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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, February 24, 2016****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. McNeely, Hon. Alfred Moses, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 6-18(2):
FINALIZING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS
AGREEMENTS IN THE NWT**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, advancing, finalizing and implementing land resources and self-government agreements is one of the key priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly and one of my personal priorities. The negotiation of Aboriginal rights agreements is underway in all regions of our territory as Aboriginal peoples seek to clarify their rights over land resources and governance. Completing these agreements will be the foundation for economic development and improved social conditions in the Northwest Territories. Confirming who has title to what land and eliminating uncertainty will increase opportunities for resource development in the Northwest Territories. Confirming self-government responsibilities will provide Aboriginal governments with greater ability to deliver programs and services in a manner that better serves their members.

Our government has long been committed to working effectively with our federal and Aboriginal partners to finalize Aboriginal rights agreements. With several sets of negotiations having reached significant milestones during the 17th Legislative Assembly, we have witnessed first-hand how partners working together can achieve significant results. Those milestones include passing the Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act, concluding an Agreement-in-Principle on Land and Resources with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, the Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle, as well as the Northwest Territories Metis Nation Agreement-in-Principle on Land and Resources.

As we start the 18th Legislative Assembly, we are focusing on building on these successes, including settling the four remaining land claims with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Akaitcho Dene First Nations, Dehcho First Nations, and the Northwest Territories Metis Nation. Settling these land claims will be an important factor in strengthening the Northwest Territories' economy.

I am pleased to report that discussions with Aboriginal leadership have been ongoing since the territorial election. Offers to meet were extended in the early days of the 18th Legislative Assembly, and these efforts are now beginning to take shape. Earlier this week I met with the Grand Chief of the Dehcho First Nations and this morning with the chiefs of the Akaitcho Territory Government, and I expect that meetings will be scheduled with the Northwest Territories Metis Nation and the Acho Dene Koe First Nation in the coming days. I look forward to collaborative discussions on outstanding negotiation matters. I am committed to listening to the priorities of the Aboriginal leadership and hearing their ideas on how to move negotiations forward. Informed by these discussions, I will be consulting with my cabinet colleagues on a joint committee that will include Members of this Assembly to help guide negotiations.

Finalizing these agreements will require flexibility from the Government of Northwest Territories and our partner governments, including the Government of Canada. Earlier this year I met with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and was encouraged by her willingness to work in a collaborative way to settle land claims and help bring certainty to these regions of the Northwest Territories. The Government of Northwest Territories is committed to doing its part to finalize these agreements as quickly as possible, in a manner that is fair, balanced, and continues to provide workable and affordable agreements that respect Aboriginal rights.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories leads the country in fostering partnerships between Aboriginal and public governments due, in part, to our commitment to settling and implementing claims. Finalizing outstanding negotiations will underscore that, and I encourage all parties to the negotiations to be flexible and commit to working

constructively and collaboratively towards reaching agreement. I believe that we have a renewed commitment from all sides to do what we can to resolve these agreements during the life of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 7-18(2):
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PILOT
PROJECTS

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, supporting quality early childhood development in collaboration with other organizations is a priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly. We all want the children of the Northwest Territories to have the best possible start in life so that they can reach their full potential. To realize this goal, the Early Childhood Development Action Plan was developed to address gaps in services delivered to children aged zero to five, by creating new programs and improving existing ones. Today, I would like to update you on an exciting new approach to improve early childhood development through enhanced early intervention services, taking advantage of partnerships with regional organizations that are bringing local know-how and expertise to the table. A major challenge that we face in the NWT is providing consistent and equitable access to government services due to the remoteness of small communities.

This is why it is important that we develop a sustainable community-based model for early childhood screening, identification of developmental delays, and intervention. We must be able to provide consistent follow-up on recommendations and treatment plans between appointments for children who have an identified developmental delay. To address this challenge, the Department of Health and Social Services is working with regional health and social services authorities, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Tlicho Community Services Agency to pilot three early childhood intervention projects. These three-year long pilot projects began last spring and are being conducted in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, the Tlicho region, and the Deh Cho region. Each pilot project will respond to the unique needs of children in the region, based on the results of the early development instrument and the one-time baseline assessment conducted in 2014. Resources will be targeted to children and families in small communities to support children's needs, build on existing community-based resources, and build capacity in the communities.

The pilot project in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is being led by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, a partnership with the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority and will improve access to rehabilitation specialists in remote communities.

In its first year, the project has increased the number and length of speech language pathologist visits to Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok. The project has also provided language development training to daycare workers in those communities, and in Inuvik, so that they can provide preventative and educational support to family members and caregivers of the child. The pilot project in the Tlicho region is being led by the Tlicho Community Services Agency. This pilot project is designed to improve regional access to speech and language support, and cultural relevancy of speech and language activities. The Tlicho Community Services Agency has hired a regionally based speech and language pathologist who is providing services, skill building and group play activities at the daycare and preschool, and also training daycare and preschool operators so they are able to provide ongoing speech and language activities.

Lastly, the pilot project in the Deh Cho region is being led by the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority, and will offer coordination and case management to increase participation in programs and services. The Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority has hired an early childhood intervention coordinator to support intake, referral, and assessment, and to provide preventative and educational support for family members and caregivers of the child. These three pilot projects were regionally designed by the partners to meet the needs of their communities and support our priorities of fostering healthy families and improving how we do business as a government. The department is providing support and continuous improvement monitoring based on staff and client feedback. Early lessons from the pilot projects will be shared with all regional staff involved in early childhood development programming. An evaluation of the three projects will help us to identify the most effective best practices, and ensure that these approaches continue to improve early child well-being in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 8-18(2):
EDUCATION WEEK 2016

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, this is Education Week. It is a time to focus on how our education system supports our students to gain the knowledge and skills required to live productive lives and recognize the teachers that help them

achieve help them achieve their personal, academic, and career goals. We are mindful of the priorities set by the 18th Legislative Assembly and, in particular, the need to deliver effective education and training programs to improve opportunities for student success. Through the ten-year Education Renewal Framework: Directions for Change, we will target initiatives which will address the priorities of this Assembly. Initiatives already underway include mandatory residential schools teachers' resource for northern studies, the Elders in Schools Program, resiliency pilots, and self-regulation in classrooms to name a few. These initiatives are improving learning for students and helping teachers.

Our education system needs to teach students in the way they learn. We must be mindful of our students' strengths and teach our young people the skills they need to know in order to enjoy meaningful and fulfilling careers. Education Renewal is reworking the education system with that value as one of our guiding principles. I would like to thank Members of the Assembly for wearing our pink boutonnieres today to support bullying prevention. Making our schools a safe and caring place for all students and staff is also a key priority for Education Renewal. Today, building on the work of the 17th Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to announce that new Safe and Caring Schools Regulations, including a Territorial School Code of Conduct, will come into force on September 1, 2016. These regulations set a standard of behaviour for NWT students, teachers, and the school community. All schools will be required to offer healthy relationship programming to teach students about bullying prevention and intervention strategies.

Integral to all this work are the school leaders, our principals. Mr. Speaker, every year, a principal in the Northwest Territories is recognized by The Learning Partnership as one of 40 educational leaders across Canada. This year I would like to congratulate Ms. Courteney Lizotte, principal of Range Lake School in Yellowknife, as the 2016 recipient of Canada's Outstanding Principal Award for the Northwest Territories. Ms. Lizotte has worked with school staff, students, and parents to create a safe and caring learning environment that is free of bullying, established an enhanced fine arts program, and promoted healthy lifestyles. Making healthy lifestyle choices is a vital part of being able to take advantage of learning opportunities both in school and in extracurricular activities. During Education Week, the Northwest Territories Teachers Association, in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, will announce the winner of the Thank You for Making a Difference initiative.

This initiative, now in its 18th year, has been a source of pride and affirmation to teachers and

underscores the importance of the relationships formed between students and educators, which are foundational for student success. This contest encourages students to nominate the teachers that have encouraged, inspired, coached, and supported them and made a positive impact on their educational experience. No matter who is nominated, it is my belief that all teachers make a difference, and I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, education is a lifelong journey. It begins in early childhood ensuring our youngest learners have the best opportunity right from the start, and continues well into adulthood. As we continue to make improvements across the education system, we know we are not doing this work alone. We are seeing successes through the partnerships forged with the educational leaders and invested stakeholders across this territory. I am confident that all of us working together will transform our northern education system into one of the finest in the country, where we will provide the best opportunities for students to choose options for learning and employment now and into the future. I wish all educators across the NWT a great Education Week. I encourage you to please, say thank you to our educators today and every day throughout the year. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 9-18(2):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Caroline Cochrane will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Roundtable in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
PINK SHIRT DAY

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Pink Day, otherwise known as Pink Shirt Day. I'd like to share with this House some background information from the days' organizers. The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive

wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was an entire school that took a stand and began working together to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying. The campaign has continued to grow. It's now an international campaign that thrives in schools, workplaces, communities, and in this Assembly. The Day of Pink, and the conversations, awareness, and acceptance that stems from it, are making a real difference in the lives of queer and trans youth. Canada has the ninth highest rate of bullying in the 13-year-old category on a scale of 35 countries. At least one in three adolescent students in Canada have reported being bullied recently. Most alarming is the fact that any participation in bullying increases the rate of suicide in youths, and we all know that is a significant challenge here in the Northwest Territories and in other northern jurisdictions.

Earlier today, students from across Yellowknife came to participate in an anti-bullying demonstration and spoke very passionately and clearly on the issues that they face in their schools. It was very endearing to witness that and to be a part of it, and I want to applaud their presence in this House, doing their part to raise awareness on this issue, but taking a stand against bullying needs more than wearing a pink shirt. We need to be leaders in our community and we need to do our part to stop bullying. Celebrate diversity and take real action to make safer schools and safer communities a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF BULLYING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my Member's statement, I would like to thank Minister Moses for giving us the opportunity to attend the presentation in the Great Hall this morning. It was a great experience and I would like to thank the organizers, students, and teachers for coming here to speak about bullying as part of the National Pink Shirt Day. It was fitting to say the least, as today I stand in front of you to speak about bullying. Have you ever been called names? Have you ever had someone make you feel bad about your looks, where you live, or how you live? I totally believe everybody in this room has probably been bullied or been a bully at least once in their life. It's not the best feeling, is it? It makes one feel apprehensive, demeaned, and very uncomfortable. It has the power to destroy lives, mentally, and physically. We all have witnessed it in our lives.

The scary thing is that bullying is not confined to adolescence. It happens in adulthood too. With modern technology, bullying becomes faceless assault, whether it is through texting, Internet,

social networking, forums, et cetera. Through my experience, I have seen many types of bullying, whether it was physical, such as is being hit or tripping somebody; verbal, such as name calling, teasing, or putting them down through jokes, and we all have a good laugh about that, but it's not really good at the expense of that person; psychological, stalking or making threats; social, being ignored or spreading rumours; sexual, picking on somebody because of their sexual preferences - my colleagues spoke about this previously; cyber-bullying, sending cruel or threatening emails.

These are just a few of examples; I know we could add more to the list for sure. I have been very fortunate to be part of a number of amazing programs such as the Canadian Red Cross Beyond the Hurt program. This program supports a school- or organization-based approach to preventing bullying and building empathy and respect. Beyond the Hurt is based on the belief that all youth, those targeted, those who bully, and bystanders, have a critical role in preventing bullying. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to finish my speech.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other one is the HIGH FIVE program, with the five principles of healthy child development, being offered by the NWT Recreation and Parks Association. It provides in-depth training in the five principles of healthy child development so front-line leaders understand what they need to do to ensure each child's social, emotional, and cognitive needs are met. There is a great section that deals with bullying. In closing I would like to leave us with this cool acronym I heard today to deal with bullying, WITS: Walk away, Ignore it, Talk about it, Seek help. Later on, I'll have some questions for the Minister of ECE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING WORKPLACE BULLYING

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Pink Shirt Day here and across Canada. Again this year, NWT MLAs and others are acknowledging the importance of this initiative to combat bullying. There was significant activity in the Great Hall today. Students from Yellowknife schools were here for an anti-bullying event sponsored by the Public Service Alliance of Canada North. Thank you to Jack Bourassa, Lorraine Hewlett, Steve Peterson, and other PSAC staff for once again organizing this event, and a huge thank you to the students and teachers for taking part in the event. I commend the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for

his interest in the event and for speaking to the students. In the last few years, the anti-bullying campaign has gathered momentum across North America and across the Northwest Territories. NWT students, educators, and education authorities have developed and implemented strategies, awareness, and resources to deal with the issue of bullying in our schools. It has become a front of mind issue for both the students and educators. When we think of bullying, we must accept that bullying takes place in all kinds of environments and situations, not just schools. Bullying has to be considered in the larger context, the bigger picture. We cannot ignore the importance of addressing bullying in our society as a whole. Four out of 10 employees are affected by workplace bullying. According to the Workplace Bullying Institute, "Many places of work, consciously or unconsciously, endorse, perhaps even encourage, bullying behaviour and in fact, workplace bullies frequently get promoted or they are often not dealt with directly as the workplace culture does not know how to address such behaviour."

We've managed to bring bullying to the fore in the education system. We now have to do the same for the workplace and there are three key actions we can take: recognize bullying behaviour, speaking out at the time that any bullying takes place, and stand by those who are being bullied and support them. Our schools and students are laying bare the attitudes and wrongs of bullying, growing the next generation of students who won't stand for such abuse. In the workplace, the GNWT is taking a stand and promoting awareness among our workforce. I want to thank our Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, my fellow Members, students, and our workforce for working together today on the issue of bullying. Let's all move forward to a more tolerant and respectful space where there's no place for bullying in our schools, workplaces, and everywhere. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOREST FIRE PROTECTION PLANS IN THE DEH CHO

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The people of the Northwest Territories will always remember the forest fire season of 2014. Drought conditions and hot, windy summer days sparked forest fires that burned over three million hectares of boreal forest, melted asphalt and road signs along highways, forced people to evacuate homes, and filled communities with dense smoke. When rain fell, it was black, and many people spent hours cleaning ash off their vehicles and other property. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but the people of the Deh Cho, where there are usually the most fires,

aren't taking any chances. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is in planning and preparation mode for the coming fire season. Conditions are difficult to predict right now, but it will probably take a significant amount of snow and rain this winter and summer to re-set Drought Codes to average numbers. An average summer with regular rainfall will reduce the number of fires, but we know it can't put them all out. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is currently planning its community FireSmart activities. FireSmart is a public education program that teaches communities and homeowners how to take a proactive approach to forest fire management. FireSmart communities know how to mitigate forest fire risk, reduce fire severity, and prepare homeowners and communities for forest fire occurrences.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is updating all Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the Deh Cho over the next few years. Forest fire protection requires the participation of community members, other government departments, Aboriginal governments, and other stakeholders. Wider participation should create a more active interest in FireSmart programming and greater participation in forest fire awareness and prevention. FireSmarting your home is easy. If you start with the basics like keeping a close eye on burn barrels and fire pits, clearing vegetation away from your roof and fuel supplies, keeping a water supply handy, and removing long grass, shrubs, and dead logs from your yard. Prevention activities make everyone's job easier when we do experience forest fires and reduce the risk of losing valuable property and worst of all, people's lives. Northerners should be prepared for the realities of continued drought and that includes working together as governments, communities, and individuals to get ready for forest fires now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everyone is aware, it's Education Week in the NWT and today is National Pink Shirt Day, a day set aside to combat bullying. Thank you to Minister Moses for his Minister's statement today. Bullying is a serious problem for some people. It can start at a very young age in schools, and it can have a hundred reasons, but there are no good reasons for bullying. Bullying is just a matter of meanness to someone who is perceived as being a little different or weak. As we heard, Pink Shirt Day started when two high school students in Nova Scotia witnessed

a grade 9 boy being bullied in school for wearing a pink shirt. It gave them an idea to stand with the victim, so they went to a discount store and bought 50 pink T-shirts which they distributed to their classmates the next day. The bullies were never heard from again. That kind of kindness and inclusiveness to our peers and colleagues is an important message. The slogan of National Pink Shirt Day is "kindness is one size fits all." We may think bullying takes place in only schools, but bullying can also take place in the workplace, in the home, or on the Internet. Bullying can affect people of different ages in all walks of life and can be based on personality traits, social awkwardness, sexual orientation, or any number of other factors.

Last year, the Department of Health and Social Services and the NWT Helpline put together the You Are Not Alone video in support of people who face challenges of mental illness often related to trauma, violence or bullying. There's also the It Gets Better Yellowknife project, which strives to make things better for queer youth, a demographic that suffers a shockingly high rate of suicide. All these initiatives are aimed at letting people know that we all have tough times, but that there's help available and that things do get better. While bullying is everywhere, some of our most vulnerable citizens are kids in schools. For that reason, school-based initiatives are especially important. During Education Week I believe it's important to emphasize that our schools must be inclusive places where each student feels safe and secure and where his or her value as a human being is recognized and upheld. Mr. Speaker, I will seek unanimous consent to continue my Member's statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. We must recognize and support our teachers who dedicate their professional lives to the welfare and success of our young people, and we must always be vigilant and courageous in confronting bullying wherever and whenever it emerges. At the appropriate time I'll have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BULLYING IN THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make a few comments on the anti-bullying day, the Pink Shirt Day. I'll share some thoughts with you on anti-bullying. Having survived the residential school system and growing up in Inuvik here, you only

could imagine the bullying that went on going to school in a multicultural environment institution at that time, and the society levels at that time, on progression in all areas. The anti-bullying, for me, has progressed, and I can assure you, viewing our youth out in the Great Hall, and I also commend the Minister on his statements of assurances provided to the youth. I only could imagine in standing there viewing at that age at that time back in the residential school environment. I can guarantee you, we have come a long way as the society of the Northwest Territories. I end that now, and I have another statement later to get to my Member's statement on the issue I want to bring forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OFFERING SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as parents, the greatest gift we can give our children is a good education. Getting a good education sets our children up for success as adults. In the Northwest Territories, the 2014 employment rate for people with high school or post-secondary education is 76 per cent. For people who do not finish high school, that employment rate is cut exactly in half. If you successfully finish high school, you are twice as likely to find employment in the NWT than if you don't. Finishing high school is a bigger challenge for teens and young adults living in Tsiigehtchic than for many other students in the Northwest Territories. That's because Tsiigehtchic is only one of two communities left in the Beaufort-Delta where the schools do not offer an education beyond grade 9. For a young person, the prospect of leaving their home community to finish high school can be scary. Students in Tsiigehtchic who want to move on to grade 10 must be billeted to families in Fort McPherson or Inuvik, where the number of students attending their new school is greater than the entire population of the student's home community.

The prospect of being away from family and friends and having to live in unfamiliar surroundings is enough to discourage some students from finishing their high school education. I have spoken to concerned parents in Tsiigehtchic who are asking for help to provide grades 10 through 12 for their children without them having to leave home. In Tsiigehtchic, the employment rate for those who don't have high school is under 30 per cent, well below the territorial average. We must do everything we can to help our students succeed. Today I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about how we

can help students in Tsiigehtchic finish their senior high school education without having to leave their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO RUTH SPENCE, ORDER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RECIPIENT

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in September last year, Commissioner George Tuccaro inducted the first members of the Order of the Northwest Territories in a ceremony in this Chamber. Ruth Spence of Yellowknife was among the first five inductees. Since then, no recognition of this tremendous distinction has been given before this Assembly, so I rise here today to correct that omission.

Ruth Spence has been a community activist and organizer in the North since her arrival here, almost 50 years ago. In 1966, the YWCA opened a 12-bed facility in a house on Matonabee Street, specifically for girls who were travelling to Yellowknife from communities across the NWT. Ruth became the first executive director and was the driving force behind the move and expansion of the YWCA into the old RCMP barracks, which is now used as a daycare, where she could accommodate 20 women. In 1976, Ruth's tireless lobbying and deal making with the GNWT and the United Church enabled the Y to move into Northern United Place, with 84 bachelor and one-bedroom apartments. Through the Y, Ruth established the first summer day camps for children, the first daycare centres, and the first after-school programs. In addition to her service to the Y, Ruth was elected to multiple terms on Yellowknife City Council, was a member and chair of the Stanton Hospital Board, and president of Western Arctic Liberal Association.

On the national stage, Ruth represented northern interests on the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, a national council established on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, to advise the federal government and inform and educate the public about women's concerns. Not least of all, Ruth Spence is the proud mother of Matthew, Duff, Kit, John and Patricia, and granny to 13 grandchildren, and the loving wife of Robert, known as Bob, who died in 2003. Ruth Spence's life has been a tireless championship for the rights of women and children. She pioneered a number of institutions and programs that continue to provide services to Northerners today. Ruth Spence is richly deserving of this highest civilian award that we offer and I'd like to take this opportunity to mention that the nominations are open until the beginning of next month for the next

round of the Order of the Northwest Territories, and I encourage people to think about who would be worthy recipients in their communities. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FUR INDUSTRY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Mr. Moses on the function today, on anti-bullying. Today I'll talk about the Northwest Territories fur industry. Furs marketed under the Government of Northwest Territories Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program fur label have shown strong returns to NWT trappers over the last three years. Northwest Territories wolverine, Arctic, cross and red fox furs have sold out at international auctions. At the most recent season opening sale of wild fur held in North Bay, Ontario, 93 and 96 per cent of Arctic fox and black bear furs were sold. Wolf pelts received the highest bids with an average of \$353.90 per pelt, and a top price of \$661.51. Wolverines averaged \$311.35 per pelt, and a top price of \$432.

The government's Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program provides one-window access to international markets for NWT trappers, and marketing and promotion of fur at international venues through the partnerships with other harvesting jurisdictions and private sector. More than \$460,000 has been paid out in the form of advances to NWT trappers under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program this season. Access to the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program fur label, which guarantees buyers a single source of quality, authentic NWT-harvested fur, benefits hunters and trappers across the North. The government estimates that 10,000 pelts have been delivered to auction by NWT trappers since November 1, 2015. On top, overall prices continue to be realized at auction for NWT mink, lynx, wolf, Arctic fox and red fox.

The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program offers support under five sub-programs. The Fur Price Program provides production against sudden and unanticipated declines in market prices and pays all associated costs of selling furs at auction, including shipping and drumming. The Guaranteed Fur Advance provides trappers with fully-guaranteed interim funds to continue trapping while still awaiting the sale of furs at auction. The Trapper's Grubstake provides eligible trappers with funds to defray a portion of their start-up costs at the beginning of each trapping season. The Prime Fur Bonus Program provides funds based on...

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Nunakput, your time for Members' statements has expired.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to the Prime Fur Bonus Program, it provides funds based on successful market performance and provides an incentive to deliver high quality, well-handled fur pelts for sale. A Prime Fur Bonus is paid when the value of a fur sold at auction meets or exceeds the value of the advance. Lastly, the Hide and Fur Procurement Program supports traditional crafts, provides local artisans prime NWT harvested hides to produce high-quality traditional furs. The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program continues to provide an income for the world-renowned hunters and trappers across the Northwest Territories. At this time, I commend every hunter for their efforts displayed in our culture, which today is the best in the world. Today I'll have questions for the Minister of ITI. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ABORIGINAL INMATES IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CORRECTIONS FACILITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho. Today I would like to talk about some unfortunate government spending which is 100 per cent preventable, but we are all humans and most likely, there will always be crime and incarcerations. Thank you. The cost of our corrections services is about \$39.5 million per year. At any given time, the correction facilities are housing about 200 adult offenders. The daily cost of one person incarcerated in corrections is \$252 per day, and that was a number from about six or seven years ago. My guess is that it has gone up considerably and it's around \$100,000 per year per person. It is estimated that 85 per cent of the crimes in NWT are alcohol- and drug-related. In addition, Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of inmates have additional issues. These issues include mental health problems, anger management issues, physical and behavioural limitations, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and other cognitive disorders, and low literacy and education levels.

According to the Auditor General in 2015, most of the inmate population in NWT is Aboriginal. Eighteen per cent of the federally incarcerated population is Aboriginal, but only 2.8 per cent of the population in Canada is Aboriginal. All this tells me that work must be done to change the numbers and to turn individuals that are repeat offenders into productive members of society, as opposed to people who do not have the tools to stay out of jail.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTHERN MACKENZIE HIGHWAY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the New Building Canada Fund, the GNWT and the federal government have committed \$292 million to highway improvement projects in the NWT over the next eight years. As far as I can tell, none of that money has yet been allocated for any improvements to the Mackenzie Highway from the border to Kilometre 186. Almost every day, I stand up here and talk about a vital component that we need to build our economy. Today is no different. If we're serious about diversifying and growing our economy, we need to make improvements to our primary corridor to the south. Anyone who has driven that stretch of road, particularly from the border to Enterprise, knows that while the road is relatively well maintained, it is in most places as narrow as a highway can possibly be, ending at the white lines, literally having no shoulders.

Yesterday, the Premier talked about expanding our tourism industry. South of the lake, our tourists don't fly in from overseas. They generally drive in from down south, usually with large RVs or fifth wheels. When you cross the NWT-Alberta border, you immediately notice the difference in the quality of the highways. We want to give tourists a great first impression, and they need to feel as though they are safe on our highways. We must also improve the highway to accommodate and attract industry to the North. The road to Fort McMurray has wide shoulders and is a high-load corridor, making it easier and safer to transport large equipment.

We don't necessarily need to prepare for a McMurray-like boom, but we might as well dream big. Most equipment from mining, oil, and gas operations also comes up that highway, and there is a good chance we will see an increase in logging trucks as well. We need to be prepared for the increase of transport trucks on the highway and make sure it's safe for everyone, and we need to make sure we have the infrastructure to attract and accommodate industry. I'll have questions for the Minister of Transportation during question time.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 48-18(2):

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Can the Minister explain what is included in Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and why it is so important for community members to participate in updating these plans? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Environment and Natural Resources has a program called FireSmart adopted in the Northwest Territories with risk management strategies, and it includes in these mitigating wildfire threats according to the following seven disciplines: fuel management, education, legislation, development, planning, and training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I would like to thank the Minister for his very terse and brief reply.

---Laughter

The people of Enterprise are particularly concerned about the forest fire protection for their community. I understand that communities forecasted to have the highest impact from wildfires are given the highest priority. When will the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Enterprise be updated?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: ENR will be reviewing these plans coming beginning this April. Risk assessment and fieldwork will commence thereafter. The new plans will be redeveloped and based on existing plans and new data inputs. All plans will be completed by Environment and Natural Resources, and assistance of the affected communities and other departments will begin thereafter with the GNWT.

MR. NADLI: How does the Environment and Natural Resources department plan to engage the public in information and planning sessions for wildfire protection plans and other forest fire preparedness activities?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Environment and Natural Resources will assist in developing the project proposals for limited hazards and risk mitigation work for non-critical communities and areas, including the allocation of limited financial support depending on community priorities and available-to-ENR resources. We also do reach out to the general public and communities through our website and the nwtfire.com Facebook page.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is Environment and Natural Resources doing to help the people, the Deh Cho, and the Northwest Territories FireSmart their homes and cabins for the coming season? Masi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I previously said, we will be updating our plan in April 2016 of this year and we will be talking to all communities and people in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

QUESTION 49-18(2):

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SOUTHERN PORTION OF HIGHWAY NO. 1

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation and ask: Why is Highway No. 1 from the border to Enterprise not on any of the existing and proposed Building Canada bundles?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation undertakes long-term functional planning to determine how to gain the best value of limited resources. Highway reconstruction requirements are also prioritized to ensure that highways are safe for the travelling public. When drafting the proposals for bundle one, the priority scope and work plan for Highway No. 1 was from Kilometres 187 to 690 and was based on functional planning outcomes. Priority will be given to the sections of the deteriorating highway between Kilometres 207 and 230, and between Kilometres 375 and 395, to address critical needs and ensure public safety. At present, no major improvement work is scheduled between Enterprise and the Alberta border. Reconstruction and widening work between the Kilometre 15 and Kilometre 18 was completed in 2013 under the previous Building Canada Plan. The department continues to deliver regular maintenance as required on that section of highway, and Highway No. 1 between Enterprise and Alberta is paved. The department will provide additional investment in the highway as rehabilitation requirements arise.

MR. SIMPSON: It's good to hear we got work on those three kilometres.

---Laughter

Is there anything else that might be included in bundles one or two that would include any work or benefit to Highway No. 1 at all?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The first bundle of projects will invest \$14 million in improvements to Highway No. 1. Over the next four years, the department will be working to widen and reconstruct some sections of the highway from Kilometres 375 to 395, and Kilometres 207 to 212. That work includes geometric, structural, and drainage improvements; grade widening; culvert replacement; and applying chipseal. Under the second bundle of Building Canada Plan projects, the department is seeking to rehabilitate or replace bridges, including the Hay River and Pine Point Bridges, and the Buffalo River Bridge in the South Slave region.

MR. SIMPSON: That doesn't quite address the border to Enterprise. Are there any shovel-ready projects in the South Slave?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I am pleased to note that the department is currently working on two other highway infrastructure projects in the South Slave. In 2015-2016, the department completed improvements to Highway No. 2 between Hay River and Enterprise, for approximately \$3 million. Over the next several years, the department will reconstruct and chip seal up to 34 kilometre of Highway No. 6 to Fort Resolution, with an estimated value of \$17 million. In the meantime, the department continues to apply regular maintenance measures across all highways.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Hay River North.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to see that the South Slave is getting some attention. What South Slave projects could potentially be considered as shovel-ready?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department has identified several projects that could be pursued if the federal government came to us with a request for shovel-ready projects. This includes further improvements to Highway No. 1 south of Enterprise to the border, including widening, strengthening the embankment, and improving drainage. Other shovel-ready projects that could be considered under new stimulus funding from Canada include reconstruction and chipsealing of the remaining 64 kilometres of Highway No. 5 and the Wood Buffalo National Park. That's in addition to the airport runway overlays in Fort Smith and Hay River, and replacing the airport terminal building in Fort Resolution. The total cost of these five projects would be in the neighbourhood of \$46.5 million. We are waiting for more information from the federal government regarding the details of the new stimulus funding on infrastructure, including eligibility criteria. Once we have that information, we will be able to determine which of these projects might be eligible for federal funding.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 50-18(2):
PROGRAMS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM RATES

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about corrections. I have questions for the Minister of Justice. I'd like to ask the Minister if there are any programs in corrections with a goal of preventing inmates from returning to corrections. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the Member raised certain issues in his speech, and certainly, the department is aware of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal persons in the corrections system. We are trying to address this by a series of programs. The department continues to improve the link between programs delivered to inmates in custody and community-based programs involving probation services, community justice and other departments and agencies such as Health and Social Services. We are also attempting to look at the underlying root causes and hopefully reduce the numbers referred to by the Member opposite. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'd like to ask the Minister if there's staff in the corrections facility, themselves working for the Department of Justice, that work with the inmates on their mental health, addictions, and educational issues.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Territorial inmates can participate in many programs, both inside the corrections facilities and outside. Territorial inmates can participate in the addictions programs at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, which is facilitated by a traditional addictions counsellor with the support of elders and community resources. There are also other programs that they can participate in. Also, through the courts, there are manners of dealing with these types of problems, either through wellness courts or DVTO court.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'd like to ask the Minister if there is any specific Aboriginal cultural programming at the North Slave Correction Centre.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, I believe there are programs at the North Slave Correctional Centre that do have an Aboriginal component. The department currently offers a six-week national substance abuse program to federal and territorial inmates at the North Slave Correctional Centre, and I believe this has a wellness component involving programs for Aboriginal inmates, and hopefully, through programs such as this we can reduce the number of Aboriginal inmates, which is currently approximately 87 per cent of the population.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if the department has seen a reduction in inmate population over the past five years. Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I'm not sure of the exact statistics. I do know, looking at the statistics, dealing with the number of Aboriginal inmates, that has remained constant. I understand that the overall number of inmates has remained constant over the last five or six years, being approximately 200. We would certainly like to see a reduction of this, and that's why programs such as the Wellness Court Program and DVTO will hopefully reduce the number of those actually incarcerated.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 51-18(2):
CARE AIDS AT STANTON TERRITORIAL
HOSPITAL

MR. O'REILLY: [English translation not provided.] Mr. Speaker, I have a number of Yellowknifers who have contacted me regarding termination of care aids working at Stanton Hospital effective March 31. Can the Minister tell us how so many care aids are currently working at Stanton, when this service started, and what sort of duties they perform? Sorry, that question would be to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently there's 16 nursing or rather, care aids within Stanton Territorial Hospital, and at this point in time we're not planning on eliminating any of those positions, with the exception of two, and we're not actually eliminating those positions. Two nursing care aid positions were actually created through unfunded dollars as a pilot study, and the purpose of the pilot was to evaluate whether the level of trained staff could be used in patient watches instead of using security protocol or personnel. That pilot has come to an end and as a result, those positions will cease to exist. Those unfunded positions will cease to exist on March 31, 2016, but the remaining 14 nursing care positions continue to exist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: It's my understanding that care aids at Stanton have bolstered the healthcare teams to ensure patients are clean, fed, cared for and free of bed sores while lowering the pressure and stress on nurses. They do things like patient laundry, shaves and baths are given, patients are

escorted for tests or taken to another floor for showers and so on. I'm just wondering with these two positions that are apparently unfunded, who will perform the services that they perform now after March 31?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I indicated, the purpose of the pilot was to evaluate whether nursing care aids, this level of trained staff, can be used for patient watches. Patient watches are used after patients who pose a risk to themselves or others and require more frequent observation -- for example, individuals who might be suicidal, confused patients who are unable to comply with treatment, patients who are at risk of actually leaving the facility, and other patients who may have some behavioural issues. The decision was made not to renew these two contracts for these two unfunded positions and rather put an end to the pilot, because the objectives of the original pilot were not achieved and security personnel continued to be used in that area to provide patient watches.

MR. O'REILLY: I apologize. I didn't give the Minister much advance notice of this. This seems to be a quickly evolving situation. I'm just wondering if the Minister can tell us then how these two pilot positions were actually evaluated, and would he be prepared to share that with at least this MLA?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Originally the pilot was only intended to last one year, with the intent, as I said, to see whether or not this level of position could do the patient watches. There was some turnover in the department as a result, or rather in the authority as a result. The pilot was extended so that they could review to see if it was actually providing or meeting the intent. At the end of the day, security was still required in those units to provide those patient watches, and since then, we have actually enhanced the security levels within Stanton so that these positions are actually no longer required. The pilot proved ineffective and we still needed security staff. As a result, these two unfunded positions will cease to exist on March 31, 2016.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. One part of the previous question that he didn't answer was whether he might be prepared to share the results of this evaluation with at least this Member and perhaps others on this side of the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'll go through the department and get a bit of a summary of the pilot intent and what actually the results were and share that with the Members, but at the end of the day,

we ended up having to put more security in that building to provide patient watches as well as other security. Those two positions were unfunded. The remaining 14 nursing care aids continue to exist, providing the exact services that the Member is referencing, important services within our healthcare facility. These two positions were created for the sole purpose of doing an assessment. The assessment didn't prove out, as a result those two positions ceased to exist.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

QUESTION 52-18(2):
SUPPORTING THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FUR INDUSTRY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier on in my statement the questions for Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. My first question is to the Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment. can you please outline the types of support that are available to trappers under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fur program is one of our longest-standing programs and the government is very happy to be able to continue to contribute and support trappers, because we know that any funding that we provide and any return to the harvesters goes directly to the communities and protects their way of life. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment currently retains responsibility for marketing and promotional activities and managing the high procurement program to support traditional crafts. The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program is jointly managed by the departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Industry, Tourism and Investment. Environment and Natural Resources is now responsible for the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program delivery and administration of the Fur Marketing Service Revolving Fund, with the exception of marketing and promoting of Hide and Fur Procurement Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: My other question is: the trapping industry is important in my riding of Nunakput. What are some of the trends and issues impacting the industry in the Beaufort-Delta region?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment consults with the Inuvialuit Regional Council and Inuvialuit communities to ensure harvesters have access to markets by continuing to enhance existing programs. In

2013/2014, Industry, Tourism and Investment incorporated muskox hides into the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program as a means of guaranteeing substance harvesters added value for good quality hides. These hides are sold to Jacques Cartier Clothier Qiviuk for a profit with all revenue directed to the harvester. This includes the Prime Fur Bonus payment of \$50 a hide, which is triggered when the sale is reconciled through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program.

In addition to the hides, Industry, Tourism and Investment is developing a market outside of the local carving community for muskox horns. Interest from jewellery designers and knife manufacturers is being tested to establish demand and values for possible inclusion into Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. Beaufort-Delta communities produce some of the best wild fox, wolves, and wolverine in the Northwest Territories. These are sought after by knowledgeable fur buyers who are willing to pay top prices. We're also working to incorporate seals into the program. We will be seeking exemption from the European Union for Aboriginal seal products, so Industry, Tourism and Investment continues to encourage harvesting in all these communities.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: That last comment is leading to my next question. In my region harvesting seals is important both feed and a source of cash income. What is Industry, Tourism and Investment doing to maximize returns to harvesters?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As I indicated, the Government of the Northwest Territories has begun the process of obtaining the European Union Recognition status on behalf of Inuvialuit hunters to be exempt from the EU International Seal Ban, and we're also working with our neighbours in Nunavut, I understand. Once completed, this initiative will provide Northwest Territories' seals and seal products to all European Union markets. Under the Hide and Fur Procurement Program, negative impacts of the European Union's seal ban had been limited by maintaining prices to harvesters at \$55 per skin. This amount has recently been increased to \$70 per sealskin in order to increase the supply of NWT seal pelts to the Hide and Fur Procurement Program, and I should add that all of the hides that we procure through this program are quickly taken up for local manufacturers. All the NWT seals are shipped to processing plants to be tanned and returned to supply local craft demand. The intent is to operate on a cost-mutual basis. Presently, with the program, seal, beaver, and moose hides continue to grow and become more popular with the crafters. Our ability to meet demand is tested. For 2016, we expect to see sales of \$180,000 in raw material that will generate close to \$800,000 in local products like mitts, mukluks, and hats.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the state of the economy in the NWT, will the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment promote and make plans to boost the economy in small communities by assisting hunters and trappers in acquiring traps and hunting gear for the upcoming 2016-2017 hunting season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Under the Industry, Tourism and Investment Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Program, better known as the SEED Program, current trappers can access funding to purchase trapping supplies based on previous harvest records. Eligible trappers can access up to \$5,000 over five years. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also administers programs to assist hunters and trappers. The Local Wildlife Committee funds, about \$258,000, provides funding to defray a portion of the administration costs for local committees that represent the interests of community wildlife harvesters. Also, the Community Harvesters Assistance Program with approximately \$1,074,000 provides funding, distributed by the Local Wildlife Committee to community harvesters in support of harvesting activities. In total, our government provides in the neighbourhood \$2.5 million to support trapping industry in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 53-18(2):

SAFE SCHOOL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was great to hear Mr. Moses here today talk about the new Safe and Caring Schools Regulations, including a Territorial School Code of Conduct. They'll become enforced September 1st. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment how these regulations and school code of conduct were developed.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and before I begin, I would just like to acknowledge all Members for wearing their boutonnieres today in support of standing up against bullying. The regulations were worked on when the legislation was first introduced into the House during the 17th Assembly. These regulations will take effect on September 1, 2016, and a lot of consultation was held with DEAs, DECAs, as well as superintendents and teachers, as well as students throughout the Northwest Territories to ensure that we got the regulations right when we developed these school

codes of conduct. We also based it on the needs, the strengths, and the resources that each school and community had in their communities.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. Can you please elaborate a bit on how the youth were involved and engaged in this process?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: This bill in particular was very unique in that it involved a lot of our students across the Northwest Territories. In each of the communities that the standing committee travelled to in the last government, they did not only interact with adults and partnerships with the schools, but they involved some of the students in the grades. What was really neat was, I know up in Inuvik they utilized the e-learning program where they're able to speak to students in Tuktoyaktuk from Inuvik, and here in Yellowknife, they did go to Sir John School and got a lot of feedback from the schools as well as through online submissions.

MR. THOMPSON: When we talk about the Code of Conduct, could the Minister please provide us what kind of training the staff, and I mean not just the teachers but the administration, SNAs, and volunteers, are going to get to make sure the schools are safe.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Currently, the department has developed a handbook for all DEAs and DECAs to help them understand what their roles and responsibilities are with all aspects of education, including creating that safe environment for students as well as teachers in the school community to participate in. We've also developed resources supports that are online, free training, and we've also worked to ensure that DEAs and DECAs have the supports in place for when the regulations come into effect September 1, 2016. We're also providing orientation workshops for all newly elected members within the DEA and DECAs to make sure that they understand what their roles are when they're making decisions on behalf of the schools that they represent.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Minister for the answer. During my Member's statement I talked about training for youth, and you know it's great to train the staff and you know the people that run the school and that, but have you looked at potential training for youth so they can you know stop the bullying and make sure the schools are a safe environment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, there are a couple programs that we're running. First one is the Skills for Healthy Relationships program, that are targeted to grade seven to 12, the WITS Program which was

mentioned earlier in the Member's statement, and that's targeted from kindergarten to grade six. And then the other ones that we're having is Positive Behaviour Supports targeted from kindergarten right through to grade 12, as well as online resources, and obviously the Kids Help Line is another way that we can do that. Plus things that we do as well here, as we did in the Great Hall today, around creating awareness and speaking to the children, speaking to the youth, speaking to the leaders, and to the educators, that people should speak up and stand up.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 54-18(2):
MACKENZIE VALLEY FIBRE LINK PROJECT

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address my issue to the Minister of Finance on the project for the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link Project. The question I have is this Mackenzie Valley Fire Project is a P3 project of this government scheduled for completion this coming June 2016 during the 2013-14 procurement process, during that fiscal year. As you know, the completions during that period was slated for June 2016, which is only four months away and we're entering into the closure of the winter season, and my question to the Minister is: Are we going to be completed as per the procurement schedule of June 2016?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We anticipate being completed this summer. The original project was supposed to be lights on during 2016, and that is still the plan. Of the approximate 1,200-kilometre volume, 733 kilometres have been completed up to the end of the 2015 building season, so we still have plenty of time to have the remaining line laid before June 2016.

MR. MCNEELY: My second question is: knowing the terrain and geography north of Fort Good Hope, it's very remote, it's only accessible by remote equipment including sleigh camps, so the logistics and scheduling is very challenging, and I'm wondering, in my question, if that section between Tsiigehtchic and Fort Good Hope is going to be completed as well?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As I said before, we anticipate being completed during the 2016 building season and they have had some challenges on the terrain, but I think that the contractors are more than equipped to deal with it. If there are any foreseen circumstances or if there is some delay of any kind, then I will be sure to let the Members of this Assembly know.

MR. MCNEELY: I await that information if it does come, and my next question, the final question, is: Can we receive a current progress briefing on that particular project?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would be pleased to provide committee with a briefing, or I can compile some information as far as a briefing note goes, and submit that to committee and then they can determine whether they want to have a briefing or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 55-18(2):
PROVIDING SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
EDUCATION IN TSIIGHEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Follow-up to my Member's statement, I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I'd like to ask the Minister: what are the criteria to decide whether or not senior high school is offered to students in their home communities such as Tsiigehtchic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say that the department is committed to work with all of our communities to provide quality education programming for communities if they wish to do so from grades 10 to 12. In the case of Tsiigehtchic, the Members and myself would like to see the youth and the children stay in the community to get their education. What I would encourage the Member to do is to speak with the District Education Council, as well as the superintendent, to invite the superintendent into the communities to develop options into how we get grades 10 to 12 in the community of Tsiigehtchic. We do support those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: That leads me up to my next question. Is this decision made by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, or by the District Education Council, and are the parents consulted?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The Department of Education funds our education authorities to the tune of about \$150 million every year. If the Member and the community and the parents wish to look at providing grades 10 to 12, I would encourage them to speak with the superintendents, as well as the DEC's, to look at the possibility of providing that type of program in the community of Tsiigehtchic.

MR. BLAKE: I'd also like to ask the Minister what options exist for students who want to stay in their home communities while finishing high school -- for example, Moodle, the program a previous Minister spoke about.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Obviously, we've been having some very successful results with the e-learning program that we have. We've brought it down now into some of the southern parts of the Northwest Territories. That's one option. Other options that the Member might want to look at when he's speaking in the community, or when the parents are speaking with the DEC and the superintendent, is possibly busing students to Fort McPherson, which is closer than going to Inuvik, and keeping them in their communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: It sounds promising. Will the department or the Minister commit to providing funds to do busing of our students to either Fort McPherson or Inuvik?

---Laughter

HON. ALFRED MOSES: At this time, we cannot commit funds to such an option.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 56-18(2):

WAGE SUBSIDY FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to correct a fact in my Member's statement. I said that the next round of nominations for the Order of the Northwest Territories was the beginning of March. In fact, it's the beginning of April. April 8, to be specific. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I recently spent some time reading the feasibility study on universal childcare for the Northwest Territories and it contains a number of recommendations which are easy fixes to a system that is quite dysfunctional. My question for the Minister is about the wage subsidy that is now paid to individuals rather than to their employers. The problem with directing the wage subsidy to the individuals is that there is some delay in getting it to them. I am wondering if the Minister will consider paying these wage subsidies directly to the employer in order to speed them up.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this case, with universal daycare, it is just a feasibility study at this time that was tabled during

life of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The department is looking at the study itself and seeing what options we can develop moving forward within the 18th Assembly. We are implementing the Right from the Start Early Childhood Development Framework and creating an action plan associated with it. At this time, we're looking at putting our efforts into the work that was done in partnership with Health and Social Services during the 17th Legislative Assembly, and starting up some of those early childhood development programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thanks to the Minister for that answer. However, the provision of childcare is a key component of the education of young people prior to them going into junior kindergarten or kindergarten. The people who work in this sector are generally quite low paid and daycares struggle with keeping qualified staff. I'm wondering if the Minister can make a commitment to looking at providing the wage subsidy directly to the employers rather than to the individuals.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In the 17th Legislative Assembly, some of those concerns were brought forward. We do have funds that go to the daycare providers, but also to creating a Childhood Staff Grant program. We have a scholarship for people that want to go out and get trained. Currently, I believe our programs are working well, but if the Member would like to adjust that issue, it's something that, throughout the course of this government, we can take a look at.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for his answer. What I'm looking for, then, is in order to improve the system of wage subsidies for the people who work at daycares is to have the government look at providing those to employers rather than individuals in order to speed up the payment. What I'm looking for from the Minister is a commitment to investigate making this change.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The department will look at reviewing this option and bring back those options to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: I'd like to thank the Minister for making that commitment. I ask only when he thinks he will be able to deliver this information to us.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Early childhood development is a priority of this government. It became a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly. Anything that we can do to ensure that our staff and our children have the opportunity to develop in the best way they can. We are willing to work in those areas. I can't commit to a timeframe at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 57-18(2):
WORKING FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't know that it's anti-bullying day today the way that we're picking on the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, but he's being a trooper and we thank him. Can the Minister provide the House with some information on how the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment works with DECs and DEAs to make sure that schools are safe environments for students, teachers, and visitors to the schools.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't mind the picking-on today. In terms of DEAs, DECs, as I mentioned, we have developed a handbook. We are providing orientation workshops to newly elected members. Other things we are doing are these bullying prevention and intervention strategies and resources that were developed by national experts that are available, and also ensuring that when we develop this Territorial School Code of Conduct, as well as the Safe and Caring Schools Regulations that all visitors have to abide by those rules. The department will continue to support ongoing professional development and staff training as schools develop their Safe and Caring Schools Regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I thank the Minister for his answer. We know that awareness is one of the key tools to combating bullying. Can the Minister tell the Assembly what kinds of public promotion the department has taken to demonstrate that bullying is not okay?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Earlier today in the speech that I gave in the Great Hall, we do a contest, a Stand Up and Stop Bullying campaign where we recognize students who have developed some visuals. We also have visuals in the school, in the public. We have a website that has, I believe, over 3,000 likes on it, as well as a Facebook page. The website is stopbullyingNWT.ca. We are taking a multi-pronged approach at this. Schools are also open to do their own awareness campaign to stop bullying. In the schools that I have been in, I have seen the posters in the hallways and in the classrooms as well.

MR. VANTHUYNE: One final question, then I'll stop picking on the Minister. We know that even if there are services available, some victims may not know how to reach out and get help. Can the Minister

advise us what supports are available to help students who are being bullied and feel isolated?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: There are many ways. As I mentioned to a Member earlier, we have the Skills for Healthy Relationships program, grades 7 to 12; the WITS program, kindergarten to grade 6; and the Positive Behaviour Support, kindergarten to grade 12. We also encourage students to talk to their parents, talk to their teachers, their peers, or a trusting adult. We are also working with other organizations where they are implementing some of their own anti-bullying programs. I believe through the Red Cross, we're looking and exploring ways at using their RespectED program. We are looking at that right now, to see how we can implement those in some of the schools. Anything that we can to mitigate the effects of bullying, the devastating effects it, not only has on our students, but also our teachers.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 58-18(2):
UPDATE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT POLICY

MR. TESTART: [English translation not provided] Mr. Speaker, transparency was a key issue during the election for voters, and I think every Member of this House has made a clear commitment to engaging in government transparency and making that a centrepiece of this 18th Assembly moving forward. I have questions for the Minister of transparency on the Open Government Policy. Could the Minister provide an update as to how the progress is going in developing that policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, this is a new department and I'm a new Minister in it; however, I am consulting with my colleagues and we are looking at options for a more open and transparent government. In fact, the very discussions that we've had over the last week or two involving the mandate and other matters are an example of how we are moving forward with more open and transparent government. Once I receive my mandate letter from the Premier, I'll be able to give more detail about how we will be proceeding in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I appreciate we're still in the early days of this government and time needs to be taken to put things together. Does the Minister have a sense of what kind of resources or support to put together this policy and other initiatives as they relate to government transparency?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Of course, I'm counting on a very important resource, which is the input of all the Members in this House. Financially, we do not have a great deal of resources, but I am looking to hearing from all of you, assisting me in developing a more transparent and open government.

MR. TESTART: Thank you to the Minister for making a commitment to involve this side of the House in a very transparent and collaborative fashion. Will he make the same commitment to members of the public?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, of course, we will make a commitment. We are looking very much for the involvement in the public in this new area. This government has embarked on this program, which, I think is fairly unique in government in Canada, so we are looking not only for the Members' input, but also input from the general public to guide us.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final question for the Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. Can the Minister advise on a potential timeline? Of course, not within a day margin, but perhaps within two years. Could he commit to completing a policy within two years, and fully implementing that policy?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: This is a new area and, of course, we are seeking input of the public and also all the Members of this House, but in view of its newness, its complexity, I don't think we can commit to a definite date.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 59-18(2):
PLANNING FOR THE 2016 WILDFIRE SEASON

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of years we've had some very big fire seasons that cost the government a lot of money. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources if there is a plan for the fire season this coming summer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT continues to be under severe seasonal drought conditions in a large portion of the NWT. ENR continues to implement strategies and objectives identified in the 2011 program review and the 2014 fire season to improve delivery of the programs the coming seasons.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'd like to ask the Minister if the experts in his department have made predictions on what type of fire season we may encounter this summer and as far as size, number and complexity.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We continue to monitor snowfall for this seasons, but I have previously said to the Member, we continue to see the NWT in the drought conditions, so it's hard to predict what type of fire season we're going to have.

MR. BEAULIEU: As the Minister said, drought seasons continue, so we may anticipate a big fire season, a fire season of many fires, many complexes. I'd like to ask the Minister if the plan is to use our own people to fight those fires or bring people from other jurisdictions.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Depending on the type of fire season we have, if we have a normal or below-normal fire season, we will continue to use our own resources. Anything beyond that, we may have to pull in other people from other jurisdictions.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Final supplementary. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to consult with Regular Members before a decision to bring firefighters from other jurisdictions?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As the Member knows, the complexity of some of these fires and the nature of them, if we have time we will definitely consult.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 5 on the orders of the day.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a Page that I've known for a long time. I'd like to recognize Nicholas Bennett.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I'd like to welcome Karen Johnson, a Yellowknife North resident, here to the House. She's very involved with the Yellowknife Ski Club and World Snow Day, and is also the mother of one of our Pages, Niva Stephenson.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 11-18(2):
WORKER'S SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
AND NUNAVUT 2015-2017 STRATEGIC PLAN

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled "Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, 2015-2017 Strategic Plan." I note also that it's in four languages.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

TABLED DOCUMENT 12-18(2):
AURORA COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-
2015

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled "Aurora College Annual Reports, 2014-2015."

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of Documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019; Tabled Document 2-18(2), Interim Estimates, 2016-2017; Tabled Document 3-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2015-2016; Tabled Document 4-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2015-2016, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to continue review of the

Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We'll take a short recess and resume with the first item.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. I'd like to recognize a guest in the gallery: Mr. Bob Bromley, former MLA for Weledeh. Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 1-18(2), as amended. Mr. Premier, do you wish to invite witnesses to the table?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the table. Premier McLeod, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left, I have Penny Ballantyne, the secretary to Cabinet and deputy minister of the Executive. To my right, I have Michael Aumond, the secretary to the Financial Management Board and deputy minister of Finance.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to return to the "Economy, Environment and Climate Change" section.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The Member has requested we return to the "Economy, Environment and Climate Change" section. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 10-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING TAXATION ON
SMALL BUSINESSES, CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 11 by inserting the words "We will reduce taxes on small businesses." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is now being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In times of economic uncertainty, it is incumbent on this government to provide support to the areas of our

economy that work hard to support the activities in our community, create jobs, and continue to provide economic boosts to our local economies. A tax cut on small business is exactly the kind of thing we need to start looking at and start implementing to encourage business growth and to further diversify our economy. This is a small measure, but it will go a long way in helping those who work hard.

Many of my constituents and voters during the election raised this issue, that it was getting much too expensive to do business in the North, and we need to start realizing opportunities for them to save money on their operations and further support employment in the private sector, which of course withstands the boom-and-bust cycle that has limited our ability to maintain government spending at the level that previous Assemblies enjoyed. We do need to do more to diversify our economy to support the private sector and this amendment to the mandate provides certainty and clarity to our business community and to the residents of the Northwest Territories that we will in fact support economic diversification and support hard-working northern businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. I'm seeing no more names on my list. To the motion. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Government of the Northwest Territories offers a wide range of programs to assist entrepreneurs get established and grow their businesses. For example, Industry, Tourism and Investment has a network of regional offices staffed by experienced, well-trained economic development officers who assist and advise small businesses on a daily basis.

One of the key functions is to recommend funding sources such as the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development, better known as the SEED policy for contributions or community futures, and the Business Development and Investment Corporation for loan financing. SEED in particular is very flexible and can provide funding for a diverse range of activities from developing business plans, marketing, purchasing equipment, visiting trade shows, and business networking. These programs do not just support start-ups but can assist the business at every stage of their operation. Industry, Tourism, and Investment also offers very specific sector programming. For example, tourism operators can access funding under the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program to expand their businesses and market their programs. Agriculture programming can also pay for bringing land into production or capital equipment, or subsidize the delivery or products to customers in other communities. In the fisheries sector, Industry, Tourism, and Investment is

working with fisheries to revitalize the Great Slave Lake fishery. A manufacturing marketing plan is creating awareness of manufacturing opportunities in the Northwest Territories.

In addition, regional offices conduct workshops throughout the year related to every stage of the business cycle. The Business Development and Investment Corporation also maintains both a physical and online business resource centre that is a resource on a wide range of relevant topics for individuals and businesses. There is a suite of support systems for small businesses provided by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. To the motion. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a one per cent reduction in small business rate is equivalent to about \$700,000 in revenue in the total GNWT, as I've been saying the last little while, that is used to fund programs and services are projected to decline over the next five years. The reduction itself would only impact a small number of businesses in the NWT, and this reduction would not cause anyone to start a small business. The number of small businesses operating in the NWT has been declining over the last few years due to various factors impacting our regional economies, for example down in the Sahtu, due to the downturn in the oil and gas industry. We should be looking at providing direct support to small businesses through grants and contributions, rather than lower taxes as small businesses that require government support do not have large revenue or large profit, and hence do not pay a lot, if any, corporate tax. We've heard a few times from some of the Regular Members that one of the options that they would like to see is to increase the taxes rather than reduce them to help offset any revenue loss. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. To the motion. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and with respect to the previous speaker's comments, I'd like to indicate that, as a small business owner, I'll find myself in support of the motion. More and more we're seeing in the North small businesses are seeing growing overheads, I am grateful for the current GNWT entrepreneurial support. That's certainly greatly appreciated. However, a tax reduction will be supportive of small business revenue growth, and that ultimately supports hiring and training and again, supports economic growth. I see this as an incentive for the growth of small business and I will be in support. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I would call upon Mr. Testart to conclude the motion.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of critical importance is, although only a small number of businesses would benefit, there are only a small number of businesses in the Northwest Territories to begin with, and that's exactly the kind of thing we need to start changing. I thank the Premier for outlining some of the programs we currently have to support entrepreneurs and private sector enterprises. Those are good programs and they should be expanded. Although this tax relief measure will result in lessened government revenues, it is something we can definitely afford, and again, we need to provide a plan for economic recovery and tax relief for our business community, especially our small business community. This is exactly the kind of strong signal we need to send: That the North is open for business and is investing in our private sector. I encourage everyone to support this motion as we move forward to concluding this mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 11-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING
AMENDMENTS TO THE HERITAGE FUND ACT,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 13 by inserting the words "We will review and develop amendments to the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act in light of devolution to ensure a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. The motion is on the floor and is now being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Heritage Fund is an excellent way to keep a resource wealth here in the Northwest Territories for the use of future generations. One of the items of the transition report of the last Assembly was to

do work on the Heritage Fund Act to do exactly what this amendment calls for: To create a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance of the fund. Right now, the revenue stream going into the fund is more or less defined by an agreement from the Minister of Finance, and it is the opinion of many that this needs to be looked at and defined by legislation so there is a reliable flow of cash into the Fund that can be used to generate stronger dividends for use by this government going forward.

We are looking for revenue options and the Heritage Fund, if properly utilized, could be a way to create those dividends we need to expand our revenues and, again, keep our resource wealth in the Northwest Territories for the use of future generations. This amendment will allow this government to move forward on this and propose the kinds of amendments we need to make this source of additional revenue possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I note that in the proposed mandate, on page 13, the same section that we're talking about, there is a long list of legislation that the Cabinet has proposed that we review in light of devolution. They include a new Mineral Resources Act, the amendments to the Northwest Territories Mining Regulations, the NWT Lands Act, the Commissioner's Lands Act, the Territorial Parks Act, the Petroleum Resources Act, the Oil and Gas Operations Act, the Waters Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Forest Management Act.

That's a good list, but I don't understand why the review of the Heritage Fund Act was not included in this section. It's something that was certainly raised to me during the election as a constituent. I mentioned it in this House as part of the priorities that I ran on in the election. This has been an interesting ongoing debate, I know, in this House because every budget, it's decided how much, if anything, to actually put into the Heritage Fund. Basically, it's completely discretionary, done on a case-by-case, year-by-year basis. With devolution, we are now at a point where we are beginning to collect some of our own resource revenues, and with an increased revenue stream coming into the territorial government, we need to look at how and how much we should be devoting on a regular basis into the Heritage Fund.

Other jurisdictions have grown these over time. Alberta is not exactly a great example, but certainly, the Norway Pension Fund is now over a trillion dollars. They ensure that all of their resource revenues go into that fund. They actually have state ownership in the oil and gas sector as well, that

helps put that money into the fund, but it's provided a great deal of stability to the economy in Norway and allowed them to actually surpass Canada in terms of their standard of living. I'm not suggesting that we need to immediately jump to the kind of fund that Norway has, but in light of these new responsibilities that we have inherited, we do have a duty to ourselves and our future generations to improve upon what's in that act, make sure that there's a defined revenue stream going into the fund, and also look at how it should be governed. Right now, it is governed through the Financial Management Board, which is fine, but most other funds that are set up in other jurisdictions have a much stronger element of public governance, even arm's-length in some cases, so that the way that those funds are invested are reviewed on a regular basis. Some funds actually establish environmental and social screens on how the money is to be invested.

I think that would be something wise and something that we may want to consider at some point, but to not have it appear in the mandate, I think, is not the way that we should be going in light of devolution. If we are going to be looking at all this other legislation, let's make sure that we also look at the Heritage Fund Act as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, too, speak in support of this motion. In the 17th Assembly, I think we laid some fundamental roots of at least the initiative that is before us today. My colleague had made reference to the Norway model in terms of the Heritage Fund, and just the gains in terms of the investment, in terms of ensuring that there is indeed a Heritage Fund out there that perhaps could be seen as a legacy fund as well. It's an investment fund to ensure that we do set aside some of the revenues that we generate from these large natural resource projects, that they are invested for the future.

The point has been made in terms of ensuring that we do have a very strong governance model to manage the Heritage Fund, ensuring that the model is strong. At the same time, there is a monitoring capacity that is report mechanisms, also at the same time ensuring that it's transparent and it has at least a reflection of public input, and at the same time ensuring that the investments that we generate and set aside are secured.

The other point I want to make is, of course that the motion highlights that we need to ensure that we have a revenue stream that is channelled into this Heritage Fund, and that we make it possible. I believe this motion speaks to that, so I will vote in favour of this. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the motion. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Heritage Fund Act was enacted on August 1, 2012, and the legislation establishes a trust fund as a long-term investment in which surplus funds typically received from resource royalties may be transferred at the discretion of a Legislative Assembly. Once transferred, these funds become part of the principal of the Heritage Fund. Under the Act, for the first 20 years once first contribution is made, both the principal and the interest, or the income generated by the fund, are retained in the fund. After 20 years have passed, transfers out of the fund for use by the GNWT may be made through the creation of a special act, in addition to going through the standard budget appropriation processes. The current act limits the transfers out of the fund to an annual withdrawal of five per cent of the year-end balance of the fund, provided that the principal of the fund is not removed. In other words, all contributions to the fund can never be removed and moved by the Legislative Assembly for any purpose. Only the interest income can ever be withdrawn and appropriated by the Legislative Assembly.

Because resource revenues are volatile and unpredictable, the 17th Legislative Assembly decided not to include these revenues to fund operations and maintenance or ongoing programs and services from net fiscal benefit from devolution. The 17th Legislative Assembly instead decided through the budget review process to invest 25 per cent of the GNWT's net fiscal benefit from devolution into the Heritage Fund and the remaining 75 per cent in infrastructure. Because the NWT has been in a cash deficit program for the last number of years, the GNWT had to incur short-term borrowing costs to meet this obligation. Since the start of the fund in 2012-2013, we have paid over \$41,000 in interest costs related to these payments. I would agree that discussion of how much of any further contributions to the Heritage Fund the GNWT should continue while the GNWT is in a cash deficit position would be worthwhile. We have heard in the Assembly that investment in infrastructure such as Mackenzie Valley Highway, the road to the Slave Geological Province, and an all-weather road to Whati. Our priorities are needed to grow our economy and reduce the cost of living. We also need to invest in infrastructure to provide required services to our residents, such as schools, health facilities, public and seniors' housing, airports, parks to support tourism, and maintenance of our existing highways.

If we want to undertake these investments in a reasonable time frame, we need to have the financial resources to pay for 50 per cent of these investments from within our own revenues, under

our Fiscal Responsibility Policy. Again, discussion on how much of the NWT fiscal benefit from devolution should be invested into the Heritage Fund and how much should be invested in infrastructure is something we should engage on. Should we enshrine a certain level of investment in legislation or should we let each Assembly decide based on its own objectives the fiscal situation it finds itself? These are all things we should discuss.

With respect to the independent or arm's-length management and administration of the NWT Heritage Fund, the current act does not prevent this from happening. But while the fund is new and still in a modest balance of \$5.5 million, the value of benefit would outweigh the cost of such third-party management and administration. Although the interest earned by the fund could be used to pay these costs, the estimated interest earned for 2015-2016 is only \$37,000, and likely not sufficient to pay for costs of third-party management. Initial feedback from fund managers indicates that fees on a \$6 million fund would range from \$45,000 to \$75,000 per year, depending on the level of monitoring we want them to do. Having said this, the Legislative Assembly does receive an annual report on the performance of the fund as part of the GNWT Public Accounts. I tabled the 2014-2015 Public Accounts in this Assembly yesterday. The annual financial statements of the fund are included in section 3. The current act includes a requirement for the Legislative Assembly to conduct a review, after 10 years of the provisions and operations of the act, including recommendations on how to seek public input and advice on expenditures for the Fund and whether independent oversight and management of the fund is required.

I would encourage the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning to entertain a detailed briefing on the act to ensure it fully understands the act's provisions and to engage in a detailed discussion on what is the best path forward, given there is legislative requirement for a comprehensive review of the act in 2022. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. Seeing no one else on my list, I will call on Mr. Testart to close debate on the motion.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's comments. However, the longer we wait to make these amendments that many people in the Northwest Territories feel are necessary to ensure stronger public governments, a defined revenue stream, and greater dividend returns in the future, the longer it'll take to make those changes. During the election, this was an issue for many, and it was directly put to members of the public who supported, again, many of the people in this House today. I believe we do have a mandate to move

forward on this issue in the short term and not wait until 2022, which is why this amendment exists. During the election people voted for it, so it's time to put it in the mandate and start work right away to make sure we have the strongest Heritage Fund possible that will result in greater benefits for Northerners. I would also like to call for a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Blake.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Moses; Mr. Abernethy; Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South; Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. Schumann; Mr. Sebert.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote are nine in favour; six opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any more comments on the "Economy, Environment and Climate change" section? If not, would the committee agree to return to the "Cost of Living" section?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Do the Members have any comments or question for the cost of living section? Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 12-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING ENERGY
SOURCES, CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 20 by deleting the words, "There is potential for development of expanded hydro capacity while at the same time better diversifying our energy resources with solar, wind and biomass," and inserting the words, "There is potential to expand hydroelectric capacity and diversify energy

production with solar, wind, biomass and geothermal resources.”

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is just to be consistent throughout the document. We talk about solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal in other areas, so it is to be consistent with it as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I'll call on Mr. Thompson to conclude debate on the issue.

MR. THOMPSON: I've said enough. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any more comments or questions on the “Cost of Living” section? Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 13-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING ENERGY
EFFICIENCY, CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have one further amendment I'd like to propose to the mandate document. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), the Proposed Mandate of The Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 21 by deleting the words “We will provide incentives for residents to invest in energy efficient products, help businesses, condominiums and co-operatives make investments in energy conservation and energy efficiency, support residents and communities so they can make investments into renewable energies such as solar, and improve the energy efficiency of public housing,” and inserting the words “We will expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products; help businesses, condominiums and co-operatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency; support residential and community investment in renewable energy such as solar; and improve the efficiency of public housing.”

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We seem to be missing the second part of that, but it's exactly the same, as I understand it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We'll take a very short recess while the clerks get that motion out. Two minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), the Proposed Mandate of The Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 21 by deleting the words “We will provide incentives for residents to invest in energy efficient products, help businesses, condominiums and co-operatives make investments in energy conservation and energy efficiency, support residents and communities so they can make investments into renewable energies such as solar, and improve the energy efficiency of public housing,” and inserting the words “We will expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products; help businesses, condominiums and co-operatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency; support residential and community investment in renewable energy such as solar; and improve the efficiency of public housing.”

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For those that are listening, or are going to read this in the Hansard, the difference here is we're changing the wording that was in the tabled document from “provide incentives” to “we will expand and improve access to incentives.” That's the key difference here. Just a little bit of an explanation. The original wording says, “provide incentives.” We already do that through the Arctic Energy Alliance, so I don't think this really represents any kind of innovation or change in any way, and I think what I heard, certainly, during the campaign and from a number of constituents is that we should be looking to improve access to incentives to make them more widely available, particularly to lower-income families, but also perhaps, other communities as well, and that we shouldn't just improve access, but we should actually expand incentives.

I'm sure we'll have an interesting discussion around what that means as well, but the idea here is that energy efficiency is one of the main ways that we can actually reduce the cost of living for our residents. We should always be doing our best to improve energy efficiency. Arctic Energy Alliance does offer some amazing programs and I think the objective of this change is to ensure that we can do a better job with our residents to lower the cost of living through energy efficiency. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Sebert.

MOTION TO AMEND COMMITTEE MOTION 13-18(2) REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENCIES, DEFEATED

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Chair, I move that Committee Motion 13-18(2) be amended by deleting the words "expand and." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Sebert. The motion to amend is in order. To the amendment to Committee Motion 13-18(2). The amendment to the motion is being distributed. To the amendment to the motion. Mr. Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The wording change proposed by the committee is more concise and improves on the original text of the draft. The only issue of concern to the GNWT is the use of the word "expand" in reference to access to energy conservation and efficiency programs. The GNWT currently funds very generous energy efficiency and conservation programs, including the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, the Commercial Energy Efficiency Program and the Alternative Energy Technologies Program. The Energy Efficiency Incentive Program provides incentives for products we use every day, including washers, dryers, refrigerators and stoves. Residents can receive up to \$700 for the purchase of a wood pellet stove. The Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program is a program available to businesses. Rebates are available to businesses. Rebates are available for energy upgrades of up to \$15,000 for qualified commercial energy efficiency products.

The Alternative Energy Technology Program provides funding for renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and wood pellet heating. Applicants may receive funding of up to one-half of the project cost, up to \$21,000 per year. Generally, many of our incentives are much more generous than one would find in other parts of the country. An undefined commitment to expand programs is not prudent at this time in view of the fiscal restraints we've heard about. The GNWT does support the inclusion of the words "improve access." This is an ongoing objective of the Arctic Energy Alliance and the GNWT has funded the establishment of Arctic Energy Alliance regional offices in recent years to improve access to services in communities. Provincial and territorial governments continue to advocate for renewed federal investment in energy conservation and efficiency incentives. The federal government once played a more direct role in this area but has refrained from doing so in recent years. The GNWT will look for a renewed federal presence in supporting energy conservation and

efficiency. For those reasons, we are proposing this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Sebert. To the amendment to the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do appreciate the Member opposite providing a good summary of the good work that Arctic Energy Alliance does carry out. I think part of the difficulty here with this proposed amendment to the motion is that it would basically take away one of the measurable targets or actions for this particular item in the mandate, and that's to expand programs. We haven't said over what period of time or even how much, but it's an inspirational part of this action in here to basically expand those programs.

We can debate and discuss how much and so on when it comes to the actual budget, but to remove that wording now in the context of this I don't think that's a wise thing to do. That sort of qualifier hasn't been added into a lot of other places in the mandate where the Cabinet did see fit to make commitments to do things that actually might cost money as well, so it's kind of curious that you want to take it out of this one, but there's other areas in the mandate document that might cost some money but you're prepared to stand by those. In any event, we've had a bigger debate and discussion around the fiscal context yesterday and I don't think this is a wise thing to remove this one word. It does create a measurable action and a target that we should all be striving towards, so I'll be voting against this. Mr. Chair, I actually would request a recorded vote. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I remind all Members to direct their comments through the chair. To the amendment to the motion. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Moses, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Blake, Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote are six in favour; nine opposed; zero

abstentions. The motion is defeated. The motion to amend is defeated. The amendment to the motion is defeated. I'm sorry. To the motion.

---Defeated

To the motion. Seeing no more comments, I will call for a vote. All those in favour of the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: A couple of things here. I'm hoping that even with the changes that have been proposed, our colleagues on the other side will still vote in favour of this. I'd be curious to see what happens, but Mr. Chair, I'd also request a recorded vote on this motion.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Blake, Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Moses, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote are nine in favour; six opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will now continue comment to questions on the "Cost of Living" section. Mr. Vanthuyne.

COMMITTEE MOTION 14-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS ADDRESSING
ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENERGY
CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a motion. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 22 by deleting the words "We commit to assisting community governments as they innovate to address efficiency and conservation, address

climate change by supporting the development of community government capital plans and asset planning, and ensure training recognizes the challenges of climate change" and inserting the words "We will assist community governments to improve energy efficiency and conservation to reduce the impact of climate change by supporting development of community governments capital and asset plans to ensure training includes challenges related to climate change and enable community governments to set up revolving funds for energy efficiency measures." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Residents of the NWT are combating the impacts of climate change and are seeing the highest costs of living ever. Elders are seeing dramatic changes to the land they've known since childhood. Animals are following new migration patterns. Shorter, warmer winters, more severe summer storms, erosion and wildfires are just a few changes in life-long climate conditions that are currently faced by Northerners.

I present this motion to enable this government to help people in our communities as they grapple with the impacts of climate change. In March of last year, both the NWT Association of Communities and Yellowknife City Council passed similar motions. Speaking on behalf of territorial communities, both these bodies urged the GNWT to consider amendments to territorial legislation to enable community governments to use LICs, known as local improvement charges. These LICs, in my amendment referred to as revolving funds, would permit communities to directly assist local homeowners and businesses to retrofit and become more energy efficient, and adapt to renewable energy technologies.

Many municipalities across Canada are now using LICs to help their residents and businesses lower their energy costs and save money. This may be through energy efficient retrofits, or the use of solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources. The territory will save money and reduce effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will be supporting a real mechanism for reducing the cost of living. As directly requested by the NWTAC and the council of our capital city, this government can give our communities a direct tool to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy and reduced costs of living. It's time for the GNWT to partner with our communities to give them the ability to implement these changes at the community level. These are my comments in support of the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to be voting in favour of this motion for a number of reasons. Recently, Yellowknife MLAs did meet with the mayor and city council here in Yellowknife to talk about some issues of importance for them. The mayor has been on the public record as supporting changes to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act to enable the City of Yellowknife to use local improvement charges as one way to set up a revolving fund that would allow residents to access the capital costs of energy efficiency without having to put all the money themselves up-front. They can start to pay for the costs of the capital improvements on their homes through the energy savings that they would get right away. What this motion is doing is putting in our mandate that we enable local governments to do this. It doesn't say they have to do it, but it starts to establish this as a higher priority for us as government to enable our communities to put in place revolving funds that will allow residents to immediately start to save money and also save on greenhouse gas emissions. I do hope that our Members on the other side of the House are going to be supporting this. This is not a major change to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, it doesn't force anybody to do it, but we have to give our communities the authority to be able to set up a revolving fund and local improvement charges to carry out this important work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Deputy Premier McLeod.

MR. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll use my Deputy Premier voice.

---Laughter

We're not totally opposed to this motion. Just a couple things. The motion, as I read it here, is basically something that the government already does in working with communities. I noticed that there was a motion passed in 2013 from the NWT Association of Communities. We've given the communities a lot of responsibility, and they've taken on that responsibility with the construction of a lot of their infrastructure in their communities to make sure it's energy efficient and all that, but I look forward to having further discussion with the NWT Association of communities during their AGM in May to confirm the motion that they made in 2013. But a lot of the items in here are something that we already work with the communities on doing. But as I said, we're not totally opposed to this motion. I just thought I should add a few comments. I look forward to having a further discussion with the NWT Association of Communities during their May AGM that's held here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I call upon Mr. Vanthuyne to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have no further comments. I appreciate the comments from previous Members. I would like to move the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue our discussion of the "Cost of Living" section. Are there any comments or questions? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
UNIVERSAL DAY CARE, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 23 by deleting the words "We will develop options for universal daycare and changes to support overall affordability, ensuring sustainability for early childhood program operators and expanded access to early childhood programs across the territory," and inserting the words "We will develop an action plan for universal daycare within the next two years, including a timeline for implementation."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Finding and paying for quality childcare is a significant problem for many families in the NWT. Childcare is available to only 39 per cent of children ages zero to for in the NWT, and 12 communities don't have licensed childcare centres now, including centres with substantial populations, such as Fort Liard, Lutselk'e, Norman Wells, and Tsiigehtchic. As a reference point, one in four NWT families has a child under five. There is no question that need outstrips availability. This information comes from a feasibility study completed by academics on universal childcare delivered to the 17th Assembly last year. Parents now face a variety of choices for childcare. They can stay home and care for their children themselves; they can make arrangements

with family members; they can use a day home, a daycare centre, or a program such as Aboriginal Head Start. All have their merits. Cost is the major issue. In the cost of living study for Yellowknife last year, childcare emerged as the second-largest expense for a family of four at over \$1,500 to have one child in fulltime, licensed care and another in an after-school program. The cost to families is prohibitive, especially if they have more than one child. Often, one parent decides to stay home rather than work fulltime to pay for childcare.

The answer to this problem is to provide more quality childcare. The feasibility study I mentioned just now ran the numbers on cost and benefits. Childcare provided on a universal basis becomes an important part of the economy. It returns \$1.16 to the local economy for every dollar spent on childcare. As well, every childcare job creates or sustains two more jobs in the economy. This is a better investment than in mining, oil, or gas sectors. The authors of the study estimate that implementing universal daycare will add at least \$16 million to our NWT gross domestic product and at least \$15 million in labour income. There would be increased tax revenue and a decrease in income assistance costs. What's important to note here is the benefit to the economy of investing in childcare as well as the benefits to children and families.

Another benefit of providing universal and affordable childcare is that it would bring people, especially women, back into the workforce who are not working now, all other things being equal, such as jobs being available and the workers having the appropriate qualifications. While there's no specific number for the NWT, studies of labour force participation in Quebec indicate a seven per cent increase in the size of the workforce, once universal childcare was introduced there in 1997, and of course, those who participate in the labour force pay taxes, another benefit to the economy. The cost to government of providing universal daycare is \$20 million a year, if funded at the same level as Quebec. I don't want to go down the road of how we're going to pay for increased childcare. That's a question we'll address during budget deliberations. What I'm looking for now is agreement that we build on the feasibility study by creating an action plan and a timeline for rolling out universal daycare when our financial situation allows and Members agree that it is apriority. The study recommends that we study the PEI model, because our population is small, as theirs is, and their model has avoided some of the problems that have developed in Quebec delivery of childcare. What I'm looking for now is agreement that there is a significant need for licensed, affordable childcare in the NWT. Providing this care has development opportunities for children by providing them with education as well as care. It has the potential to help parents

return to the workforce and the creation of a sector of our economy that is now described as a cottage industry. In short, Mr. Chair, it's time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is time, and I think that's what the 17th Legislative Assembly did with some of the motions that passed, as well as some of the development of the action plans Right From the Start where we just developed them and we're trying to put some resources to those so we can have quality-educated people to run those facilities. However, with the motion before us, universal daycare may be an admirable goal, but it is important that we include items in our mandate that are achievable. The Feasibility Study on Universal Daycare done during the 17th Assembly showed there would need to be incremental annual investments between \$17 and \$40 million. There would also need to be investments to double the number of daycare spaces and there would need to be more than double the number of trained early childhood educators.

The department has committed to a number of activities that will help us to move towards the eventual goal of universal childcare. We intend to take steps to make childcare more affordable, strengthen the support for daycare operators, and improve access to licensed daycare spaces. We are supporting early childhood educators through wage subsidies, training, and scholarships for our residents that want to go into this type of work. However, given our fiscal situation, as all Members know, it is unlikely that we can make the kind of investment that will be needed to achieve universal daycare. We know the federal government has committed to investing in social infrastructure and we look forward to the detail on that investment.

We also recognize that the NWT's need in areas like social housing and seniors' facilities, which has been mentioned in this House during this session already. In my view, we need to consider whether our time and effort is best served detailing an action plan and implementation for an aspirational goal, or whether we should focus on strengthening our early childhood supports, programs, and build on those component parts that will be needed for universal daycare at some point in the future. As mentioned, the Right from the Start Early Childhood Development Framework is fairly new to this government from the 17th Legislative Assembly, and we want to put our efforts into making sure that we can achieve those goals that eventually lead us up to universal child daycare. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Moses. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say a couple of things on this motion. This is an important part of the future of our territory and our government. This type of spending is spending that has tremendous returns. We need to be able to be prepared to have people in the workforce. We need daycare that's affordable for people to go to work and turn our economy around. We know that spending in early childhood has tremendous returns and this is asking the government to develop an action plan within the next two years. We're looking down the road for a couple of years when it would be time for us to invest in our people and invest in our territory.

These investments, like I said, have tremendous returns and the government should be looking at it from that perspective rather than just looking at the bottom line today and how much it might cost two years down the road. We should try to set the table for individuals to go to work and decrease the social spending across the territory, especially in small communities where we're relying so heavily on social spending by this government. This is one of the moves that is going to turn these things around. Eventually, we have to turn the ship and start to spend strategically. This is part of what I spoke about earlier in the Member's statement on employment -- that this gives an opportunity for small community spend. People working in daycares is an opportunity for people to be working and any sort of spending in this area has tremendous returns.

I spoke to teachers in small communities where they see the vast difference between kids that have gone to daycare and kids where their parents can't afford to put them in daycare or have no ability to put them in daycare because there's no work. Those kids are coming in are more than a year ahead of some of the kids that are not going to daycare. This is important. This is very important for our people that we have the ability to place kids in this environment, get them ready for school. This has, like I said, tremendous returns. I don't know the exact stats, but kids in daycare are starting off in kindergarten way ahead of kids that are not going into daycare, and I think for that reason this is a motion that I would support strongly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. First off, I'd like to thank the mover of the motion for a very eloquent and detailed rationale that sets out the importance of supporting universal daycare in our communities. I don't really want to repeat any of her arguments. I think she made them very well. What I want to do though, Mr. Chair, is focus back on the priorities that we identified as the 18th Assembly earlier on in our lives here. Back in December, the priority reads

under "Cost of Living" number 6: "Implementing universal and affordable childcare." That's what we committed to do together before people assumed their Cabinet hats and folks on this side. That's what we committed to do. What came back from Cabinet is "We will develop options." That's helpful. I think what this motion, though, is really about is to try to strengthen that commitment and make it a measurable action. What we suggest is that there should be an action plan within two years, that's the difference. We've put a timeframe on it. It's not just about developing options, we want an action plan.

How we actually implement it, that's something we can debate and discuss in terms of the budget and when we see the action plan, but a vague commitment to develop options I just don't think reflects the priorities that we developed together for this Assembly back in December. I'm also very persuaded by the comments of the previous speaker about the importance of this for small communities and investing in our people. That's what this is really about, and making sure that we move that forward as a clear priority for the 18th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of brief comments. I'd like to thank the mover for bringing this motion forward. We have a lot of challenges in our small communities as I have said for the last four years now. In Tsiigehtchic, for example, we haven't had a daycare there for over nine years now. You know, that's pretty challenging, whether it's single mothers or parents that want to go to work, but they can't, because there's no daycare. It's pretty difficult to find a babysitter in the community, too. Those are the challenges we face. A lot of the Ministers may not understand that, not coming from a small community, but those are the facts that we deal with on a daily basis in my community.

Also, creating a couple of new jobs is huge for a community like Tsiigehtchic. Also, as the Ministers may recall, in the last term there was an investment in an Inuvik facility, a little over \$1 million, I believe. It did a lot for the community but they're still challenged. They're paying in the neighbourhood of \$800 or more per child per month. With a family living in that community with two or three children, it's very difficult for the parents, especially with the high cost of living in our region. Those are challenges that our residents face and we have to keep that in mind. I know for the last four years that I've been bringing up daycares that's the same answer we get all the time: "Well, the federal government is making investment in this so we can't put money into it." That's the answer I have been getting for four years, and I heard a little bit of

that earlier today. I think it's time that we try to make our contribution to this. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Vanthuyne. To the motion.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I clearly agree with the previous speakers with regard to the concerns they are raising. Our territory is clearly young and it has a growing population. Many of our residents, as we know, live in isolated communities where economic opportunity is often hard to come by, and it's our job as a government to remove as many obstacles to advancement as we can. Our government, as we know through the priority-setting process, is setting goals pertaining to education, pertaining to trades and apprenticeships, careers, business development -- all in the name of economic growth. If our territory is to achieve these goals, young families must have childcare that they can rely on.

Universal childcare is a model that has been embraced by some of the most advanced societies, as we know, around the world. We should demonstrate that we have the will and the insight to follow that lead. Childcare must not only be reliable but, of course, affordable. It helps no one to have a childcare system that consumes the family budget. Without it, all manner of economic opportunity remains difficult and in some degree may even be unachievable. Lastly, the people who provide childcare must be able to make ends meet. If we are to trust them with the safety and care of our children, then in turn they must be able to be financially secure. I will be in support. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. To the motion. Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will be supporting this motion here, and I'll share some information just to justify, as my previous speakers mentioned. In the speech that I said last week, in Norman Wells, at the current situation, I met two families. The man is bringing home the paycheques and the wife was working, and she can't work now because they can't find daycare services or homecare services. There's two families right there who lost out on market paycheques coming in. We also had a daycare centre, and for whatever reason, it's not open. But at the current moment, it is a nice building.

As I mentioned last week as well, it's a community initiative, well built, well put together, lots of toys inside for the kids, and so on. but it sits there dormant right now, just collecting snow, waiting for this motion to get active so we can reopen the doors. For those experiences and thoughts that I went to the houses on, and there are many others in the other communities as well across the NWT

where spouses are experiencing that. For those reasons and other reasons, I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not going to elaborate. My colleagues have been pretty articulate on what we're trying to get across here. In my riding, representing Nahendeh, there are a number of issues with daycare, or childcare, I guess we'd say. In Fort Liard, we had to close our childcare because we couldn't afford it. The community couldn't afford it. We have other people in the communities having to not work because they can't get affordable and reliable childcare, which means income support has to be paid. It's unfortunate that this is happening. I think we need to be looking at it, come up with a plan and a strategy and a timeline that we can look at. I don't think it's being unrealistic for us to ask it. We've heard it on the campaign trail. This is what the residents of the Northwest Territories are asking us to do. I will be voting in support of this motion as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I would like to remind Members that at 6:00 p.m., the Chair must rise and report progress, so we have about 50 minutes left until then. I don't know if the Chair wants to get through this today, but I'm just letting you know.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The question has been called. I call upon Ms. Green to conclude debate on this motion.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much, colleagues, for speaking in support of this important initiative, and thank you to the Minister for his remarks. I just want to reflect that I understand that the road to Whatì is going in to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for permitting without any money to build it and so surely creating a plan to implement daycare, and a timeline, for it is no more outlandish a use of time and resources by the government. What we are talking about here, as you have heard, is education. It's about care, but it's about education. Surely, our children are worth 20 kilometres of highway in order to educate them and make them successful citizens of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue with the section, "Cost of Living." Do the Members have any comments or questions on this section? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING AFFORDABLE
DAY CARE, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 23 by inserting the words "We will improve affordability of daycare, ensuring sustainability for operators of early childhood programs and expanding access to early childhood programs across the territory." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Daycare affordability is a major issue for working families in the Northwest Territories, as I just said. It's usually the largest expense after accommodation. Funding for childcare comes primarily from the fees that parents pay. Just 20 per cent of childcare costs come from public funding in the NWT, one of the lowest levels in the developed world and less than one per cent of our budget. In the academic study of the feasibility of providing universal daycare in the NWT, the authors make the following recommendations about grants to daycare operators. I'm going to quote from that report:

"If a daycare centre was positioned to apply for every grant, it would involve nine different application processes for relatively small amounts. Growing childcare in the NWT requires a more stable funding base and a less burdensome grant process. Consolidating the program contribution, rent/mortgage contribution, and staff grant program would refocus operational funding into a single payment stream to programs.

The Small Communities Initiative Fund could also be rolled into the consolidated grant, providing predictable funding for programs in remote communities. Multi-year grants would allow for program planning and reduce the administrative burden. Rather than allocating consolidated grant payments on spaces or enrolment, which is the way it's done now, payments should be based on legislated staffing levels, which are the major recurring non-flexible costs in daycare. To ensure funding improves staff wages, regional wage grids would provide transparency to staff and accountability to the public, and allow for

differences in living costs. Tying payment levels to staff credentials and a wage grid would encourage capacity in the work force. Consolidated grant payments could be paid quarterly or as deemed appropriate in consultation with operators. The above approaches are funding-neutral. In other words, they can be implemented without additional funds. They address deliverables in the action plan, including reducing the administrative workload and promoting program stability by providing predictable funding. At the same time, they address wage levels, which impact the ability of programs to recruit and retain trained staff. Ultimately they provide the coherent base necessary if the NWT is to grow funding to expand early childhood education access and improve program quality."

What I want to emphasize here is that what is strangling our daycares now is this unpredictable and cumbersome granting structure, which is based on whether children are there and so varies from day to day, since young children are often ill. It strangles the daycare providers by not allowing them a predictable and stable source of funding, which is why my colleagues have been talking about daycares closing in a number of communities. Usually, these operations are very thin in a financial way, where they cannot carry the program for months on end where the enrolment in the childcare facility is fluctuating. I would therefore urge everyone to vote in favour of this motion that will address these chronic problems in operating daycares in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion. Question has been called. I call upon Ms. Green to conclude debate. Is there anything further, Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any more comments on the "Cost of Living" section? I'm seeing none. Does the committee agree we move onto the "Community Wellness and Safety" section?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Are there any comments on this section? Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-18(2):
 TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
 MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
 REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
 ENHANCED HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE
 SERVICES, CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 25 by deleting the words "Developing an action plan for enhanced home and community care services" and inserting the words "Developing and implementing an action plan for enhanced home and community care services."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a few words on this. We are looking for an action plan for the enhanced homecare services to support the communities, largely in support of the aging in place, that we think would be a program or a project of the government that would have tremendous returns, would defer a lot of costs. We want ensure that there is an action plan on the homecare services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I will allow Mr. Beaulieu to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as opposed to developing an action plan, what we are recommending is that we implement an action plan. We know that there is some money now in home and community care services, so we are looking for an action plan to enhance those services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Comments and questions on the section. Mr. McNeely.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-18(2):
 TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
 MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
 REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
 PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES, CARRIED

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 25 by deleting the words "Developing an action plan for expanded palliative care services" and inserting the words "Developing and implementing an action plan for expanded palliative care services." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Yes, I'm speaking in favour of this motion, and I encourage others as well. There is an aging population in our remote communities that in dire need of an action plan, and the action plan is only better if it's implemented. There's an increasing number of clients getting to the age to replace the ones that are already there in unfortunate circumstances. Greater yet, most smaller communities we do not have as much of the available services as more so in some of the luckier urban centres in this part of the country that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief. One of the things that small communities are seeing more and more often is that their elders, once they get to a certain age, are passing away from home, and in their last days they would like to have a service in the community. I think some of the communities such as Deline and in Fort Resolution have even you know marked a place location where they thought that this service could be provided, so for that reason I would support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I will allow Mr. McNeely to conclude debate on the motion

MR. MCNEELY: I've got nothing further, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. McNeely. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Comments and questions for this section? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 19-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING THE
TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN
AND DELETION OF TEXT REGARDING THE
ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, be amended on page 25 by inserting the following words under the "Fostering Healthy Family" section "We will reduce poverty in the NWT by implementing the GNWT commitments in the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, continuing to work with our partners to advance the plan and supporting communities' priorities for wellness."

And further, that the proposed mandate be amended on page 26 by deleting the words "Supporting community wellness priorities that address the pillars of the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework and aim to reduce the effects of poverty on children." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to give you some background on this motion. Starting in 2009, a group of non-profit organizations from around the Northwest Territories came together to lobby the government to create an Anti-Poverty Action Plan, and during the 17th Assembly that strategic framework was completed. Following on with that, then two action plans were developed, one by the GNWT reflecting the commitments of various departments that serve people in poverty, and another by a multi-stakeholder group of which I was part that then came up with the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, which was tabled in the Legislature in June of last year.

The Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan has been administering an anti-poverty fund for the last two years of approximately \$500,000, in which there is a call for proposals to address poverty at the grassroots level. It has been taken up by small communities to address their most immediate

needs, often around food, the production of food, or the harvesting of food. The point of this amendment is to draw attention to the fact that this work is ongoing and that we want to talk about poverty in a more general sense than only the effects on children, although it is important to say that children are disproportionately affected by poverty. In the NWT, the 2010 tax filer data for the NWT says that as many as 30 per cent of children throughout the whole territory are living with low income. We know from the number of meals that are served by organizations like Breakfast for Learning that food is a major issue for children. All of that to say we need to continue the good work that's being done, both within the government and by the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan to combat this scourge. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I will allow Ms. Green to conclude debate on the motion.

MS. GREEN: I have nothing further to add. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue discussing the "Community Wellness and Safety" section. Any comments? Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 20-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING A HEALING
PROGRAM FOR MEN, CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 27 by inserting the following words under "Taking Action on the Crisis of Family and Community Violence" section, "continuing the support for a healing program for men who use violence in intimate relationships such as the Wek'eahkaa, A New Day Healing Program."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The New Day Program is a men's program. As people might be aware, family violence within the communities is at an all-time high and it's reached the crisis level, and we need to do something about it. Part of this initiative, the men's healing program is addressing the matter of family violence and at the same time, giving opportunity for men to make positive changes in their lives. This program has been in operation since 2013. It's been a pilot project and a pilot program, and at this point, there have been discussions in terms of making an assessment of the program at some point and possibly looking at the idea of expanding the program.

That's more likely an exercise that governments would have to do, but the idea is to move this pilot project to a permanent program so that these kinds of healing opportunities and wellness initiatives are made available within communities at the same time, at least accorded to men as well. For those reasons, I'll support this motion. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Mr. Nadli has correctly pointed out, family violence is at the second highest level in the NWT of the entire country, and unfortunately much of our funding efforts are aimed at helping the victims of violence after the violence has happened. This program is unique in trying to provide a systemic solution to family violence by treating the people who are expressing their anger with violence. I support it because it would make a long-term difference not only to the people who are experiencing violence now, but also to their families to spare their children from witnessing and repeating the cycle of violence in their lives. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I'll allow Mr. Nadli to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think my colleague has further explained needing to consider this whole initiative in ensuring certainty in terms of moving forward on this program and making it available to men, and also at the same time, addressing the whole issue of family violence. I think this is a step forward. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

We will continue our discussion of the "Community Wellness and Safety" section. Comments. Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 21-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY, CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 27 by deleting the words "We will promote a national physical activity strategy for all residents to improve health and fitness" and insert the words "We will develop and implement a Northwest Territories physical activity strategy for all residents to improve health and fitness."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Regular physical activity relieves stress, builds muscle, strength, reduces disease and injury, improves vascular health, and helps maintain healthy body weight. Current studies show that only 15 per cent of Canadian adults and almost seven per cent of Canadians meet New Physical Activity Guidelines, which are minimum requirements to maintain or improve health. A 2007-2009 CANPLAY report Canadian physical activity levels among youth stresses only 13 per cent of Canadians and youth in Canada are accumulating 60 minutes of physical activity per day. ParticipACTION stated that the economic burden of physical inactivity is established at \$5.3 billion and the burden to our healthcare system is established at \$2.1 billion. To address this inactive crisis, several programs have been created by Canadian organizations, building the new Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines, the Active 2020 strategy, and Canadian Sport Policy, 2.0.

The inactivity conditions in the NWT are just as bleak. Less than half the population participate in enough physical activity to maintain or improve their health. The 2011 NWT Health Status Report stated that a proportion of the NWT residents 12 years and older who report moderate or high physical activity decreased from 54 to 41 per cent since 2003, and 63 per cent of NWT residents are overweight or obese compared to 51 per cent of other Canadians. Currently, several NWT groups and organizations in the sport and recreation sector are doing their best to keep people active.

However, there are no overarching NWT specific guides. There's evidence that the NWT needs to take action to find a solution to the inactivity crisis by developing a physical activity strategy. This was in 2012. We haven't done anything and we still continue to see the crisis, and by following a national program or promoting it, it does meet our needs. Therefore, I ask to have this moved so we can have an NWT strategy, and implement it, so we can be proactive and improve the health of our residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I'll allow you to conclude debate on the motion, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there further comments on the "Community Wellness and Safety" section? Seeing none, we will continue onto the "Governance" section. Comments or questions. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 22-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING APPEAL
OF GOVERNMENT DECISIONS, CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), the Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 32 by deleting the words "We will do a better job of making our residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions" and inserting the words "We will develop and implement an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms of available to appeal government decisions." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll keep my comments brief. This is an improvement to the original text that gives more certainty to what the government intends to do with doing a better job. The committee felt that it was vague and wanted to improve in the language. By developing and

implementing an effective communications plan that gives certainty to people reading this document about what we're going to do and it gives reasonable expectations to the committee and to the government moving forward of how we will make mechanisms of appeal better available to our residents and clearly explain what that process entails. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I will allow Mr. Testart to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I encourage all Members to support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Continuing on. Comments or questions? Mr. Nadli.

Committee	Motion	23-18(2):
Tabled Document 1-18(2): Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019, Addition of Text Regarding Establishment of an Office of the Ombudsman, Carried		

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 32 by inserting the following words under the quote "Increasing Transparency and Accountability in Strength in the Consensus Government" section "We will develop legislation within two years to establish an independent parliamentary office of the ombudsman." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This work in terms of the ombudsman has been something that the 17th Assembly had committed to work on, and I understand being part of the Government Operations committee at that time lots of work was committed in terms of ensuring the study of the concept of an ombudsman. A lot of research and background work was done. I'm quite pleased to ensure that this process continues to move forward. With the recent election that we've experienced, it was very clear that the public is demanding transparency in how we do the business of public government on behalf of the residents of the NWT. At the same time, ensuring that we have

mechanisms and principles of ensuring you know we would hold ourselves accountable to the public as well. This motion essentially is going to look at developing legislation. I understand through that process there will be a public consultation and public input will be sought. It's a process that I think this motion seeks to undertake and I support that. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a few comments. You know, the motion speaks to establishing legislation within the next two years for the ombudsman and you know I hope we're not setting ourselves up for failure with a lot of the changes we're making to the mandate. A lot of the intention means well, but we have to realize a lot of this is going to cost money and in our current situation here, you know, it's going to be challenging for us to fulfill our mandate. A lot of it we won't be able to fulfill because of our current situation unless things turn around.

It's just something I've been thinking about over the last couple days here, a lot of good positive changes and I hope we can achieve some of our goals here. I just wanted to state that, because in previous information that we looked up on ombudsman, it would cost between \$300,000 and close to \$1 million to have this office set up. We've got to keep that in mind as we move forward. I know we all have the best intentions here, but some of this may not be possible through this Assembly and we just have to keep that in mind. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Past experience suggests that the development of a legislation this size and complexity of an Ombudsman Act would require four more years in the drafting of the initial legislative proposal through to the passage of a bill. The full cost of the bill's development is difficult to estimate but the ongoing costs of operating an ombudsman office have been estimated to be in excess of \$500,000 annually. An ombudsman office will not by itself replace or eliminate any of the many dozens of statutory appeal processes or officers already established in legislation and programs. An ombudsman's primary role is not to hear initial subject-specific complaints from the public. Rather, the ombudsman is an overseer of administrative fairness who considers the impartial and objective nature in which duly filed

appeals were heard and decided. Given the breadth of our current statutory appeals processes and the costs associated with an ombudsman office, the government does not see the establishment of the empowering legislation as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. To the motion. Question has been called. I will allow Mr. Nadli to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I pointed out earlier, it was very clear from the recent election that the public very vocally expressed a need for change, and one of them was that this government has to act in a very transparent manner. We heard that very loud and clear with the expression of 11 new candidates that were elected to the Legislature here. In my mind, the motion does not commit any dollars. It essentially puts forth the work to ensure that at least the legislative framework would be detailed out and the public process to ensure that the public does have input in terms of understanding how this concept of the ombudsman would work. At the same time, there has been some errors in terms of making this work. It's not totally committing at least half a million dollars to one position. I think there's been some suggestions of workable scenarios. I think perhaps we need to consider those scenarios within you know the statutory offices that we have within the Legislative Assembly and we could make it work. For those reasons, I stand in support of this and encourage my colleagues to also support this motion. Mr. Chair, I also seek a recorded vote. Mahsi.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A recorded vote has been requested. Thank you, Mr. Nadli. All those in favour please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly, and Ms. Green.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Moses, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining please stand. The results of the recorded vote are 10 in favour; six opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue. Comments or questions on the section? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 24-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING WOMEN
IN POLITICS, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 33 by deleting the words "We will support a communications campaign to promote women in politics" and inserting the words "We will support a communications campaign to increase the participation of women in politics." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The intent of this amendment is to make more specific the goal of this section, and the goal is participation -- not just that women are needed in politics, but that we're actually sitting here and that when one of us is away, the population doesn't drop by 50 per cent.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion.

Some HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. I will allow Ms. Green to conclude debate on the motion.

MS. GREEN: I look forward to your support. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue discussion on this section. Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 25-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING GENDER
EQUITY IN APPOINTMENTS, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 be amended on page 33 by deleting the

words "We will enhance gender equity in the appointment of residents to territorial boards and agencies to further develop women's leadership experience and exposure to governance" and inserting the words "We will improve gender equity in appointments to territorial boards and agencies."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's 2016. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there more questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, we will continue to the "Reporting" section. Questions or comments on the "Reporting" section? Seeing none, do Members agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 1-18(2) as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 26-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
MOTION FOR FORMAL ADOPTION OF TABLED
DOCUMENT 1-18(2) AS AMENDED, CARRIED

MR. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this Legislative Assembly formally adopt Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 as amended.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not much to add other than I feel that we had a good discussion on the mandate. This was a long process. A mandate, I think, that had the fingerprints of all Members in this room, and also a mandate where I thought the group that worked very well together, both sides, and I feel it's a good mandate. We're looking forward to putting the mandate to work.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I would like to remind the Members that I

must rise and report progress in just under 11 minutes. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I promise I won't speak for 10 minutes, which is my usual habit. This was a difficult process for us all to go through and a learning experience for us all. I do appreciate all of the work that our staff put into this document, and Cabinet put into this as well. I was probably negligent in my opening remarks not recognizing the work that Cabinet and their staff have put into this document. I do appreciate the work that we've all put it into this.

Earlier in my remarks in consideration of this document I said that I couldn't support it as it had been brought forward. I'm pleased to say that with the changes that we have agreed upon here in the last couple of days I am prepared to support this document and I look forward to working with our Cabinet colleagues to make sure that we can live up to these expectations that were laid out in a number of our campaigns and by our constituents. Thank you very much to everybody for their perseverance on this and I look forward to working with Cabinet to get this carried out now. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to provide brief remarks. I want to thank both sides of the House for the hard work they did on this document to make sure it's reflective of a full plan moving forward for the next four years. The amendments that were made over the last couple of days I think truly make this document responsive to the people we serve. I do believe it now contains a full range of the mandates we were all individually elected on, which is something the initial draft of the document lacked. Now that has been corrected and I'm pleased to say I can support the amended document as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the motion. Question has been called. I'll allow Mr. Beaulieu to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have nothing further to add to this process. I'm looking forward to the vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

I'd like to thank the witnesses for joining us. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort them from the

Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Hay River North.

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 as amended and would like to report progress with 17 motions being adopted, and that consideration of Tabled Document 1-18(2) is concluded. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Hay River South. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

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

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.:

Orders of the Day

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 Commissioner's 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 10-18(2), Referral of Standing Committee Public Engagement Processes and Procedures to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures
 - Motion 11-18(2), Appointment of Member to the Human Rights Adjudication Panel
 - Motion 12-18(2), Extended Adjournment of the House to February 29, 2016
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 2-18(2), Interim Estimates, 2016-2017
 - Tabled Document 3-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2015- 2016
 - Tabled Document 4-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2015-2016

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House adjourns until Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.