business people sometimes take a real hard kick in the face because the perception out there is they are just there for themselves. The business people are mom-and-dad shops, they are your brothers, your sisters, who go to work at six o'clock in the morning, Monday to Monday, weekends, they work hard, they pay the taxes, they contribute to the communities.

Even the oil companies, they have an obligation and they are working their best through our partnership, through the land claim. But even the oil companies, when we really need them, like Husky, when they were looking for that young girl in Tulita, Husky donated \$16,000 for fuel for the community. Nobody else stepped up, not even our government.

Business is good if you do it well. I want to say to all the business people, keep your dreams alive. Think for the people, and that's what our business people are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REPLACEMENT OF FORT SIMPSON HEALTH CENTRE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. The Fort Simpson Health Centre provides a range of health services to the residents of Nahendeh and the Deh Cho region. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the existing facility requires replacement to adequately provide these services. There is an engineering report by Public Works and Services that shows that this infrastructure is aging, has structural deficiencies and is over 30 years old.

Serious consideration for replacement was discussed by the Department of Health and Social Services. It was even unofficially slated to be replaced by a new facility...

---Technical difficulties

MR. MENICOCHÉ: ...means that it is classified as very important but is nowhere on the capital plan, even in the long term. The health centre staff and the residents of Nahendeh need answers. Where and when will this facility be built?

Quality health care services are being compromised by the lack of appropriate workspace with current health standards to deliver these services.

I urge the Minister of Health and Social Services to ensure that the Fort Simpson Health Centre replacement is funded and in the capital plan. The future health of our residents rests with the decision of this government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my statement is on Junior Kindergarten, much like my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen. Many people in the small communities, and in the larger communities, as well, feel that this government has rushed in to implement the Junior Kindergarten initiative without first reviewing the pilot projects that happened last year in the small communities. To make things worse, the student/teacher ratio was also changed just last year from 8 to 1 to now 16 to 1. We also have a number of challenges with lack of resources and funding. This year all that was given to the schools to implement this was \$15,000, and if you didn't implement it this year, next year you won't get anything. There is also a shortage of staff.

In Fort McPherson, for example, we have 14 junior kindergarten and 14 kindergarten students. Can you imagine taking on 28 small children in one classroom without any assistants?

There are also concerns of training in the field of early childhood development. Kindergarten teachers are not required to have early childhood development training.

I'll have questions for the Minister later today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome to our gallery, through you, Mr. Speaker, Meagan Wowk, ECE early childhood and kindergarten coordinator who is here with us today. Also, Dr. Magdalena Janus is also here with us.

She is the co-creator of the EDI program from the Offord Centre for Child Studies and is training the junior kindergarten teachers on how to use the Early Development Instrument.

There are also teachers that are here with us from each of the communities offering Junior Kindergarten, except from the South Slave DEC where all their JK teachers are already trained to use the EDI. The teachers who are here with us are as follows: first is Silene Hebert, Nancy Noseworthy, Wanda Quigg, Genive – aka "Genny" – Di Bernardo, Robin Hatfield, Matthew Baetz, Christal Doherty, Elise Decarie-Jean, Angela Young, Theresa Hartley, Jennifer Thompson, Georgina Emaghok, Julie Donahue, Jennifer Russell, Nora Sargent, Alanna Duffy, Sandra Ipana, Lafi Schuck, Teresite Rodnunsky, Clara Redvers, Alicia Camille, Arlene Cliff-Philips, Melanie Switzer, Christianne Bezanson, Emme Landry, Victoria Budgell and Crystal Cockney. Thank you for being here with us. Mahsi.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to use this opportunity to recognize a couple of hardworking Pages from Inuvik Twin Lakes. I've got Ms. Tyra Cockney-Goose, who's sitting over there by the deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, and I've got Julianne Chipesia. She's just on the other side of the glass there. I'd like to thank them and all the other Pages for all the work they do throughout our time in session.

I'd also like to recognize two residents of Inuvik. They are constituents of Boot Lake, but I got up first, so I get to recognize them. We have Ms. Angela Young and Sandra Ipana. Thank you very much. Welcome to the Assembly.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize today the chief coroner of the Northwest Territories, Ms. Cathy Menard. Also with Ms. Menard we have other coroners from Yellowknife, Garth Eggenberger, Wendy Eggenberger, Nicole Latour, Ruth McLean and Adelle Guigon. I'd like to say thank you very much for the hard work that you do in performing your duties as coroners here in the Northwest Territories.

I also want to recognize all the educators we have with us today in the gallery. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mr. Kevin Wallington for all the hard work he put in on developing the egg market here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd also like to recognize Ms. Nicole Latour, who is nominated to fill the office of the Chief Electoral Officer effective

November 1st. Welcome to the House, Ms. Latour. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize the educators up behind me and the group of coroners who are here and welcome them to the House. I'd like to specifically mention Mr. Garth Eggenberger, a resident of Frame Lake, and if I've missed any other residents of Frame Lake, my apologies, and welcome.

MS. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent, Mr. Kevin Wallington. As I spoke of small businesses, he is a small business operator, Polar Eggs. I'd also like to acknowledge a couple of other people in the gallery, Mr. Garth Eggenberger, a good friend, also a business owner; and former Hay River resident Nicole Latour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to recognize and welcome Ms. Angela Young and Sandra Ipana as well as all the other educators joining us today. Thank you for all the hard work in the communities. I'd also like to recognize Cathy Menard. I've had a lot of really good conversations with her since being in the job. As well, I'd like to recognize all the other coroners joining her here today. I'd just like to thank them for their dedication and their devotion to residents of the Northwest Territories. I'd also like to thank and recognize the Pages for all their hard work that they did for us Members this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to hear Ms. Nancy Noseworthy's name mentioned. She's a resident of Fort Simpson. Welcome to the gallery. I hope you're enjoying yourself here this week. Mahsi cho. Great to see you.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to welcome my constituents George Amok and I'm bad with names for the other two people who came from Tuk. I'm sorry, but welcome to the House. Angela, it's always good to see you here. Ms. Sandra Ipana too. When I was going to Grollier Hall in Inuvik, her and her husband, Roy, took really good care of us. I'll always remember that. Thank you so much for being here today. Educators, thank you for doing what you're doing for the youth of our territory. Thank you.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Mr. Blake.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 429-17(5): IMPLEMENTATION OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Last year the communities that took on Junior Kindergarten received about \$45,000 each to implement that. Why are the schools only getting \$15,000 today? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When we first initiated our discussion through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, the early learning was a priority as part of that discussion during that engagement. That's how we came about delivering Junior Kindergarten in 23 of our small communities. What the Member is referring to is \$15,000 in one-time funding for every classroom to purchase play-based programming, so we need some sort of equipment such as a new play base, developmentally appropriate JK equipment such as mats, water and sand tables and educational tools. But there are also other investments as well.

The proposed plan is \$360,000 for necessary infrastructure that we need to do some of this infrastructure into the school system and others as well. Those are just some of the areas that we will continue to invest in for our communities. Mahsi.

MR. BLAKE: I agree with the Minister that early childhood is needed. Many of the communities, as Mrs. Groenewegen mentioned, already do programming for the smaller children from three to five. In the smaller communities I can agree that these are needed. For example, in Tsiigehtchic, which was one of the pilot projects last year, we don't have daycares or early childhood programming in the communities, and that's where I believe that those communities should be implementing Junior Kindergarten.

Will the Minister ensure that his department re-evaluates this program in the coming year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. I'm glad the Member raised the profile where 10 communities are without licenced early childhood programming. It is true; we're providing options for the parents to have access to this different programming. There are also other programs such as Head Start and other early learning programming in our communities and in our schools.

At the same time, with any new programming, any new implementation or rolling out of various programs, there's always a re-evaluation of our situation a year after, two years.

This is a three-year phased approach and every year, obviously, we will be re-evaluating our stance, pros and cons, what we've experienced, where we can improve in certain areas. Those are discussions that we will have with the school boards, the DEC's and DEAs as well. Mahsi.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister what are the plans the department has for the impacts on other programming in the smaller communities. For example, in one of the communities they're expected to lose approximately seven jobs in the coming year. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Due to low enrollment in our school system, there's potential for cutback in those school contributions based on enrollment, the low enrollment. But we are mindful of that and this Junior Kindergarten is optional based. It's part-time or full-time; it's at the discretion of the school boards to decide on. I've provided the flexibility to move forward on this. This is an area that also compromises and works with early programming as well.

We'll continue to monitor and evaluate our programming that we've initiated this past August, late August, and then next year will be the second phase and then the third phase. So, we'll keep monitoring and make some changes along the way as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 430-17(5):
REPLACEMENT OF FORT SIMPSON
HEALTH CENTRE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about the need to replace the Fort Simpson Health Centre and the planning for that.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, given that the engineering report dictates that we need a replacement health centre facility, exactly what stages are the Department of Health and Social Services at with addressing this situation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned yesterday during Committee of the Whole, we're in the process of doing a planning study on that facility. We expect that to take another couple months, and from there that will help dictate how we move forward as far as

inserting this particular project in the capital planning process.

But I do agree with the Member; this is a facility that needs to be replaced, but we just need to figure out how it fits based on the planning study.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: The Minister was with me in Fort Simpson in the springtime. The residents wanted to be involved in the planning study, so I just wanted to assure that the Minister has heard that, that part of the instructions of the planning study is to engage in the community, the mayor, the Village of Fort Simpson, the LKFN and the Metis local there. Engage the community and show exactly what type of facility we are building. Even as far as the floor plan, we want to see what's in there. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We are using a template design for the majority of the building and the functions and services that are provided, but I have committed to having our director of infrastructure go to the community, and we were actually hoping that he could get in there in the fall. It hasn't worked out. We've had trouble scheduling with the community and the individuals who want to participate in those meetings. But based on conversations I did have with him yesterday, he is continuing to call the community, still trying to get in there. We're really hoping that he can get in there before Christmas, hopefully in November, to meet with the community, share the information we have and get input from them on some of the peripheral design and things that the community would like to see in there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly the community must be engaged, because in other communities like Hay River and Providence, as they were constructing their health facility, there were some things overlooked, and something simple, more in the case of Fort Liard, was missed. Those things cannot be missed, especially that we've got a facility that will be there for the long term. So that's part of the planning that community residents want to see the floor plan, and I think the Minister indicated in Committee of the Whole was a level B/C facility and we want to know exactly what that is.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I indicated, I agree with the Member that it's important for us to get in there and have those conversations, and obviously, input from the community and the region is critical and important. I could give an example of where that really benefited was actually in Fort Providence in the discussions with the community and the professionals in that community. It actually resulted in a holding room, a body – I hate the term – but, a body holding room, a morgue, of sorts, being included in that facility, which was something the community really wanted to see.

So, I agree that conversations are important. We'll do that. When the staff member goes down to Fort Simpson, we'll make sure that he brings an explanation as well as some general overviews of what a B/C facility is in the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the community is awaiting those engagements.

Just for clarity and comparison towards Fort Providence, was Fort Providence a level B/C facility as well?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The facility in Providence is a community-based facility, where the one in Fort Simpson is a slightly larger B/C facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 431-17(5):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support of the business people in the Sahtu, I want to ask the Minister of ITI, given that we have we have a smorgasbord of business people in the Sahtu, some with the traditional economy, some with the wage economy, and in light of the slowdown of the oil and gas, because that's been the economic driver for the past couple of years of committing and spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the Sahtu, has this department taken on the task of doing sort of a lessons learned from this type of activity, because we're hoping that the companies will be coming back but also that the traditional economy is quite strong and we want to continue that.

Is there some type of synopsis, conference that maybe we can look at in the Sahtu that maybe we can get together as a region to talk about lessons learned in regards to doing business in the North?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there is a conference that is being planned or coordinated in the region, and that's something that we look forward to certainly supporting. The department does have a number of business supports in place for businesses not only in the Sahtu but around the territory. With the decline in activity in the area this coming winter, things are going to be difficult for some businesses; we understand that. We want to try to continue to work with businesses in the Sahtu to ensure that they have the support necessary to see themselves through what could be a difficult winter, and we will continue to do that. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, any type of business in the Northwest Territories, there are some very good, hardworking business people, and sometimes it makes it very difficult for them to thrive and have growth in the Northwest Territories. I talk about the various businesses such as here and around the outlying area where we had the outfitters business. Because of the decline of the caribou due to a number of factors related to the mining, to transportation, to hunting of bison, the outfitters came and asked the government to have a look at some kind of consideration to offset it because their business isn't thriving anymore. That's what I am looking at, some type of general consideration given by this government for businesses that do very well, and due to the unexpected, beyond our control, the oil companies do not come back, just as the outfitters in the Yellowknife area are asking for.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I think what the Member is getting to really highlights the work that went into the Economic Opportunities Strategy and the fact that as a government we have to diversify our economy, we have to have those business-type supports in all sectors of our economy. You'll see through the EOS, we are looking at different aspects, agriculture, tourism, the fishing industry, just to name a few and that's really... We have to be putting a focus on that because resource development in a lot of ways is cyclical, it is up and down, and we need to ensure that we have those supports in place for all sectors of our economy.

Between last year and this year we are putting close to \$4 million, or just over \$4 million into the EOS in the various recommendations contained in that report and in our implementation plan. So we're hopeful that this is going to have an impact on businesses not only in the Sahtu but around the Northwest Territories in helping them get the leg up that they need to be successful. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: In dealing with the small business people in the Sahtu, there are figures here that I have that show the income support rates have fallen by 50 percent in Tulita in 2012 and 20 percent in Norman Wells. It's because of these small business people that hire people in our communities to work because of the oil and gas exploration.

I want to ask the Minister, given these kinds of stats and figures that we have produced by the government, are there opportunities for the business people in the Sahtu so that they can continue to keep their businesses alive, sort of have it on the health respirator so that their business can stay alive other than to go bankrupt.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I know business people around the Northwest Territories are very smart when it comes to trying to make ends meet and survive what is a bit of a downturn. We're not going

to see the millions and millions of dollars being spent in the Sahtu as we've seen in previous seasons gone past. That is taking a bit of a hiatus here, so we are going to need folks to ensure that they're looking after that bottom line, they're ensuring that they are going to be able to survive until the activity comes back, and it's just not going to be the extent that it was last winter. Good businesses and good business people find a way to survive the downturns, and we're hopeful that they will survive this downturn.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned about a planned conference in the Sahtu, and I would ask the Minister if he would make a commitment, depending on his time availability, to come into the Sahtu and speak to the people in the Sahtu for some level of assurance and confidence, working with the Sahtu people through these troubled times so that we can look forward to better times.

Would the Minister make a commitment, given his time availability, to come to the Sahtu to attend to us and work with us during the conference?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I just had a similar opportunity in the Deh Cho. I was down in Fort Simpson speaking to the Chamber of Commerce in Fort Simpson. Any opportunity I get to speak to business people, chamber of commerce across the Northwest Territories, whether it's in Norman Wells or Hay River, Inuvik or Fort Simpson, I'll be there. If there is a conference and my availability is there, I'll be able to come and speak.

I still am very optimistic about the future in the central Mackenzie Valley and the Member's riding about all the opportunity that is there, and I think some brighter days are ahead of us.

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

QUESTION 432-17(5):
IMPLEMENTATION OF
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for Minister Lafferty, ECE. The Minister has often said that there are no complaints regarding the implementation of Junior Kindergarten in the Northwest Territories. In contrast to this, I am told that ECE staff are not allowed to take complaints about Junior Kindergarten and that there are indeed serious issues that need to be addressed and are looking for a responsible party. Issues raised by my colleague from Mackenzie Delta certainly seem to confirm this disconnect.

Does the Minister have a clear process for registering and responding to complaints or

concerns arising out of the rushed implementation of Junior Kindergarten in the 23 participating schools this fall with the threat of losing \$15,000 if they didn't do it this year?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. What I said was that there are no major issues or complaints brought to our attention. With any rollout of various programs or projects in the communities, there is always room for improvement. Those are just some of the areas that come into play where teachers ask certain questions about the JK delivery or an avenue that they can turn to. There is ongoing communication dialogue between my department, DEAs and DECAs and, also, working with various organizations that are currently delivering the Junior Kindergarten program. I'm a firm believer that there needs to be an open communication dialogue. If there is room for improvement, I would like to hear about it and how we can improve programming for the second phase and third phase and so forth.

MR. BROMLEY: I would suggest that these complaints go way beyond what the Minister is suggesting how we can improve the program. These are issues with the current implementation. We have seen the public consultative process design for the feedback on the devolution process. Basically, go to our website and send us a note.

What is the process in place for ECE to gather, catalogue and respond to complaints from early childhood education workers and the public about start-up and emerging problems with Junior Kindergarten in the NWT, or do we not have one?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. When we first rolled out the JK a couple of months ago, we knew that there needs to be a response team. We did establish a Junior Kindergarten response team made up of regional representatives and also from ECE perspectives. So they are the ones who are giving us advice, suggestions and making some changes along the way. Not only that, from the general public, the professionals, the teachers, the parents, there is also a hotline within my department that we've established so we can hear the general public's perspective on delivery of the Junior Kindergarten in the 23 communities, the regional perspective and, also, a Yellowknife three-phased approach. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. From what I hear anecdotally from constituents and those involved, there is a chill in the ranks of ECE surrounding any acknowledgements of difficulty with the implementation of this program, and this goes for the regions.

What direction has the Minister and his senior staff given to regional staff on procedures for dealing

with complaints about Junior Kindergarten from ECE workers and the public?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. There are various avenues. As I stated, there is a hotline on the website and also on the phone and the response team that consists of the regional representatives from my Department of Education, Culture and Employment to bring any concerns, to bring any ideas on how to deliver this particular program. So any other forms of communication, there's always, as I stated before, room for improvement, how we can best communicate to the parents, to the teachers, to the children that we are teaching. So we're doing what we can to be transparent and be accountable for the best delivery of this program. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly this doesn't fit with what I'm hearing. In the real world, the introduction of a large, complex program such as JK would be expected to generate some complaints, both with a philosophy of the program's mechanics of its implementation.

Does the Minister still insist that there have been zero complaints from the implementation of Junior Kindergarten across the NWT, with the exception of that raised by the Member from Mackenzie Delta, or if not, what are some of the complaints and how have they been dealt with? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. As I stated, there is no major issue or complaint about the delivery of Junior Kindergarten in 23 of our smaller or remote communities. There's been some questions here and there, more clarification from the teachers that are teaching our Junior Kindergarten. They are being trained.

So, as I stated before, there hasn't been much of a major issue or complaint brought to my attention as Minister responsible. But with any issues or concerns that are brought forward by the teachers or the principals or the organizations, we follow up with them, and I can provide some of the detailed information that we've heard to the Members as well. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 433-17(5):
FUNDING FOR SPORTS AND
RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement earlier today, I talked about a non-government organization doing really great work on behalf of the government for residents of the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs today, how does this government fund certain types

of sports organizations, such as the NWT Rec and Parks Association, Sport North, all these organizations that do really good work in promoting health and wellness in the Northwest Territories.

How is funding allocated to these sport organizations through this government? Thank you

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding is distributed by the NWT Sport and Rec Council based on an application process. This is approved by the Minister. So that's how all the organizations get their funding through the Sport and Rec Council. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Since it's been an application-based request for funding, I know when we go through this budget process, whether it's O and M, or the O and M budget especially, a lot of our departments will put in a forced growth aspect to the department's getting their funding, but I'm not too sure if that happens at the NGO level, especially when we're giving funding through the Sport and Rec Council.

I'd like to ask the Minister, is forced growth, such as increased wages, increased costs to travel to the communities, taken into consideration and is that affected into the year-to-year operations and budgets of these organizations. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: These organizations submit budgets and the funding is application-based. So we assume that they're calculating their own forced growth as part of their application. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I know that every year through the SRC, they have a certain amount of budgets. So they always look at if they won't get the revenues that they usually do, then they'll have to be looking at possibly cutting down programs or services in other areas.

Would the Minister or the department look at possibly subsidizing, should the revenues be lower, some of these programs so they can continue? Is that something the department has looked at, some type of subsidy moving forward, should revenues within the SRC not reach what they were in the previous year? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: A lot of the funding that we approve and the Sport and Rec Council distributes to the organizations is dependent on the lottery monies that we receive with all our terminals across the Northwest Territories. They'll be made aware that if the lottery monies are down and our revenue is down, then that may affect their application. I'm sure many of them take into consideration the fact that our revenues are down and they may not get exactly what they got last

year. But we try to make every effort to ensure that all these programs are funded and that they're able to deliver the programs to the folks on the front line. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister McLeod. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has done a lot of work in the area of prevention and promotion and health and wellness awareness.

Has the Department of MACA looked at partnering with other departments, such as ECE or Health and Social Services, to do a collaborative effort should some of these fundings be not as high as they used to be, but also having a more collaborative effort in terms of doing healthy eating, active living and putting them all together and that way they can share the ultimate benefit in terms of education awareness? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. We are partners with ECE and Health and Social Services through the Healthy Choices initiative and some of the programs that we work with through the Active After School Program and we have a food program that's pretty well fully subscribed to. I think just about every community and school in the Northwest Territories receives money, except one, through the Active After School Program. So we work with our colleagues over at ECE and Health and Social Services to try and access as much money as we can that we pass on to communities to deliver all the important programs that they run in small communities. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 434-17(5):
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
REGULATIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. I want to mention a couple of things to set the background here.

Our Occupational Health and Safety Regulations are over 22 years old and some four years ago, in September of 2010, the WSCC Safety Advisory Committee started to do revisions on these very outdated Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. These regulations govern workers everywhere in the NWT, and after a lot of work, an initial draft was completed and distributed for consultation and there was a huge outcry across the territory, particularly industry and especially the construction industry. So they had further consultations. They did, I think, two or three more drafts and then the Safety Advisory Committee determined that the regulations were complete and

they were sent to the Minister for approval. That was in January of 2012, literally years ago.

My first question to the Minister: What is the reason that we are still using 22-year-old regulations when we've had a new set of regulations ready for almost three years? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister responsible, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member is correct about the Safety Advisory Committee did some work in this area and it is almost 22 years that we haven't made any changes. There have been several attempts to update this particular act, the regulations, but they were unsuccessful over the past nine years.

What's happening now is that recommendations came forward and there should be more engagement, consultation with the general public, the industries and various organizations representative of industries, businesses, governments and unions. So that did occur and now the recommendations are within my office as well.

We just want to make sure that we cover all areas and listen to various parties. There have been pros and cons of these particular regulations. It's part of a large document, quite a bit of change that is coming, so we just want to make sure that we cover all grounds. We'd like to sign off during the life of this Assembly. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. He said that there were some attempts that were unsuccessful, but there was a very successful attempt and the Minister received the results of that successful attempt in January of 2012.

Last year, on February 26th, in 2013, in answer to my questions in the House, the Minister advised me that the report was about to be reviewed by the WSCC Board of Governors, and that then the Minister and the Minister responsible for WSCC in Nunavut were going to look at the report, and there would then be some decision, from what I gathered.

I'd like to ask the Minister, what were the results of those meetings held almost two years ago. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As I stated, with a large file such as this, we're getting a lot of feedback from various parties and we're followed up with those concerns or issues brought to our attention. There are some general ideas of where we should be focusing on.

All the great work that the Safety Advisory Committee recommended to my office, we are building on that, and again, we want to deliver that during the life of this Assembly, send out the final agreement and start implementing it. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, there was huge consultation done prior to 2012 when the Safety Advisory Committee had their draft out, their re-draft and their third re-draft. So I really don't understand what the Minister expects to learn by consulting again.

Since January 2012 to now, October 2014, there's been ample time to do the consultation that he's referencing. There's been ample time to talk to the people in the industry and to get their concerns and hear them and deal with them.

So I'd like to know from the Minister, what is he expecting to learn by now doing further consultation? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We have done our consultation or engagement part of the process. We're following through with what's been brought to our attention, whether it be a recommendation from various organizations. Not everybody is in agreement or there are pros and cons of particular regulations coming forward, so we want to make sure that it is the right product. It's a large document for the whole Northwest Territories and along with Nunavut; we still have to work with Nunavut on this particular piece of work. But then again, it will be delivered during the life of this Assembly and I'm willing to sign off before this term ends. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister. I know it's a large document; I've looked at it. I would like to know from the Minister, if he's talking about consultation and he's talking about making sure that everybody likes the document – there was huge debate the first time this came out – so who is the Minister going to be consulting with? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The recommendation is with me, as the Minister responsible, and there have been various discussions that took place for over a year, since 2011 until today, even the latest there has been some correspondence that came to my attention that I need to follow up. There are some legality and network issues that we need to deal with.

Again, it is a large file, so we want to have the best product for the whole Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Again, I have to emphasize that during the life of this Assembly, we will be delivering and signing off this document. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 435-17(5):
CONVENTION BUREAU INITIATIVE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

I understand the conference bureau initiative is already underway. Can the Minister describe what the conference bureau hopes to achieve? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Nadli. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was part of our Economic Opportunities Strategy. Stemming from that, it's an office that is set up in the Northwest Territories Tourism Marketing Destination Market Agency here in the Northwest Territories. Its goal and purpose is to attract people and meetings to the Northwest Territories, and I understand they have had some early success in trying to attract meetings and conventions here to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Can the Minister discuss any early results so far? He has indicated that they are tracking visitor information. Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. I know they are in discussion with a large national organization on hosting a conference here next year in the Northwest Territories. Because we have a dedicated person in that position, as well, they are familiarizing themselves with services and opportunities around the Northwest Territories. It isn't just a Yellowknife Convention Bureau it is a Northwest Territories Convention Bureau and if something fits in a community, if a community can host a convention or a group of business leaders or a meeting, certainly those things will be looked at. We believe very highly that this bureau is going to be very successful in attracting conventions and visitors to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: The Minister has indicated that one of the functions of the conference bureau is to track visitor information but at the same time ensure that there is indeed a list of meeting places that are quite possible that could be made for references for people that come up north.

Is the Minister willing to direct the conference bureau to consider adding some of the facilities in small communities, such as the Sandy Creek Lodge, to an inventory of venues for meetings and events? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, that is part of the role and the function of the Convention Bureau, is to identify lodges or places that could host meetings and conventions, and I would give the Sandy Creek Lodge a ringing endorsement. I know we've had meetings there ourselves and it certainly is a very nice facility and a facility that could host a

meeting of a substantial size on the Hay River Reserve. It's something I am sure the Convention Bureau is aware of, but if they are not aware of it yet, they will be after today. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his reply.

What assistance is available to the owners and operators of facilities in our communities to successfully host conferences and other events, for example, hospitality training, facility maintenance and administrative needs? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, through the EOS, we have identified some money for training, and in the case of Sandy Creek Lodge on the Hay River Reserve, I will go back to the department and see if we can get some staff to contact the reserve and the folks that are operating the lodge to see where it is we can best help them and we'll try to get them the help that they need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Ramsay. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 436-17(5):
COMMERCIAL FISHERY SUPPORTS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement about the important sector of fishery in the Hay River area, I will have questions for the Minister of ITI. Typically we have a fall session for the NWT Fishermen's Federation. I would like to get an update on the infrastructure program that we are looking to do to upgrade the fish plant in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Bouchard. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We really believe strongly that we can reinvigorate the fishing industry on Great Slave Lake. Through the Economic Opportunities Strategy we have identified \$1.5 million to look at an export grade fish plant, a new fish plant in Hay River and something that we continue to move forward with, although \$1.5 million won't get us to where we need to go. We are going to need partners. We are currently in discussions with some potential partners on seeing that new fish plant built in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Also in my statement I talked about training and convincing people to go back into this industry.

What can the Minister indicate to me that they have done as far as business opportunities and business training that would encourage people to get back into the industry? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We have a number of programs through ITI that are going to help in attracting new fishers to the industry and, as well, helping those that are already in the industry. We have a Fish Harvesters Support Program, we have a Commercial Fish Harvesters Support Program, we have a Fish Harvesters Expansion Program, we have a Fish Harvesters New Entrants Support Program and also some core funding available to existing fishermen on Great Slave Lake. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that has always been there is the selling and marketing of the fish. We know that there is an opportunity, maybe, in Alberta.

Has the department looked at this opportunity to market NWT fish in Alberta now that they are closing down some of their fishery?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, we are looking at the market, both here domestically in the Northwest Territories and the export market. We have a marketing subsidy that we have supplied to fisher people here in the Northwest Territories and it is certainly something that we will continue to explore with the events in Alberta. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. With that opportunity in Alberta, has the department looked into and discussed with the Alberta fisheries the opportunity that we could exchange some information, exchange opportunities, whether it's training or maybe encouraging some people to come up here to maybe fulfill some of the quota to market NWT fish? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, our goal is to develop the commercial fishery on Great Slave Lake, and if we can't do that within our borders with the fisher people that we have here in the Northwest Territories, certainly we have to look outside of our borders for other opportunities to attract fisher people to come to the Northwest Territories. That is really how the industry got started in the first place, was folks coming to Great Slave Lake and fishing Great Slave Lake that weren't from the Northwest Territories, and that's something that we currently are exploring. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Ramsay. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 437-17(5):
HOUSING CORPORATION
UTILITY TRACKING SYSTEM

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the current landscape of increased costs of electricity for all, it is comforting to know that the NWT Housing Corporation recently launched a new utility tracking system that captures utility

consumption for all our Housing Corporation assets. Knowing that the current NWT Housing Corporation clients pay a substantially reduced rate for power, and I believe it's around nine cents and the taxpayer is subsidizing the remainder, it is within this context that I wish to address the Minister responsible.

We know with this new utility tracking system we are now able to see trends in power consumption within Housing Corporation assets.

Can the Minister indicate to the House what are some of these preliminary findings? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Dolynny. Minister responsible for NWT Housing, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We started tracking the utility consumption at the unit level in April of this year. We capture the information for electricity, water and municipal services and usage of electricity, water, municipal services and heating fuel. We're still early in the process. We just had an opportunity to do it through the spring and summer, so it's not going to give us very accurate data right now. As we go into the winter season and the usage picks up, then I think after about a year we should have some pretty solid baseline data and see what the trends are, and then we'd be able to make some adjustments.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's response to that, and it is an exciting time. I guess the overarching question is how will this new data be shared publicly?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We will include this information in our annual report and then in our performance measures as we publish this part of the business plans. We are also happy to make this information available on our website. Once we start gathering a bit more solid baseline data, we will put that up on our website as well.

MR. DOLYNNY: Keeping confidentiality in mind here and knowing full well that some of this information will be in real time here, will users know where they stand on usage versus other corporation clients? Again, keeping confidentiality in mind, will someone be able to pull up the information and compare them versus what the average is, let's say, in that LHO area?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The public housing clients pay a portion of their electricity bill, and I think the Member pointed out before, it's nine cents a kilowatt hour, so they'd be aware of the usage through their monthly bill. For heating fuel and water, we don't currently report usage back to individual clients. Once we have the baseline data over a one-year period, we can look at how we can report the usage back to the clients. We have to ensure that it's not administratively burdensome to the LHOs, but once we start gathering more baseline data, then we'll look at our options of

providing this information back to the individual clients.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing this new information might reveal high housing corporation users of heavily subsidized power, what safeguards, actions or practices will the NWT Housing Corporation use to mitigate these high users? Will the Housing Corporation initiate any form of capping of power subsidies to these potential high users in the future?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Again, because we're early in this and we need some longer term baseline information to better identify the high users, I think we'll be able to do that, and once we all identify the high users, we can work with the local housing authorities to work with those particular clients to make them aware of the usage. This will also help us in our energy retrofits. If we find a unit in a community is costing us a lot more, depending on the family size, the unit size, then that would be a prime candidate for some of our major modernization and improvement programs. We'll be using all that information. But at the end of the day, we will work with the clients that we identify to see if there are ways that they could cut back on the usage.

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

QUESTION 438-17(5):
IMPLEMENTATION OF
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment today. With all due respect to the Minister and the good intentions of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment with respect to Junior Kindergarten as a response to the need for more emphasis on early childhood development, I believe that the rollout and the planning and the way that this is being implemented is not right. There are so many downfalls. There are so many negative repercussions in the larger centres where we already have a very good focus on early childhood development.

I am very frustrated about this, and I'd like to ask the Minister how the department can add what is essentially another class to the public school system without providing the additional funding to cover the cost of that service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Part of the Junior Kindergarten, obviously, is to roll out the Junior Kindergarten in all 33

communities once it is all a phase three approach. Right now, we're delivering 23 of 33 communities. When we talk about early childhood development, we want to give options to the parents. There has been great work that is early learning programming in Hay River. I'm fully aware of that, and we are working with that, as well, but we have to keep in mind that some of those programs in the communities are fee for service, and this Junior Kindergarten, obviously, is a great advantage for the parents that cannot afford the JK early learning. This is an option, whether it be part time or full time at the community level. Over a year period in 23 communities we will be re-evaluating where we stand and then continue on with regional delivery of JK and, also, the third phase as well.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: This is a perfect example of the government delivering an initiative that they think is good in a very wide broadcast area without the thinking and without the rationalization and the figuring out what the ripple effect is. There's no sense in re-evaluating Junior Kindergarten in Hay River after you have gutted Aboriginal Head Start, Treehouse, Growing Together, French preschool, the Hay River Cooperative Playschool, which has trained professionals that have been in those jobs for many years. It's an institution in our community. The community donates \$50,000 a year to the Hay River Cooperative Playschool. This is volunteerism. This is an NGO. This is a place with trained workers. There's no sense in re-evaluating after you've gutted the private sector and the NGO sector by taking all the four-year-olds out of the program.

Why can't we take the resources and target it at the small communities that have nothing in the community that actually have the indications and the proof that early childhood development would actually benefit those folks? Why can't we direct the resources in that direction? Why do we, as a government, have to do it and broadcast it in such a way as to actually do more harm than good in the regional centres? What option does our DEA have to opt out of implementing Junior Kindergarten?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: On May 23rd I met with the DEA chairs, and this particular subject came up. Due to the fact that I've listened to the DEA chairs and superintendents, who were part of the discussion, as well, that I should give some flexibility, which I have. Whether it be part time or full time, I gave them the flexibility. The DEAs can decide on that; not only that, the other areas, if it's going to be full-time, part-time or optional programming. We gave them the option to deliver this into the communities. That's the reason why we have 23 communities.

I'm the Minister responsible for the whole Northwest Territories. This particular program benefits all communities and it is optional for the parents to

take on this program if they wish. As I stated before, not every parent can afford early learning such as the Junior Kindergarten preschool program. There are very successful programs. I clearly hear the Member referring to Aboriginal Head Start and other programs. We are not gutting them. We are working with them. We are...how can we improve in those areas.

Again, JK is optional. It's a program that will be delivered right now in 23 communities and on to regional the following year, the second phase.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I would like to refute the Minister's assertion that this is beneficial to all communities. I just listed that when you take the four-year-olds out of all these other programs that are existing and have existed for many years with very good success, you can't do it in the name of... and not all parents can afford early childhood development. There is no fee for service. There's parents' cooperative. There's volunteerism that goes into the Hay River Cooperative Playschool. Parents are involved. That's a good thing. The Treehouse, the parents are involved. The Growing Together, the parents come with the children. That's a good thing. There is no fee for service on any of these early...Aboriginal Head Start. That's not a daycare, per se. Anyways, I would like to counteract what the Minister said about that.

If this is about getting early childhood development to people who can't afford it, then subsidize the few people who do want it and it is not optional. If you're saying that Junior Kindergarten is going to be there regardless, it's optional for the people to uptake, but it's not optional for the DEA to implement it. So, I don't know.

At our DEA meeting we talked about laying down on the road and I think we might end up having to do this on this, and I think the DEA should tell the department, in no uncertain terms, you're not going to gut and you're not going to ruin what we already have going in our community. Maybe there's a few parents that go like, hey, great, my four-year-old is in school all day, I don't need to pay for daycare, I'd say it's very, very few. I don't think it's beneficial to Hay River, and like I said, we may lay down on the road. What's going to happen to us when we do that? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. That's the very reason we're working with the South Slave Education Council. We met with them two weekends ago, myself and Minister Beaulieu, because we talked about PWS infrastructure-wise and as Minister responsible for Education. We've met with the South Slave, all the board chairs, and they've raised their concerns as well. I've made a commitment to work with them to deliver this particular second-phased approach, how can we best deliver that. We've heard their concerns.

So, again, we're at the stage where 23 communities are currently delivering it. We're into two months already, and again, by next year we should have a clear idea where we stand on that from our experience from delivering of the JK to 23 communities. But we have to keep in mind that my department is working very closely with the DEAs, DECs all across the Northwest Territories. More specifically now with the South Slave region, with the board chairs and also the superintendents. Mahsi.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is bound and determined, regardless of the facts, to proceed with implementing Junior Kindergarten in all communities. Please reconsider, please take those resources and direct them to where there are no options for early childhood development in some of the smaller communities, and please don't with your wide-sweeping approach, ruin a good thing that's going on in the larger and the regional centres.

Please, would the Minister tell me how he expects the larger schools and the larger communities, and even in the smaller communities, according to my colleague from the Mackenzie Delta, how do you expect the schools and the DEAs to do this with no additional resources? I mean, providing money for a water-table and a sand-table, I'm sorry, it's not going to cut it. It takes people and it takes specifically specialized, educated people to deliver the Junior Kindergarten program. That's not going to work. It's going to cost a lot of money and it's going to do a lot of harm. I'd like to ask the Minister, how does he expect the DEAs to do more with less. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Again, this Junior Kindergarten has been a topic of discussion for a number of years, even before I got on board as Education Minister in 2007. Through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and also earlier engagement, that the pre-learning should be first and foremost a priority of this government. That's why we laid down the early childhood development, the overall framework, the 10-year agreement. So this is an area that I feel will benefit the communities and the 23 communities that we service. We have the teachers here today being trained on the EDI, we have teachers that went through training programs last spring and last fall and it will continue with regional teachers as well.

So when it comes to the second phase for regional centres, such as Hay River, we need to seriously look at how we deliver JK in the 23 communities and what have we learned, the experience. At that time we may be in a different financial position, we don't know at this point today. So we'll continue to press that forward. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 439-17(5):
IMPLEMENTATION OF
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to ask a question here today. I'm going to follow up on similar questions and not let the Minister of Education off the hook. I think my MLA colleague Mrs. Groenewegen is quite right. I mean, we were there to solve the problem and, as such, it was things about providing child care support for families in small communities and we've done completely the opposite, we've made a mess.

In short, no one is against the concept of Junior Kindergarten, but now we have day homes at risk. The Minister is poaching one-third of their students; he's turning Aboriginal Head Start into a mess.

So with all these little policy changes he's done, and he's ignored a duly appropriate motion passed in this Assembly to stop what he's doing, what is his intent to do for the day homes that will be losing one-third of their children, which is in fact one-third of their stream? He's going to collapse, singlehandedly collapse the daycare system in every large community. What is he going to do?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I've already answered this a couple of sessions ago, that my department is working very closely with organizations, whether they be early learning, the daycares, all those organizations that could be potentially impacted, whether it be positive or negative. We are, as a department, and I've instructed my department to work very closely with them, all over the Northwest Territories, not just Yellowknife and Hay River and the larger centres but all communities. We will continue to do that, and if there are any ripple effects, then my department will follow through immediately. So, we are closely monitoring it. We're working diligently with the organizations as well. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, this Minister has scuttled the daycare ship and he's now coming up with policy about not shooting holes. He's singlehandedly ruined the daycare system out there and is now saying, oh well, we'll develop policy when we come across that bridge. This Minister should be proud that he's going to go down in history as the person who has ruined daycare in the Northwest Territories.

With all of these changes, wouldn't you have thought it would have made a lot more sense to develop policy to know what types of bridges we're

going to cross before we blow them up and ask ourselves, geez, how do we get across now?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. When it comes to whether it be family day homes, the daycares, we've made some changes already. There's been some recommendations brought to our attention by those operators and we've listened to the operators, we've heard their concerns, we've made some changes. From here until we deliver to all the communities, we're going to make those changes along the way. We have done so and we will continue to do so. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister introduced this. Let's find out what changes he's referring to, because the last public meeting the daycare folks went to the department told them to suck it up and find a way. So, what are those changes?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. I don't think that's an appropriate word to say in this House, but I'll answer some of the questions. Family day home regulations to allow family day homes to have more flexibility of children aged two to five, so that's the changes we've made based on the recommendations brought to my attention. Along with other recommendations brought to my attention, we will make some changes as well.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll concede I probably could have put that a little nicer, but that's the truth and the public wants to hear the truth. Sometimes they want to hear it exactly for what it means.

The last question is: When you've got deputy ministers telling these day home operators that even though you'll lose one-third of your income, it's up to you to start budgeting better, it's time for you to accept the fact that the loss is yours and you need to start accepting this, these are quotes from family people who went to your meeting organized by you.

Does the Minister stand by that policy and he has not delivered a single iota of information, vision or fact on how we're going to solve this problem? Does the Minister stand with that position?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. I stand by how we can work closely with the daycare operators, the preschool operators, all of those operators in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Time for oral question period has expired.

Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of our current and soon to be former Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. David Brock.

---Applause

Mr. Brock has served as the Chief Electoral Officer from the 2011 General Election, which resulted in each of our elections here in this House, and he must have done a good job.

---Laughter

He was also the secretary in the most recent Electoral Boundaries Commission and provided expert and balanced advice to both the commission, to Caucus as a whole, and has appeared before this House and standing committees many times during his term, and he has always fulfilled his duties with professionalism. The objective and wisdom required is expected of an officer such as this.

Members, please express our gratitude to Mr. Brock for his public service and wish him well in his future endeavors. Thank you, Mr. Brock.

---Applause

Also with Mr. Brock in the House today we have Ms. Nicole Latour, who will be nominated to fill the office of Chief Electoral Officer later today. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6 on our orders of the day, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I use the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cindy Dolynny in our gallery here today. She's sitting next to a particularly friendly person we all know very well today. I'm not allowed recognize them in particular, but that said, I'd like to recognize Mrs. Dolynny in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my constituency assistant. No, it's not Wendy; it's Leah Ipana, my constituency assistant. Welcome, Leah. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 143-17(5):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 2013-2014 –
SECTIONS I, II, III AND IV

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Public Accounts 2013-2014."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramsay.

TABLED DOCUMENT 144-17(5):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CORONER
SERVICE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Northwest Territories Coroner Service 2013 Annual Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Bromley.

TABLED DOCUMENT 145-17(5):
LETTER FROM ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO WEK'EEZHII LAND AND
WATER BOARD REGARDING
EKATI RECLAMATION SECURITY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter from ENR to the chair of the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board, entitled "Response to Board Requests for Comments – Ekati Reclamation Security." Mahsi.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 146-17(5):
PHOTOGRAPHS OF TULITA HEALTH CENTRE

TABLED DOCUMENT 147-17(5):
ARTICLE TITLED "OIL AND GAS:
CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER LINKED TO
FAULTY WELLS, NOT FRACKING – STUDY"

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table photographs of the Tulita health facility showing some mousetraps and other things of interest.

I would also like to table a document, called "Oil and Gas: Contaminated Drinking Water Linked to Faulty Wells, Not Fracking."

TABLED DOCUMENT 148-17(5):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CONFLICT OF
INTEREST COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD FROM
1 DECEMBER 2013 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Pursuant to Section 99 of the Legislative Assembly

and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the 2013 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly for the Period of December 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014, of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Moses.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 33:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITES ACT, NO. 2

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 27, 2014, I will move that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 17, motions. Mr. Blake.

Motions

MOTION 25-17(5):
APPOINTMENT OF
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: WHEREAS the Elections and Plebiscites Act provides for the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer who has the responsibility to exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of an election and enforce, on the part of all election officers, fairness, impartiality and compliance with the Elections and Plebiscites Act;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that this Legislative Assembly, by virtue of Section 5 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act, recommends to the Commissioner the appointment of Ms. Nicole Latour of Yellowknife as Chief Electoral Officer for the Northwest Territories for a term of four years commencing November 1, 2014.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. David Brock for all his time and effort. It was a pleasure working with him and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

I would also like to thank Ms. Nicole Latour and I look forward to working with her in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take a second to thank David Brock for his service to the House and to the residents of the Northwest Territories. He is a consummate professional. I wish him well in his future endeavours, and I am very happy to see a local woman become the new Chief Electoral Officer here in the Northwest Territories, a proud moment for our territory and a proud moment for Ms. Latour.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize and thank Mr. David Brock for his hard work, his expertise and commitment to equality and fairness in this House as well as his professionalism and also giving sound direction to the way we run business here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours, and I would like to welcome Nicole Latour and I look forward to working with you in the years to come. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in the chorus of thanking Mr. Brock for his service. I thoroughly enjoyed working with him. I found him to be the consummate professional, and he eventually made life easier during the last election when we had the issues that we had to deal with. So, thank you, Mr. Brock, for your service and best wishes on whatever your next endeavours are, and I would like to welcome Ms. Latour to the position. It's great to have another female in a leadership position. We need lots more. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to use the occasion to wish Mr. Brock well and certainly on his journey that he will be taking. His next steps are unknown to most of us. So let me just say that wherever you go, I am sure you will do a fine job as well.

Mr. Speaker, this also gives me the occasion to welcome Ms. Nicole Latour. Many of us have known her for many years. We have known what great work she did here at the Legislature but we also know her reputation as being a very tough and hard, straight shooter, as she is well known as. If you have ever dealt with Ms. Latour, you will know she's tough. So, many of us look forward to dealing with her in the future.

It also gives me great pride that, as MLA Bisaro just pointed out, we now have yet another female in a leadership role. What a fantastic milestone we have crossed. I think it is a great thing that it continues; it is something that needs to be certainly recognized. But something that hasn't been said here today, to my knowledge, is Ms. Latour is now, I believe, the

first Aboriginal woman to take this type of leadership role in Canada. I think that is a special distinction that we should honour. So, Mr. Speaker, let it not be the last of many types of appointments like this. I certainly hope it is sort of the kicking of the doors of the new way of doing business. Thank you very much.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

MOTION 26-17(5):
APPOINTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION MEMBERS,
CARRIED

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS Section 16.(2) of the Human Rights Act provides that the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission is composed of such members, between three and five in number, as may be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there will be two vacancies on the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission as of October 30, 2014;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the following individuals be appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to the Human Rights Commission of the Northwest Territories effective November 3, 2014:

Mr. Yacub Adam of Yellowknife, for a term of four years; and

Ms. Gerri Sharpe of Yellowknife, for a term of four years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Blake.

MOTION 27-17(5):
APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE
HUMAN RIGHTS ADJUDICATION PANEL,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: WHEREAS Section 48(1) of the Human Rights Act provides for the establishment of an adjudication panel composed of at least three

persons, appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Section 48(5) of the Human Rights Act provides that the members of the panel hold office, during good behaviour, for a term of four years, with the exception of the first members appointed;

AND WHEREAS there are currently two vacancies of the adjudication panel;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified individuals for appointment as adjudication panel members;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management is tasked with recommending individuals to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as members of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel, effective November 3, 2014, for a term of four years:

Ms. Kerry Penney of Yellowknife, and

Mr. Colin Baile of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 28-17(5):

EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 27, 2014,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, October 23, 2014, it shall be adjourned until Monday, October 27, 2014;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 27, 2014, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills.

Colleagues, before I place you in Committee of the Whole, by the authority given to me as Speaker, pursuant to Rule 11(4) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I hereby appoint the Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bob Bromley, to act as deputy chair of Committee of the Whole for the remainder of this Fifth Session.

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014; Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act; Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act; Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act; Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies; and, Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to continue consideration of Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016, continuing on with Health and Social Services and then, time permitting, Justice and Industry, Tourism and Investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We'll commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. I'll go to the Minister of Health. Do you have any witnesses to bring into the Chamber?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the guests into the Chamber.

Mr. Minister, can you introduce your guests, please?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left, Debbie DeLancey, deputy minister of Health and Social Services; and on my right, Perry Heath, director of infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. On my list I have Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, welcome to the Minister and to the department today. At the risk of not repeating much of what has already been said by Members, I would like to narrow my concerns to what I consider the areas of concern with the current Health infrastructure budget before us, and I'd like to shed some light on some of the practices that I believe are preventing efficient solutions from emerging or at least provide a transparent process for them to be achieved.

At first glance, given the amount of this budget and comparing this to the operational side of Health, I can attest that we have a very disproportionate budget before us when you look at that comparison to what I consider our overall fiscal framework. When we spend more for one kilometre of new road than we do for lifesaving programs, nurses or elders, I believe we have a problem of values, which puts into question our desire for a prosperous north.

I'd like to narrow my three areas of comments under three broader categories, the first of which is I'd like to kind of call it aging in place or the Aging in Place Strategy. As the government, this is a means to save money. I'm in full support of this initiative. I think it has merit, and we all know that it will reduce the amount of facilities or beds required. But when you look at this process of wanting people to age in their own homes and provide a support network, there's nothing in this budget as to how and by what means this will happen. We have seniors today who would benefit from some form what I like to call transitional living or at least transitional living options, yet look at what we have for overall inventory to meet this demand and it's not there. I can tell you, it's getting worse with every passing day. We are getting older. This department really does not have any firm framework or plan to deal with what I consider a crisis that's looming.

Clearly, we could be or should be establishing partnerships with the private sector and providing incentives for strategic investments and development. One only has to look south of the border to see that other governments have been doing so for decades and with much success. Again, I challenge this department and this Minister to find incentives, whatever they are, so that developers will see the benefit in partnering with the GNWT in mitigating our backlog of seniors waiting

for viable options and for this type of transitional living.

Next I'd like to talk a little bit on the subject of Avens. I believe the Minister is dedicated in wanting to find a solution for the current Avens project to proceed on course. However, like many, including myself, what we've heard in the last day or so, I'm still perplexed why this department still is putting up what I consider roadblocks. I believe, in its basic form, this organization is merely looking for a memorandum of support so they can secure their funding, and I believe this is not a complex ask. It does not require three or four attempts to come forward with different proposals. I believe that the proposals have been genuine and I believe that the offer has been genuine, but the receipt and the opportunity for government to live up to its obligation has not been. I'm seeing nothing in this budget that will send the right message forward for the project designers of Avens, and I fear that we are continuously providing roadblocks that will delay which I consider probably a very critical and important piece of infrastructure not only for Yellowknife but for all Northerners and their families.

Finally, I would like to touch on Stanton and the current P3 initiatives. I believe the Minister recalls not that many days ago he and I were at the Stanton Hospital AGM, and he even reminded residents that were in attendance that this would come back on the floor of the House, so I'm here now not to disappoint the Minister. I know the Minister is not the lead on this project, but clearly the Minister must agree what he has heard thus far should concern him. If not, I'd like to remind him today in the House, and with all my colleagues present, at this AGM, every stakeholder that was there reminded this Minister there was absolutely no dialogue, no public meeting, there was no public substantiation or rationale for proceeding with the Stanton renovation project under the guise of what we now know as a P3 model. Nothing. So we must ask, why? Why did the government proceed in this way? Why the secrecy from public not to have a voice in what the Minister reminded us yesterday was being one of the largest and most expensive projects ever to hit our ledger in the GNWT?

I would like to remind the Minister we have a P3 policy and not P3 legislation in place, and I can assure the Minister that our current P3 policy has not withstood the rigors of success as being touted by our Finance Minister. For the sake of time, I will not table numerous examples of where our P3 has failed this government in the last 10 years or more.

Again back to the issue. When will this Minister take it upon himself to reach out to residents, to patients, to the frontline workers of our health facilities and to the general public to have a frank and open

discussion on the Stanton P3 process and to those affected?

I know the Minister has been very frank on the other aspect of the privatization question. This was a huge question of concern for many residents. But as we heard yesterday in the House, and I quote from the Minister, "We will not privatize the delivery of health services in the Northwest Territories. We will not do it." Those are his very words. Because, clearly, I have to represent eight very concerned Range Lake residents who are on pins and needles not knowing if their facility services jobs are going to be there tomorrow, I have to bring this question forward. I am there for them and I'm there for all the workers of the hospital system and their families.

Again, those are my general opening comments on this infrastructure budget for health.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's comments. With respect to the comment about a disproportionate budget, I do have to just remind Members, yet again, that Stanton is part of this budget, the Stanton renovation and renewal is part of this budget. It's a \$350 million budget and it's the largest individual capital project that the Government of the Northwest Territories has ever undertaken. Granted, there is \$40 million in this year, but it is part of a larger project, so we will be investing significant money in social infrastructure in the Northwest Territories.

The Member started off by talking about aging in place. Just to be clear, the Aging in Place Strategy is not about saving money but providing a full range of services to the people throughout the Northwest Territories who have told us time and time again they would like to stay in their homes and in their communities for as long as possible. This is about providing supports and programs to individuals to help them stay in their homes where they have clearly told us they would like to stay, and stay in their communities if they are unable to stay in their homes. To that end, we could talk about the partnerships we already have with organizations like the NWT Housing Corporation who has been very proactive and has moved forward on the construction of five independent living homes in communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Those have been mentioned several times, and those are in the communities of Whati, Fort McPherson, and I am actually blanking on the other three, but there are five communities.

When individuals are no longer able to stay in independent living units in their communities or stay in their homes, they move into long-term care beds throughout the Northwest Territories. Yes, there is a challenge. There are shortages of beds. We want to keep moving forward with the construction of beds,

and to that end, we have. Shortly, we will have eight new beds opening up in Behchoko, eight new long-term care beds available to NWT residents. Then we will also be opening 18 new beds in Norman Wells, 18 long-term care beds that don't currently exist within the system. We are also working with Avens to find a way to move forward and develop additional beds in the Avens complex. We have provided Avens with \$25,000 to begin work on the development of a concrete business case. This is obviously the first step to move forward with a plan for the construction of additional beds in Avens. The goal of the joint working group, which is the Avens group as well as the department, is to develop a real concrete plan for how to move forward in the capital planning process if they choose to seek GNWT dollars to construct that building.

We have had a number of proposals come in from Avens, as many as four. They have asked us to look at financing through revenues on bed rates and possible inclusion in the extended care unit at Stanton. We did have a discussion with them as part of the Stanton renewal, building or constructing the extended care complex on their compound and make it available for long-term care for seniors in the Northwest Territories. There was money available for that project. It was something we were prepared to move forward, but to their credit, they stuck true to their mandate, which is seniors, and they were uninterested in moving forward. We are exploring lots of options and trying to be creative. They've also made formal requests to the department to lift the cap on bed fees. We've agreed to explore that option for extended care, to explore that option with them. They've come forward with a number of proposals and the Members that were talking yesterday highlighted a couple of those.

The key point is that the change in nature to these proposals has made it difficult for Health and Social Services to respond, and that's why we set up this joint steering committee, so that we can work together and fully understand and develop a workable proposal. We will continue to work with Avens because we believe this facility is important. We believe these 29 new beds to the Northwest Territories are a step in the right direction. We will continue to work with them until we find a viable and functional plan that will allow us to make that happen. So, we are committed to long-term care beds in the Northwest Territories.

The Member also talks about the P3 project at Stanton, and I'll say it again, we aren't and we won't be privatizing the delivery of health care services in the Northwest Territories. Moving forward, the GNWT does have a public P3 policy that requires all projects over \$50 million to be renewed for delivery as a public/private partnership. As a result, a detailed feasibility analysis and business case

was completed that clearly showed that delivery in Stanton under P3 would be the most cost-effective project delivery method. Delivering Stanton as a PC is anticipated to deliver significant value for money to the Northwest Territories and Canada, to be clear, is a mature P3 market with a robust P3 model that has been proven to safeguard the public interest and project delivery.

The Member talked about the eight positions. The eight positions are maintenance staff within the facility. It was suggested that those positions would become affected as early as June and I just want to be clear that that is not the case. There is still a giant 'if' around those positions whether or not maintenance services do become part of the P3 moving forward. That hasn't been determined in any way, shape or form. Out of courtesy to the union, the GNWT gave them a heads-up that this was a possibility. We indicated that we may indeed conclude negotiations as soon as next summer, at which point we'd be in a better position to begin the discussion about how we will implement. The build is a six-year project. I imagine we won't be done for six years, which means if, and I stress again, if positions are affected, it could be as far away as six years.

In a hypothetical scenario, if those positions are indeed affected and become part of the delivery model for the new facility, we will work with our staff and cooperate with the Union of Northern Workers to make sure that all of our terms and conditions of employment are applied and those positions and those individuals are working, or we work with those individuals to find them meaningful similar types of employment within the Government of the Northwest Territories. There has also been a suggestion that if, and I stress again, if those positions or those functions become part of the new delivery model that those individuals might be interested in working with the provider, we can't guarantee that they'd be able to get placed with those, but we would certainly be willing to work with our employees and the provider to find ways to make sure that our employees, our most valuable resource, are protected and accommodated accordingly.

But I'll also go to Minister Miltenberger to talk a little bit more about P3s. The Department of Finance is the lead on this project. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, my priority is making sure that we have a building that meets our clinical and functional need to provide services to the residents of the Northwest Territories while at the same time ensuring that our health and social services are protected and maintained. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. We'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unless there are specific questions

further to the fairly comprehensive response from Minister Abernethy, a lot of mine would just be a repetition. So, we could have that discussion. We do have the policy and we are setting up the P3 corporation. A P3 approach is recognized and encouraged in most jurisdictions, and in this case they've done the work, they've set a business case, we submitted that last March to committee and that says that the P3 approach is viable and makes sense. As Minister Abernethy said, we're proceeding down that path. No final determination has been made and no contracts have been signed, but we're definitely working down the path to that P3 approach. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member, in his comments, also questioned or had some questions around communication. We do have a communications plan in place; we do have a website that individuals can go to, to get additional information. As we move down the individual steps, the lead department will be making sure that that information is public and made aware, and we will continue to work with our partners like the UNW if indeed any positions are affected.

Just in closing on this project, we know this is a massive project, the largest individual build that we've ever participated or led in the Northwest Territories. It's the largest capital project. It's going to bring significant dollars to the Northwest Territories for construction and operation. We anticipate that this facility, recognizing that it's going to be bigger, that it's going to have different infection control standards, that we are going to be improving the ability to provide emergency services and basically all clinical services. It's a facility that's going to be state-of-the-art. We also anticipate that we could have anywhere from a couple dozen to several dozen additional UNW positions required in order to operate and provide health services in that building, so more positions will likely, will definitely be coming as a result of this construction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. General comments. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I won't really get into the whole seniors and long-term care facilities in too much detail; we heard quite a bit over the last little while. But I think in terms of just looking for beds, a lot of discussions have been around beds. You've got to take it into consideration that we're talking about beds, but we're also talking about a safety issue for our elders, especially the ones in the small communities that might be enduring or experiencing things like neglect, elder abuse, financial abuse that we don't see at the forefront. I think in some cases

when we don't have those facilities in the small communities, we do need to find them somewhere. Not only that, we do have a long-term care facility in Inuvik and it's been fully utilized. What we don't have is a dementia facility. So when we put our senior citizens into such a facility where now they're dealing with people with dementia or other areas of mental illness, it does have an effect on these individuals that do try to live a more independent lifestyle. To have those beds or areas such as Avens, if they opened it up to more beds territorially, then that's something we can look into supporting.

Just further on, there's a lot of talk here around senior citizens, but something that I've always been pushing for and have a strong interest, obviously, is in the treatment area. I've made comments to the Minister about trying to find something pan-territorially that we can either use some kind of existing infrastructure to provide those programs and services not only to the Northwest Territories but to Nunavut and to Yukon as well. Within those treatment centres or even within the hospital that we have, detox beds are also, I think, very important to have in terms of helping people with those medical conditions when they're coming off some very strong addictions.

We did get a tour of Hay River not too long ago and looked at their planning studies in the hospital there, and it was brought to my attention that they're going to have two seclusion rooms in the hospital, which was great to hear. I know we were looking at getting one in Inuvik. I'm not too sure where that is, so maybe I could get an update on that seclusion room in Inuvik and whether or not that was something that was put in place.

One thing that hasn't really been brought to our attention, but just in terms of our medical equipment, we send a lot of people down south for screening, for tests. I don't know if the Minister did an inventory or looked at what kind of equipment we have here in Yellowknife or in the communities and looking at what we can do to modernize some of our equipment, whether it's for screening, whether it's for other medical purposes and trying to get those up to date, and that way maybe we would save on some costs on sending people down south. That's something that's more common.

He did mention infection control standards. Obviously, we have a dental office in the school in Inuvik that's out of commission because of the new standards that were developed. I don't know if you want to provide a list or look at the list of the standards that have been changing and doing an inventory across the territory to see how that's affecting other areas of service that we do provide, whether it's in the communities, regional centres or even here in Yellowknife, and whether that was

addressed in this capital budget in terms of having to fix buildings up.

Lastly, just the sanitation components are something... I know the hospital was shut down for operations a couple of years ago for a lengthy period of time and people were put on long waiting lists. So just when we're looking at infrastructure, whether we are building it or not, that it be taken into consideration.

One of my colleagues tabled some photos earlier today of a health centre, and I think that as we look at these standards, this government take a hard look at our sanitary practices in our health centres and in our regions and even here in Yellowknife. The Minister talks about giving the best care and treatment to our residents and, obviously, it looks like we are failing in one community already, and I think that's something that needs to be addressed. Obviously, it would lead to more illnesses and sicknesses and something that we need to take into consideration when we're thinking about our patients here and residents.

Just a few comments. I really don't want to get too much into the seniors homes, but it's a bigger issue than just beds. It is safety; it is neglect; it is abuse; and when we are looking at best care and services for residents of the NWT, we don't look at it as a building, we don't look at it as a room or a bed, we look at it as a resident, the person itself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree with the Member; it is about safety; it is about quality; and that's the type of things we are addressing or attempting to address in our Aging in Place Strategy. It isn't just about beds but it's about providing services and programs that meet the needs of our residents through their transition from being an individual who is living in their home, to needing supports, to having to go into independent living, to having to go into a long-term care facility where they need additional support and making sure their journey through that aging process is safe and that the programs they are receiving are quality services and our buildings, when they do have to utilize our building, meet the needs.

I'm going to bounce around a little bit.

I saw the pictures that were tabled today as well. Clearly, we know that the Tulita health centre is one of the health centres that need to be updated. It's actually on the top of our priority list. We have already done a bunch of planning on that facility and we will be moving forward through the capital process to make sure that we have a state-of-the-art facility in that community. We do have a design standard that we utilize for communities of different

sizes, B, C, B/C, whichever the community is eligible for. So, we are moving forward.

In time, as facilities age, we will do our best to keep them up and running and they will reach a point where they need to be replaced, and Tulita has reached that point where it needs to be replaced.

We have standards of infection control and other aspects that need to be incorporated with all of our builds. All new buildings must meet the current standards. If we were to do a major retrofit or changes on existing buildings, we would have to make sure they come up to those standards as well.

Treatment facilities in the Northwest Territories, we've had a number of discussions around that. We continue to move forward with our mobile treatment option, which will allow us to use multiple facilities throughout the Northwest Territories and give us the ability to move treatment programs, 48-day type programs to where the people are, in case people aren't interested in going to our southern facilities or they are not interested in the on-the-land programs. It will give us the opportunity to work with different Aboriginal governments throughout the Northwest Territories, the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, Sahtu, Tlicho, as an example. We're going to continue to move forward in that way.

Medical detox beds you wouldn't find in a treatment facility. They aren't located in treatment facilities. They tend to be located in hospitals or health centres. In the Northwest Territories, we have the ability to provide medical detox in our hospitals, so Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife. We don't have dedicated beds, per se, but we are capable and we will provide medical detox when it is required. If we were to dedicate a bed, we would only be able to use that bed for that purpose, which means it may sit empty for periods of time, so it's better to make sure that the service is available so that we can provide medical detox in any of our facilities at any time when it is needed by a resident of the Northwest Territories than, say, dedicating that this bed shall only be used for medical detox. We do do medical detox in those facilities that I have mentioned.

I am going to get the deputy minister to talk a little bit about the Inuvik dental situation and then we'll come back to me, if the chair doesn't mind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This situation with the dental suite in the East Three School is that the infection control standards have changed since the original design. For some of the more invasive procedures that used to be done in the school, now basically, according to our infection control standards, we would need that suite to be

up to the code that is required for a health care facility.

The basic problem is the air handling requirements. A secondary problem and one that would be easier to deal with, is the higher standard of cleaning requirements. We have looked at the costs for upgrading the suite and it would be quite expensive, both in terms of ducting and in terms of electricity, so the interim solution is that the authority is working with the school.

Right now we have the dental therapists, I understand, going in and using that room for non-invasive procedures, so they are using the room for screening, for some of the preventative work they do like fluoride treatments. The hospital is available for surgery or more invasive procedures. We are still working, our department, with Education and Public Works to see if there is a cost-effective solution. But quite frankly, if it's not cheap, it just may not be the first priority for another capital dollar when we can make those services available in the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Deputy DeLancey. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member also talked a little bit about the isolation room in the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Health Centre. The program design is currently underway. We anticipate construction of that isolation room, or renovation of that isolation room to begin no later than March, with conclusion early in the new fiscal year. It will be part this fiscal year, part next fiscal year.

The Member also talked about our need to plan and have a plan for long-term care beds in the Northwest Territories. I can confirm for you today, and I believe we have mentioned it in committee in the past, we are doing a comprehensive plan to determine our long-term needs, our short-term needs and our mid-term needs. We are putting together a plan that will identify where beds will be constructed throughout the Northwest Territories. It is long term in the fact that we know that at some point the need for dementia is going to exceed our capacity, as well, and we will have to look at expansion and/or creation of additional facilities to meet those needs.

We are doing that work. We are doing a needs analysis. We are doing a long-term plan that will identify where we are going to expand and/or create new long-term care beds throughout the Northwest Territories that will meet our long-term need that is consistent with the report on needs that was actually already done. We are currently in the process of developing a long-term plan that will identify where these beds need to be. When that plan is done, we will absolutely share it with committee and then we can all work together on the

creation and continue to move forward on long-term care beds here in the Northwest Territories.

There is one more thing that I would like to talk about, and it is the previous Member who was talking, Mr. Dolynny, asked about or suggested that we pursue other alternatives, not just government but private organizations that might be interested in providing long-term care services in the Northwest Territories. In every jurisdiction in the country, this happens. There are private homes all over the country. I've already asked the department to begin the research and develop a report on different options that are available to us that we can utilize to help encourage private business to pursue independent or privately owned long-term care type facilities that will be an option for residents of the Northwest Territories. I've heard many people say, "I don't want to stay in one of the GNWT facilities, I am happy to pay my way," but there are no options for them today. So we're interested and we're hoping that we'll be able to put something together that can create some incentives for individuals to pursue some privately owned long-term care facilities here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. If there are no further general comments, does committee agree to proceed with detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We are on page 31 of the NWT Capital Estimates 2015-2016 under Health and Social Services. We will defer consideration of that detail. I'd ask to turn your attention to page 32, Health and Social Services, community programs, infrastructure investments, \$7.006. Does committee agree? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to ask a couple of questions here. First of all, the Child and Family Information System. I agree, totally needed. It was called for in the 16th Assembly. I know the Minister is aware. Just looking at the layout of this, considerable funds are available in this fiscal year. We're proposing considerable funds in the year under consideration, that's '15-16, and then they extend into the following year, so that's a three-year implementation of what seems like a fairly straightforward system that I know every jurisdiction in Canada must have. This is started in the 16th; it's going to extend into the 18th Assembly before it's in place. Could I get some idea of what we're getting done this year versus what's planned for the fiscal year under consideration here?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to be clear, this isn't a simple project. There

are different projects, different tools, different resources out there, but every resource is going to have to be tailored to meet the particular programs and services that we have in place. Every program is going to have to be tailored, so we're going to have to go out there and do some analysis of the different programs to see if any of them meet our needs and which one is going to be the simplest to actually modify to suit our needs. But for actually what's happening in this fiscal year, I will go to Deputy Minister DeLancey.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Deputy Minister DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did spend some time early in the fiscal year putting together a request for proposals, did go out and weren't successful the first time around, and we're now working with some consulting expertise to consider whether to go out again or whether just to go out and look at what off-the-shelf systems might be available, look at what other jurisdictions are using. But as the Minister indicated, our needs are unique. I mean, every jurisdiction has different legislation, has different ways of construction, caseloads and so on, so what we hope to get done this year is identify a system, but then there's a considerable amount of work to be done to customize it, to customize it to our needs, to customize it to some of the new initiatives that we're introducing under the Child and Family Services Action Plan. Then there's training as well as, right now, because our authorities are not all on a common platform and not all using the same systems, that provides some delays and some complications in actually rolling out the system. This year we're focusing on, hopefully, selecting a system and the looking at actual customization and implementation over the next year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that information. I assume the last year is just patching up things that need to be patched up and might deal with things that might come up, but I'd welcome any further information on that. Actually, that's really it.

Like I said, I would welcome any more comments there. I did want to appreciate that the Hay River facility is happening. I know they lost a facility with the demolition of their previous hospital, and the Minister has been hearing us talk about long-term care beds, and here's an example outside of Yellowknife where there is action happening, as I mentioned earlier, as well, so I appreciate that.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As we roll out the last year, it is going to include some tweaking and

training of the individual staff so that they know how to use the system properly.

With respect to the Woodland, absolutely agree. Unfortunately, we can't count this as new beds because this is replacing beds that we're losing, so we don't get to count this as more beds. It does not change our ultimate count, whereas Norman Wells and Behchoko clearly do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Continuing on with detailed questions on page 32, I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: This is just a quick comment here on the child and family services and the shelters and what you're calling group homes. I know we don't have those emergency shelters in the communities and I just want to ask the Minister, in his future discussions with the department and communities in the Sahtu health board, if there are designated emergency shelters and if there are some empty facilities, some empty homes in some of our communities where some of the families are taken out of the community, and there are some people left, also, could be deemed homeless if they moved to Yellowknife. We're in that same situation just as sort of larger families in the Sahtu where they sort of get to be invited in and sleep on the couch or wherever and then they wander to another house. So just in the plans, I wanted to know, because it's becoming an issue and I'll raise it later on in the Assembly.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to family violence, there are some identified facilities or houses or places where individuals can go throughout the Northwest Territories and we can probably pull together where some of those, in which communities some of those locations exist. But when it comes to child and family services, our goal is to make sure that the children are with families, so we're working with the Foster Family Coalition to increase the number of foster families that are available.

We've heard clearly that there's got to be a better way to engage families, to make sure that children stay with families, whether it's a foster relationship or not. We're not building facilities to put children in. We want to keep children in a family environment, so we wouldn't be doing that.

With respect to shelters throughout the Northwest Territories where individuals or homeless people can go, we've had a lot of creative NGOs providing services in that particular area and we've been trying to find ways to support them where appropriate. I've had an opportunity to meet with the chief and ex-SAO from communities like Fort Good Hope who are developing community-based, community-driven plans to meet community needs,

and we're always looking for ways to partner on projects like that that are community driven to meet those needs of communities that speak to the exact type of thing that the MLA has been referring.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister is correct, and I look forward to some of the shelters that may be designated as a safe home maybe in the communities for families to go to. Sometimes these happen at 11 o'clock at night, sometimes two o'clock in the morning, sometimes four o'clock in the morning. These families, out of the goodness of their heart, allow them into their houses because they're dealing with some family issue or something that's going on in the family. Some of those could be considered. I mean, I was in Tulita and they were saying that there are a couple of empty houses and that it would be nice to have these as a safe house for the family. Of course, that ties in with the O and M, so that gets quite complicated sometimes. I certainly support the Minister's comments on the child and family services and having children be as close to family as possible in the communities. I just dealt with this last week. I haven't sent the Minister a note, I don't think, but it's something that I want to have a discussion with him. That can be done outside the House here.

I do want to say that Fort Good Hope has expressed a strong interest in... There's an old seniors unit that was boarded up as part of the flood area down in the field, they call it, and I think the deputy minister if quite aware of where that building is. They want to use that as a means of a transient house or a treatment house or something. I know there was a strong push for that. There is some discussion on that and I'm hoping that through the Minister of Housing and yourself, Minister, something can be looked at. I know that Good Hope is very strong on that. They're looking for that, and they're certainly going to be looking for some support on the O and M, but that's something that they thought they could use and utilize, especially in Fort Good Hope. They really need it there. So I would appreciate any type of movement on that, Minister. That's my comments for this section. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member and I are actually talking about the same project at Fort Good Hope, and they have approached us, as well as Housing Corp and Justice because there's an opportunity for everybody to work together to try and find some opportunities for Fort Good Hope, driven and led by Fort Good Hope.

I would like the deputy minister to talk a little bit about what we're doing around housing for individuals that need temporary housing, safe shelters. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Deputy Minister DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, just quickly, in those regions that don't have a family violence shelter, we have this year made some funding available through the health and social services authorities to develop the concept of safe houses in the communities. So the Sahtu is receiving \$122,000, Deh Cho is receiving \$46,000 and Tlicho is receiving \$31,000. Then we flow that through the authorities and we'll work with communities to try to come up with community-based solutions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Deputy Minister DeLancey. Committee, we're on page 32, Health and Social Services, community programs, infrastructure investments, \$7.006. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'll ask you to turn to page 34, Health and Social Services, infrastructure investments, \$77.389 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had a question on the electronic medical records. I know the Minister has been mentioning how advanced we are in this area. He also did mention there were a couple, I think with regard to Stanton, issues, but I'd like to get it straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. So if I could get some information on what the issues are that are remaining in the implementation of electronic medical records in Yellowknife and where we are with the whole project territory-wide. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We continue to roll out EMR and we have it in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. Right now we're working on Stanton. As I indicated yesterday, there have been a couple delays on our rollout at Stanton, but we continue to move forward and we intend to continue to move forward with the other communities – Deh Cho, Tlicho, Sahtu, Beaufort-Delta – over the next couple of fiscal years. For specifics on some of the delays we're experiencing on Stanton, I'm going to go to the deputy minister to provide that detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually the delays aren't too bad. We're pretty pleased with the progress we're making and the delays really fall into two categories. One is getting the time of practitioners. We do have some dedicated staff, but a lot of people, of course physicians and clinicians, have other jobs, and finding the time to get people together to talk about developing protocols, change management, it just takes some time to get that on

everybody's schedule. One of the lessons learned from other jurisdictions is don't rush it, get people on side and make sure people are ready. So, some of the delays have simply been due to timing and scheduling and the number of departments at Stanton that are involved.

The other delays have had to do with our provider. We had chosen the Wolf electronic medical records, and Wolf last year was purchased by Telus, so there have been some delays associated with the transfer of ownership. Telus is a bigger company, they have a lot more customers and a couple of the customizations that we've been waiting for them to do, sometimes we've been on a bit of a waiting list, but we did actually have our providers in town for a fairly big meeting a couple of weeks ago and I think we're back on track. They heard our urgency, they met our folks, they saw what our problems are and we think we're getting very good responsiveness. So we're hoping that's going to keep us on schedule. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bromley

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of questions on the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project. First of all, I appreciate that the Minister will not privatize medical services. Of course, committee insisted that during the development of the P3 policy that if we ever contemplated hospital renovations as a P3, we would certainly not be open to privatization of medical services. Of course, as I understand it, the P3 project has something to do in its title with maintenance. I think it's construction, operation and maintenance or something like that, not operations. That's the medical side I hope. Anyway, what is the schedule for the... We've got a \$40 million expenditure, I believe the Minister mentioned for this fiscal year under consideration, what's the program for renovating this hospital? How many years will it take? Can he share with us some general details on departments within the hospital, for example, that will be impacted and how that's going to be managed?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll say it again, there's no intention and we will not be privatizing the delivery of medical and health services in the Northwest Territories, just so we're incredibly clear.

This is a multi-year project. The RFP went out earlier this fiscal year. We have narrowed it down to three proponents. Discussions are happening with those proponents and we hope to have a proponent and move forward with a contract with that proponent. That, I believe, is expected to be June, if everything moves forward according to plan. Then there will be more of a design phase. That will be

the first part of the year. Then it will be basically a four- to five-year process before we are finished everything.

We have learned some lessons on trying to renovate existing facilities while at the same time providing services. We definitely had some challenges when we tried to renovate and provide services in Fort Smith and that has helped inform the process. So this, in process – and the budget that has been allocated – includes the whole plan and design around the provision of services during construction, which means we've taken into account our needs operationally as well as how we move forward and where we move things so that we minimize impact on the delivery of services as small or as minimal as possible. But for better detail on that, it would be better to go to Mr. Heath for the specific details.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister said, we're in the RFP recruitment. We're hoping to have submission in June 2015. The funding allocated in the budget is several-fold. It is, again, for the construction, but the element we talk about, operational readiness, and one side of the project is getting the building ready for the people. The other element is getting the people ready for the building. So the budget will cover all the costs associated with the construction and the planning and the operational readiness component. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I would be interested in a few more details generally on what the \$40 million will be used for this year and do you know what area of the hospital we'd be starting with in terms of helping people get ready as Mr. Heath mentioned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an indicative design and indicative phasing plan for the Stanton renewal. As the Minister said, we are very concerned about infection control, and you cannot necessarily renovate an operational hospital. So, the indicative design speaks to building an expansion to the facility. Essentially what would happen is an in-patient area would be developed first and any patients that were in the actual existing facility removed from that facility and moved into the in-patient area. We also talked about quite a bit of pressure around the ER and the emergency services area, that it's undersized. So, those two areas would be implemented first.

We're not expected to get into the actual construction of those facilities next year. Likely if any construction is happening next year, it will be

around site works, getting the area and foundations ready before the winter season comes in and then with the next summer, being the summer of 2016, be in full-scale construction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Committee, we are on page 34, health and social service programs, infrastructure investments, \$77,389. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to say to the Minister, certainly the health centre's flooring replacement in Fort Good Hope is much appreciated and needed. I know I did do some visits. This was actually a couple of years ago, so I'm glad it has been looked at. It has been dealt with and I appreciate it.

At the same time, when I visit the health centre facilities in Tulita, I am hoping that we would look at more urgent need because of the progress that I've tabled to the Minister, not to have our hardworking nurses cohabit with mice in the communities within the centres there. That's very dangerous, very dangerous. I know the Minister is supportive of our northern nurses in our small communities. You do the best for them because they work long hours. I hope that somewhere within the small capital project this priority can be looked at in Tulita as soon as possible with the living conditions.

I understand what the Minister said about the new Tulita health centre that has been on the books. Certainly people have been asking for that and they appreciate what the Minister is saying right now. However, we need to wrap this up because the urgency now is that the health residence with the furniture, with the flooring, with just the old age of the building and hoping that we could take out some mouse traps in that facility. That's not good for us. The same with the shed that they have storing their medical health supplies there. We have to do better. I wanted to put that in your mind so that these nurses that we get are not going to have to continue to live in those types of conditions day in and day out as we sit here. Tonight they are going to go back to the same facility.

I guess they are looking for their leadership, now that you know it's out there, what you're going to do about it. There are some options and I'm glad you're open to the options. Certainly within the government there are no guarantees, but I wholeheartedly ask you to look at it seriously for the nurses. There are some units that could be looked at in Tulita and having you work with your colleagues to look at this capital infrastructure budget here. Is it somewhere we can do some work so that we can make it liveable in Tulita?

The other stuff is long term. I understand that, but priority right now is the residence and the shed. So I appreciate that, even with the work that you've already committed to Fort Good Hope. I wanted to raise that, Mr. Chair, at the Assembly here, and the Minister again is being reminded for the last couple of days when I talked with him. I just wanted to raise that with the department, and senior officials are here and Members are here. The conditions need to be really improved in Tulita. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to Fort Good Hope, I appreciate the Member's support. What we're doing there is removing all the carpet in the health centre and replacement with impervious non-contaminable infection control appropriate flooring. It's about health and safety of the patients and the staff and meeting our infection control standards. That's what is going on there.

As I have said several times, we recognize the challenges of the Tulita facility. We know that facility is quite degraded and ready for replacement. It's at the top of our list. It's the first one that we feel needs to be done moving forward. It is a B facility, so we have a standard design. In the standard design, depending on the community, those units can include anywhere from two to four living units that are available for staff at market rent rates. That will address the problem long term.

But the Member is right; there are some short-term challenges in the community. The Member has raised them with me on several occasions. I have been talking with the department and we're working with the Sahtu Health and Social Services in an attempt to identify some short-term solutions on that facility.

MR. YAKELEYA: Long term certainly will address a number of issues in Tulita for the health care facility, the residence accommodations and the proper storage facilities. I got that. I'm really pleased that the Minister is looking at the short-term solutions, working with the Sahtu Health Authority on the nurses residence. It is shoddy. It should be torn down. It should be off the site, really, and same with the storage shed. There's no floor. It's just gravel, and on the gravel we have a very expensive piece of health equipment. We had a palliative care bed lying on the ground. If we are to look at the goals and the values of health care and what we are seeing right here, we are so far off.

I understand what the Minister is saying. Short term I hope is within a month or within a week.

How can we sit here and allow the nurses to be in these residences and there are mice running around? Mold. They are setting mice traps. That's how we are looking after our nurses. I really want to

encourage, support, push, pound everything for the Minister to get the nurses into a suitable accommodation so they don't have to worry about the mice running around, or the furniture. The furniture is in pretty rough shape.

I appreciate what the Minister is saying. I know he is going to do his best to see this. So, I'm looking at the definition of short term. How long are we going to allow our nurses to live with the mice? They actually have their own trapline. So, I really need to stress the importance of this to our Minister.

In Tulita, in the Sahtu, that's the level of quality we look after our health care workers. God bless them for working this long. How long has this been a problem in the Sahtu? Maybe longer. That's why I'm stressing it. I don't think anybody else in this community here around this room would allow their nurses in that condition. I don't think so. That's not the standard of health care facility we want for our nurses. I got it. I support the Minister and I'm very happy that they are looking at the long-term solution. That...(inaudible)...to a lot of his continuous effort and push to leadership, but it's something that has to be looked at, at the Tulita health residence and the shed, that they have to work under those conditions. This is my last plea to the Minister. I'm going to keep checking to see how we're doing with our nurses in the Sahtu. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, understood, agreed. The CEO will be going into Tulita to meet with the staff and attempt to address the problem and give us a better idea of how long it will take to address. I will absolutely keep the Member informed as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. We will continue on with detail questions on page 34. I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have one question and I want to ask it around the Stanton Hospital renovation project. We had a number of questions and answers yesterday, and at one point, I believe it was Minister Miltenberger who stated that there was a good business case to make this renovation a P3 project. I thought to myself, okay, yes there might be a good business case, but I have been advised and I have done a little searching myself and have found that hospitals are not necessarily the best projects for P3. There are some pretty damning reports out there about other jurisdictions that have done P3 projects with hospitals.

So, I'd like to know from the Minister, if he can tell me, in the consideration for making the Stanton Renewal Project a P3 project, what consideration was given to positive or negative results from other P3 projects across the country. Did you rely simply on the business case and on the numbers, or did

you look at, sort of, the soft information that was out there and the projects or negative reports of projects which are out there to be considered? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The lead on this project on the construction is the Department of Finance. They were the ones who would have been doing the analysis on the P3, so I would like to go to the Minister of Finance.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We brought in some professionals on this and they did a survey of the landscape. While there are clearly incidents where things maybe didn't work according to plan, there are also many instances when they did. They looked at all of those issues, they looked at what was being proposed here, the type of projects, and when they came back with their recommendation, it said that from the balance of all these factors that there is a business case to be made for this project to proceed as a P3.

Keeping in mind all the considerations that have been talked about here today, the fact that it is not privatization, we will continue to run the programs and own the programs, and this is a deal on the building of the infrastructure and some of the hard services. We are looking at that. It was last March. From what I have read and understand, the document was shared with committee, and on that basis we are proceeding forward. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: That's fine. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Continuing with questions on page 34, I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister of Finance has indicated that if the bids come in high that we would not go forward, or possibly not go forward with a P3, and if our borrowing limit requests come in, we might have some capacity to do it ourselves and do that. Is the Minister aware of that and supportive of that situation? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we are actually going to go directly to Minister Miltenberger. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As with all projects, Public Works will be managing the infrastructure project itself, per se, but clearly when the value for money, the issue comes as we proceed with the P3 and that is where

we finally go and the prices come in way off the mark, then I will have to look very carefully at the cause of that.

This is not a project that is a cost-plus where money is not an object. It is \$350 million. So if that includes looking at other ways of building the project, of course we will look at that. We want to get the best, highest quality project that we can on budget and on time.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, if any project comes in over budget, no matter what method we use, we look very carefully at that project. We would rather scale them back or we would retender or do different things to make sure we try to live within the dollars available. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's understood and I think the Ministers would agree that public infrastructure is generally cheaper because there is not a profit motive. In this case, bringing in a private enterprise, there is a profit motive. Motivation for doing this is that we are short on capital and this is a mechanism to get around that. But it is more expensive than a public project, so I just want to confirm that that's the reasoning for going for a P3 here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay. We are going to go to the Minister lead on this project. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, that is not in fact the case. We are looking at a P3 procurement approach, first because our policy obligates us to for projects over \$50 million. We had a lot of discussion around this whole P3 approach around the bridge, which wasn't actually a P3 project. It is a recognized, valuable method of building infrastructure that's used out around the world and across Canada. Issues like public interest are paramount. The value for money has to be demonstrable. Appropriate public control and ownership, as the Minister of Health has said, will be preserved. We have to have a clear accountability framework, and whatever we do on this process, as per our policy, will be fair and transparent and, of course, sufficient and economical. This is an opportunity to put that to work and see.

I point out again, as well, we're doing a similar type of process with the Mackenzie Valley fibre link, a much smaller project in terms of size and cost but of considerable value in its own right. So, we want to see if this is in fact the case.

There was a lot of heated debate last time and initially there were thoughts that the project of the bridge would be a P3 but that quickly proved not to be the case, so this time we're taking another look at it. There was a P3 project done way back in the

1990s in the 13th Assembly. First try at it, it was not an overwhelming success. Very expensive. This whole concept has evolved considerably since then and we will be monitoring it closely. We will be working with committee as we do this step by step and make sure that we hit all these critical principles. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: The bridge was certainly a P3 project and it was a failed P3 project and it cost us a lot to get out of that and we did it then as a project of public government. I wasn't aware that we are obligated for projects over \$50 million to use a P3 policy. I thought it provided the opportunity to allow us to look at P3s. So, that's quite a finesse by Cabinet, so maybe I would like to just get confirmation of that if I could. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Again we'll go to the lead Minister. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For projects over \$50 million, the policy requires us to look at whether the P3 approach is a viable approach to be considered, and we have done that. The business case has been done and the assessment comes in that yes, it is a viable project and the business case is there under the P3 approach, hence the consideration. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that confirmation by the Minister. So, what are the long-term consequences of this P3 project? Can you describe what the ramifications are to Stanton public infrastructure, its operation and maintenance, potentially, over the course of time?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, we're looking to build a state-of-the-art facility to meet the health needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories that will be maintained and operated for a significant number of years moving forward.

MR. BROMLEY: I would certainly hope it would be maintained and operated for a significant number of years. What I'm looking for is who is going to maintain and operate the hospital and for how many years before this public infrastructure returns to the public.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We maintain ownership of the property, the infrastructure and the resources that are in that building. If it is negotiated in a particular way, we may contract out the maintenance of the facility, but that has yet to be determined, and as I've said previously, it is still a giant 'if'.

MR. BROMLEY: When will the public learn how long we will be contracting out the operation of our Stanton Territorial Hospital?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It is a 30-year agreement, and as I indicated previously, we will know where we are as far as contracting is concerned in June 2015 is the targeted date at this time. Implementation, if maintenance services are included in this, will occur sometime after that if indeed it happens.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that response. My last question is: Will there be another opportunity for committee input once the bids or tenders are made to participate in the final decision on this project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Again, we'll go with the lead Minister on this project, Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we do with all major expenditures like this, we'll have full engagement with committee on a go-forward basis, especially given the approach being contemplated and the dollar amount on the table.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Committee, we're on page 34, health services programs, infrastructure investments, \$77.389 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. If I can get you to turn back to page 31 for total infrastructure investments, Health and Social Services, total infrastructure investments, \$84.395 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree we have concluded consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank our guests here this afternoon, Mr. Heath, Ms. DeLancey. Thank you for joining us here in the Chamber, and, of course, the Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the House.

Committee, I'll get your attention on the Department of Justice in your capital estimates, page 47. With that, we'll turn it over to the Minister responsible to see if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the House. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister Ramsay, if you'd be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the Chamber this afternoon.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Sylvia Haener, deputy minister, Department of Justice; and to my left is Ms. Kim Schofield, director of finance, Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Ms. Schofield, Ms. Haener, welcome to the Chamber again. Committee, as we indicated earlier, we are foregoing any opening comments. We are going to go directly to general comments. Again, general comments. Does committee agree that if there are no general comments we can proceed to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We are going to forego page 47 until we've been done consideration of detail. I'd ask committee to turn to page 48, Justice, corrections, infrastructure investments, \$17.166 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 50, court services, infrastructure investments, \$620,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'll get you to return to page 47 for total infrastructure consideration. Justice, infrastructure investments, total infrastructure investments, \$17.786 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I want to register my comments, I guess, on this one here. It has to do with the North Slave Correctional Centre, the security fencing. The justification for this versus some of our own communities' needs of correction in the small communities and the types of situations where our justice programs and services, things that we want to do in our small communities are always falling off the table because of no money or we just don't do it this year, and we have a facility that's here that the department wants to, for their reasons and their own justifications, put a \$2 million fence to keep the inmates in the correctional facility. So you have them in the building, you have them locked up, now you're going to put a \$2 million fence around it to keep them in their further.

We have communities in the Sahtu that looked at integration of inmates. Our inmates in the centres are 90, maybe – the Minister can give me the correct number of Aboriginal inmates – and we want to look at the programs that we would like to

see as infrastructure we would like to see in our communities. The Minister knows; he is well aware. He did the tour in the Sahtu and he heard people. I'm hoping to have some infrastructure for justice camps that some people are asking for. The department always says, well, we don't do the infrastructure but we will consider, providing that they fall within the guidelines of operations and maintenance. However, you community members look for the infrastructure. Go to the Minister of ITI, maybe, do a business proposal or go to the land corps, but you have to find the money.

We have a number of examples across the North here where organizations had received infrastructure money but also received O and M budgets. I know that we're going to, under this budget here, spend \$2 million next to a residential lot because they're building there. I question if the lot developers are going to build close to a correctional institution in the North here, that's a territorial, almost like a federal institution where there are inmates in there that need more rehabilitation, need more work to come out and be a contributing member to society. Well, that's their way of doing business, but the one I'm talking about is the justice healing camps that do it in the Aboriginal context that they can have camps within the Northwest Territories. There are reasons why some people just need to be locked up, and I get that, but a lot of our people who are in these facilities have gone through it because of alcohol abuse, and I've seen that. I've seen a lot of people who are in these facilitates are because of the abuse with alcohol or drugs. It's just plain stupid, getting drunk and doing things. Once they're sober, they're pretty good people. They've got to be worked on, but the place for that type of situation needs to be dealt with on the land with our own elders to work with them.

So I question the \$2 million. Again, the Justice department would give a good case why it needs to build it there. It's gone through the process; this is not just talking of it. The capital planning process is a process, and I understand that, but again, the lot developer could have thought about this to say, hey, I'm building next to a territorial correctional institution. I'm going to put trailers, I'm going to put houses there, whatever, I'm going to build that lot. To have a sense of security maybe I'll put a fence up, but maybe that's not what the requirements are. Then maybe the GNWT now, hey GNWT, I'm going to put some houses up, what are you guys going to do? I mean, I guess if this was done in any of our small communities, I don't know if this would happen; I'm not too sure. But I'm saying you don't need to do that. You need to invest in infrastructure for on-the-land programs. Put some money into the buildings. There's existing camps. There are people who want to get these camps going, but the structure isn't there to support them. People are not

rich in Good Hope or Tulita or Deline. Look at our unemployment rate; look at the economies there.

So, Minister, I'm just voicing my concern over it. Minister, I get the sense that this budget is going to go through, but I want to voice my concerns for the record. I'm not very pleased with these expenditures and you will definitely give me your reasons, the department's reason. I'm not a happy camper sitting over here on this one because I don't see much improvement for on-the-land programs up and down the valley. You know what? We went to the Beaufort-Delta and we went on the river and we went to visit the Inuvik shelter. They've got a beautiful facility, a log building in McPherson and Inuvik. They had it, nothing. We have to start giving credence to the Aboriginal culture and their type of restitution, Aboriginal concept of how do we heal our people, otherwise you're going to keep sending them back here, back in and back out.

So, Minister, I'm speaking as an Aboriginal person coming from a small Aboriginal community. I know there are some people that are just really, really hard and so they keep coming back in. But I know that when people are out on the land, it's healing, it's refreshing and there are a lot of things you can do out there for the person. That's what the elder in Colville Lake has said, Mrs. Kochon. That's what Colville Lake wants to do, put a program there. We have to clean them out again. Coming from that facility, we have to clean them out when they come back to our community. So I don't know if the department gets it on the Aboriginal concept of healing and reconciliation, especially with this type of process to have to go through just like cattle. I'm thinking that we could use this \$2 million in a better sense and I'm going to leave it at that. I appreciate the Minister hearing me venting and I'd like to see somewhere in the upcoming infrastructure that programs are more supported in the community on the land, because spending \$2 million on this program on a fence, you know, this is a fence and that's a crying shame that we can't do that in the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate the Member's concerns and questions regarding the \$2 million on the security fences at the North Slave Correctional Centre. I want the Member to know that initially when I saw that number, I had a number of questions, as well, for the department. Once I had a look at the reasons why we needed to construct a security fence and a perimeter fence at North Slave Correctional Centre, the cost can be justified. It is something that we need to move forward with.

I'm glad you brought up the spiritual and cultural component of on-the-land type of programming. Really what building a fence at North Slave

Correctional Centre is going to do is allow us to have the inmates get out to our spiritual and cultural area at the facility so that they can get the programming that's taking place out there. Hopefully they won't end up coming back into the facility and will get the help that they need.

The perimeter fence, the timing is right for us to move on both the security fence and the perimeter fence because of the housing development that is being constructed next door. We have an in-kind contribution from the developer of that lot to help us build the perimeter fence. The interior security fence will be corrections grade, it will have lighting, it will have the closed-circuit television, it will be connected to the facility's other security systems. So when you look at the proximity of the facility to 150 new homes, it is important that we have both a security fence and also a perimeter fence not only to keep the inmates in but also to – you know, there's going to be a lot of young children in the area – keep people out. Also, it certainly will help with contraband getting into the facility as well.

So when you look at all of these things, we really do need to move forward with getting this project completed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Committee, we're on page 47, Justice, total infrastructure investments, \$17.786 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree we've concluded consideration of the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you very much. I'd like to thank our witnesses here today. Ms. Schofield, Ms. Haener, thanks for joining us and, of course, to the Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort our witnesses out of the Chamber, please. Thank you.

Committee, we are going to continue on with the NWT capital estimates with Industry, Tourism and Investment. With that, we will turn it over to the Minister responsible to see if he has any witnesses he would like to bring into the House. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Ramsay, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right I have Ms. Kelly Kaylo, assistant deputy minister, economic development, with Industry, Tourism and Investment, and to my left I have Mr. Peter Vician, deputy minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Kaylo, Mr. Vician, welcome back to the House. Committee, as we agreed earlier, there will be no opening comments. We are going to proceed directly to general comments. Does committee agree that we forego general comments and go straight to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. We are on page 41 and we're going to defer that until we deal with the activity. With that, I will ask committee to turn to page 42, which is for information. Are there any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Page 44, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, infrastructure investments, \$2.575 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. If I can get you to return to page 41, Industry, Tourism and Investment, total infrastructure. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I just want to make a comment to the Minister. When I met with the Colville Lake leadership and they talked about the Fur Program, they are very pleased. Just before the opening of this Assembly, I contacted Colville Lake and I met some of them in Norman Wells and they are really excited. It was just like Christmastime because the snow was coming and they were getting ready and will be going out to the traplines and setting them up, and they said there's a lot of excitement in the air. That attests to what the Minister says and what the department is saying about the furs that the Colville Lake trappers get.

Along with the other programs that the department has, is there an analysis as to what does it cost to have a trapper get his stuff ready and go out? There are different numbers they have. Some say \$5,000, some say \$10,000, depending on the length, depending on how far they're going. That's a small business, and the Colville Lake people certainly enjoy their business, and certainly the Genuine Mackenzie Fur Program is an ace in the hat there. It's good. It's good for them. They wanted to know, other than the land corps and the CHAP program and the programs you have, because gas is quite expensive there and getting stuff ready is quite expensive and there's not too much work

there, so they rely on it. But they're very proud people; they'll do it anyway.

I want to ask the Minister on just some of this...(inaudible)...they can get later on, if he has some of an idea as to what message. We do it as a business. What does it cost to run a business? We do all the numbers. What about trapping?

The other part of this is the trappers asked me to ask the Minister when the furs are being brought down to the States or somewhere in southern Canada, is it possible for one or two of them to go there to witness the auction and sales to see how the international buyers look at the Northwest Territories furs and the furs from Colville Lake? We say about this to each other in the House and Colville furs are quite sought after in the North, so they are very keen and interested to witness it themselves.

Those are my comments for ITI and I am really okay with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Member for his comments and just a brief comment back if I could. Some of the best trappers in the Northwest Territories come from the Member's region, and Colville Lake is a highly regarded trapping area in the Northwest Territories, so we're happy to continue to support trapping in the Member's riding and in the territory. When we design programs, we do go in and do an analysis of what it is and what things cost and how we can best help trappers get out on the land pursuing their trade. I don't have that information with me right now, but I'd be happy to go back to the department and we can try to pull some of that information together on how we design the programs that we have in place today to help support the trapping industry here in the Northwest Territories.

I'm very happy to hear that folks are anxious to get back out on the land trapping. It's very good to see. I like to think that ITI and the Government of the Northwest Territories have had a lot to do with the success that we've seen lately with trapping. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: There are also other trappers in the North, you know, waiting for the snow to come. I guess they're in the same situation as Colville Lake.

I just want to ask the Minister if he will give any consideration to the invitation to trappers from Colville Lake to go down to visit an auction type of sale that goes on when they have that event. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I should also mention the support that ITI gets from ENR, as well, on this as

we support trappers around the Northwest Territories.

As for the Member's suggestion that we look at taking a couple of top trappers, maybe we could look at the top trapper having an award or... We can look at that. I think it is a good suggestion and something that, I think, if the trapper gets a chance to go to an auction and see how it all plays itself out from trapline to auction floor, I think that is a good experience for them to have and something that we will certainly consider. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Committee, again we are on page 41, Industry, Tourism and Investment, total infrastructure investments, \$2.575 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree we have concluded consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to thank our witnesses, our guests here this evening. Ms. Kaylo, Mr. Vician, thanks again for joining us this evening, and, of course, Minister Ramsay. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort our witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

Committee, we will turn it over to Ms. Bisaro.

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

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Good evening. Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Dolynny?

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Miltenberger.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, October 27, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 29-17(5), Extended Care Facilities
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, No. 2
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 - Bill 27, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014
 - Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act
 - Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
 - Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act
 - Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies
 - Tabled Document 115-17(5), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2015-2016
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 27th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:48 p.m.