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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Members Present

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, colleagues. Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 87-18(2):
 LAUNCH OF MYECE FOR APPRENTICESHIP,
 TRADES, AND OCCUPATION CERTIFICATION

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is committed to finding new ways to make it easier for NWT residents to acquire the skills and training they need to get jobs and to connect employers to trained and qualified employees.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment plays a key role in this by focusing on fostering lifelong learning, skill development, training, and employability. That includes expanding opportunities for trades-oriented learning, while also enhancing our communications, service delivery, and way of doing business.

Today, I would like to tell Members about a new online service that the Apprenticeship, Trades, and Occupation Certification Program launched over the summer that demonstrates our continued efforts to meet these commitments. This new online system called "MyECE - Apprenticeship, Trades, and Occupation Certification" was created to increase access to apprenticeship, trades and occupation certification services and program updates. With this new service, registered apprentices, trade qualifiers and occupational certificate trainees have access to program information, can monitor progress in their chosen trade, view results from the technical training and exams, and can download official copies of marks and school notice letters.

The system also offers apprentices and trainees a search and request function for technical training courses, providing access for further training and skill development. Mr. Speaker, these changes are

the result of stakeholder input received over this last year. Apprenticeship, Trades, and Occupation Certification staff have also been engaging stakeholders and collecting information to assist us in developing an NWT apprenticeship, trades and occupation certification strategy.

This strategy will outline how the Government of the Northwest Territories will strengthen and improve the apprenticeship and occupational certification program for employers and apprentices alike. It will address one of the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly, expanding opportunities for post-secondary education, trades-oriented learning, and northern educational institutions. The strategy will be aligned with the goals of the department's Skills 4 Success initiative, which aims to improve employment success for NWT residents, close skills gaps for in-demand jobs, and more effectively respond to employers' skill needs.

Mr. Speaker, this government knows that improving access to program information through the expansion of its online services is essential and defined in the Service Innovation Strategy. In this age of consumer driven information, service, and expectation, introducing MyECE - Apprenticeship, Trades, and Occupation Certification not only provides that important information to apprentices and trainees, it helps provide an avenue for residents to make informed decisions on their careers and futures. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 88-18(2):
 GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF THE NWT FILM
 INDUSTRY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Film, video, and digital media are at the centre of a growing and dynamic industry in the NWT, driving both cultural and economic opportunities and contributing almost \$9.7 million to the NWT's GDP.

This sector also provides opportunities for employment and self-employment with an estimated 24 film companies and 106 full-time equivalent jobs existing in the NWT today. Most NWT film producers operate as sole proprietorships

and face the same challenges as small or micro-businesses, writing their own proposals, self-marketing, and handling administrative tasks in addition to their creative and technical activities.

In line with the 18th Legislative Assembly's economic priorities of regional development and diversification, our government is advancing initiatives and investments through the Northwest Territories Film Commission to support the NWT film sector and the benefits it generates for many of our other sectors of our economy.

Our actions and investments are guided by Take One: Northwest Territories Film Strategy and Action Plan, which guides the planning and implementation of policies, investments, and actions designed to position the NWT's film sector for growth and prosperity.

Key to this is developing the skills and competencies of NWT film producers and providing training opportunities and experiences for members of this industry. Mr. Speaker, investments in the skills, capacity, and competitiveness of our film industry are resulting in growth and success.

In June this year, films were being produced in each one of the five regions. This shows that our investments are having the desired economic result throughout the territory. This week, members of the NWT Professional Media Association and our film commissioner are in Toronto attending ImagineNATIVE, a conference designed to showcase films made by Indigenous content creators.

As they promote the NWT and build beneficial bonds in the wider Canadian industry, our delegation is also learning and growing and will return with new connections and knowledge that will serve to add capacity to our industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife International Film Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Its program featured talented filmmakers from across the world and numerous workshops on marketing, distribution, and production. I am pleased to report the festival was a success, building the international profile of our industry, providing opportunities for skills development within our local industry, and offering an outlet for NWT artists to share their work. Among the films that were screened were six made-in-the-NWT productions.

Our government takes pride in supporting this festival each year, and we will continue to invest in the opportunities it provides to advance growth in our film industry. I congratulate the Western Arctic Moving Pictures team for their leadership, both in the presentation of the festival and in our industry.

Another recent success in NWT film was the premiere of the Fort McPherson and Yellowknife "The Sun at Midnight," a feature-length film from Jill and Jackfish Productions and NWT film veterans Kirsten Carthew and Amos Scott.

This film was conceived and created exclusively in the NWT, with much of its cast and all of its crew hailing from within our film industry. It has also marked a banner moment for one of our government's newest programs. "The Sun at Midnight" was the first made-in-the-NWT film to receive funding through the NWT Film Commission's Film Rebate Program.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to continuing to streamline and enhance our offerings to the film sector. It is why we have chosen to increase access to the Film Rebate Program by decreasing the required minimum expenditures and enhancing the rebate percentages. It is why we have earmarked more support for film, and it is why we continue to talk with our industry stakeholders on how to improve the production environment even further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Finance.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 89-18(2): TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, the Government of the Northwest Territories took part in a national business satisfaction survey known as "Taking Care of Business." The survey is administered independently by the Institute for Citizen-Centered Service.

Between January and June 2016, more than 200 NWT businesses were surveyed to get feedback on government service delivery. The results will help government identify priorities for improving service to businesses.

The Department of Finance has received the most recent results for the NWT. Our service reputation score, which is businesses' general perception of government services, has improved from 60 to 66 per cent. Our overall client satisfaction score was good, holding steady at 59 per cent, slightly above the national average of 58 per cent. While we remain on par with other jurisdictions, there is still room for improvement.

The survey indicates that businesses want to see the government go the extra mile to resolve issues in a timelier manner. They want easier online access to service, improvements to the quality of online information, and improved responsiveness to e-mail communication.

As discussed in the House before, the Service Innovation Strategy is the GNWT's plan to use technology to improve service delivery, including enabling more services online. The Office of the Chief Information Officer helps departments put these services online and monitors both business and citizen satisfaction through the national Taking Care of Business and Citizens First surveys.

The department coordinates cross-government initiatives, including planning for an online portal, a one-stop shop to access online services, which is a commitment made in this Legislative Assembly. Finance also coordinates service delivery training for managers and front-line staff across government to improve internal and external service. More than 350 front-line employees and 60 managers have taken part in this training to date. Courses have been offered in Yellowknife, Hay River, Norman Wells and Inuvik.

I want northern businesses to know the GNWT values their input. We want to see businesses succeed and continue to make the NWT their preferred place for doing business. We will continue to participate in these surveys to check in with businesses and residents on how to better serve them and thank all respondents who took part in this survey. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the results of the survey Taking Care of Business 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiillideh.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REPRESENTATIVE PUBLIC SERVICE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the GNWT Human Resources. For many years, this government has tried to employ a public service that's representative of the population it serves. However, Mr. Speaker, I think the approach is wrong. I think the reason we have no reasonable success is that we cannot achieve our objectives by looking at the entire NWT as a whole. We must start looking at representation by population on a community-by-community basis.

Firstly, the goal of the Affirmative Action Policy is 51 per cent priority one employees in the GNWT. Yet, in 2014 the number of people who would qualify for priority one status is 46 per cent. Therefore it becomes a little more difficult than at the onset of the Affirmative Action Policy in the 1980s. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of people over the age of 15. That is a much better statistic to work with. It's referred to as the "participation rate."

The second point is that it makes application of this policy difficult in Yellowknife. Fifty-two per cent of our public service resides in Yellowknife, yet only 17 per cent of the GNWT public service is priority one status. Mr. Speaker, this seems to be a low number. However, only 19 per cent of the population of Yellowknife would qualify for a priority one status under the GNWT's Affirmative Action Policy. That is about 50 employees, and that would be easily achievable if we were to use that target.

Mr. Speaker, the government must take a proactive approach to affirmative action and start developing plans within communities where there are larger concentrations of employees, and work with the regional management committees to address this issue. It is easier than you think, when you consider that 21 communities have a rate of 45 per cent priority one status or higher. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. The current situation is filled with uncertainty and confusion. The hiring department, the Department of Human Resources and, of course, most importantly, applicants trying to get into the GNWT, whether they have priority status or not, are all unhappy.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, in order to achieve a public service that represents a population it serves, all it would take is some effort. Today, I will have questions for the Minister of Human Resources on his thoughts on how the government plans to move forward with this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORTING NORTHERN AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week, in recognition of Small Business Week, I've been speaking about the importance of small business. Small businesses are important everywhere, in any economy, but even more so in the NWT. Businesses in our communities face unique challenges related to high costs, large distances, and small markets. Yet, our communities are full of business success stories, and we all know a healthy small business environment is good for our communities and regions. It provides opportunities and diversification and makes our economies more robust and stable.

So what can the rest of us do to support small business? Consumers have a lot of choices these

days as to where they can spend their dollars. Online shopping is pervasive and more internet sellers are established every day. That puts local small businesses at a huge disadvantage. So how can we help them compete? Each individual can do their bit, but as a government, we have the opportunity to make larger changes to the playing field. One thing we all should do as individuals and as government can be summed up very simply: buy local.

Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce knows how important this is, so every year it promotes the local economy with the Shop YK Passport Program. We need to find ways to do the same thing at the territorial level. We must establish policy that ensures that government and industry operating in the NWT are doing the bulk of their spending and employing here, too. We can help local businesses get started, but government and industry need to be their customers as well.

Mr. Speaker, every dollar spent here is an investment in our families, businesses and communities. I encourage my colleagues, my constituents, and all the residents of the NWT to spend your money at home, shop local, and government policies much encourage the same approach across the board. For our economy, our community, and our neighbours, it's the right thing to do. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GRAND OPENING OF FORT LIARD SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, October 3rd, I had the pleasure of being part of the grand opening of a supported independent living complex for seniors in Fort Liard with Minister Cochrane, Minister Abernethy, and Minister Moses, Chief Harry Deneron, Metis President Ernie McLeod, and the Mayor, Steven Steeves. Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation worked collaboratively with the Department of Health and Social Services and consulted with the elders in the community to develop a building that supports seniors to age in place and in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that we had more than 40 people attend the official grand opening of the building. The previous weeks saw the building have a soft opening, with over 75 residents attend this event. The residents of Fort Liard are very proud of this new facility in their community. Mr. Speaker, this building is very warm and welcoming.

It has a gathering area with nine units. One is for a caretaker and his wife; six units for seniors without challenges; and two units that are built and accessible for people who have wheelchairs.

Mr. Speaker, the biggest thing for me is making sure we're not moving seniors away from their families, friends, and also they are our past, which is our foundation, our tradition, and they need to stay in our communities. Mr. Speaker, it is about giving the elders and seniors the dignity to live in an environment they are familiar with. They have earned it. Another great thing about this project is its built-in caretaker unit, which will ensure that the building is safe and secure. This has given an employment opportunity to someone in the community, which is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this investment and this priority of the government. This centre supports our elders in remaining here in Fort Liard and near their friends and families. I can only hope that the Minister and the Housing Corporation have plans to build smaller, five-bedroom units, a variation of this unit, in smaller communities in the NWT to continue to support one of the mandates of the 18th Legislative Assembly, supporting elders to age in place. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATORY SYSTEM

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The former Member for Weledah asked about emissions, fluids and inspections at the hydraulic fracturing operations carried out by ConocoPhillips in 2014. There was a secrecy ban on the release of some information at that time. I asked again about it on the understanding that the secrecy period had now ended.

I will leave alone the issue of which Minister is actually responsible for the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas, as that one looks like a hot potato. Let's focus on what was said in the Premier's September 28th response: "Only 28 per cent of the load fracking fluid was recovered from the Dodo Canyon well and 24.5 per cent from the Mirror Lake well." I guess the rest is still down there somewhere. Is this the best we can do at recovering this stuff that is injected into our groundwater?

Next, the Premier says that the volumes in composition of the fracking fluids are found on a website called fracfocus.ca. When I looked at the website and the reports for these wells, I found that some of that data may be confidential "business

information," and that the totals "may not equal 100 per cent due to the redaction of proprietary components." This doesn't leave me very comfortable that we actually know what is going into the ground or its possible effects.

Next, the Premier discusses that the wells were monitored by the company while in operation and inspected by OROGO. Unlike our land and water co-management system I can't find these inspection reports in the OROGO public registry on its website. After the company closed the wells, there is no monitoring done, and apparently OROGO has recently launched a voluntary monitoring program relying on local land users. This doesn't sound like a well thought out strategy where these wells become public liabilities. This is not consistent with a principle of polluter pays. In Alberta, there's an abandoned wells fund paid for by industry.

The company's surface and groundwater monitoring reports for hydraulic fracturing are apparently filed with the Sahtu Land and Water Board. Finally, monitoring and inspections of these activities is carried out by Environment and Natural Resources, but I can't find any evidence from the Sahtu Land and Water Board that anyone from GNWT actually reviews and comments on these reports for any potential problems. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues. In conclusion, what this response to my written questions shows is a convoluted regulatory system for oil and gas, a lack of transparency, and the failure to ensure that we are not creating liabilities for future generations. This is not why we got devolution. I will ask questions later today for the Premier or whoever's in charge of oil and gas these days. Merci, Monsieur le President.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RAINBOW COALITION YOUTH CENTRE

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the Rainbow Centre in Yellowknife offers important support to young people, especially those who identify themselves as queer, meaning gay, lesbian or bisexual, or who are questioning their gender or sexual identity. The centre offers programs by youth and for youth. The centre officially opened at the end of August with several of my colleagues in attendance along with our Member of Parliament and the Mayor of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the Rainbow Youth Centre is open thanks to a small group of hard-working volunteers. Jacq Brasseur,

Nicole Garbutt and Nancy MacNeill recognized that queer youth needed peer support. Together they founded It Gets Better Yellowknife five years ago. Earlier this year, they had a successful week of community-wide discussions around gender and sexual identity under the Days of Pink banner.

Mr. Speaker, these passionate volunteers recognize that queer and trans youth needed a dedicated safe space of their own. They obtained funding from the GNWT Departments of Health and Social Services, MACA and the Health Authority to rent a space the size of a living room to make this dream a reality. Kudos to the government for making this funding available to the Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife.

Most nights of the week volunteers offer programs that address a broad variety of issues from support groups to confidence-building activities, and from discussion about addictions to providing a place for the parents of queer youth to meet for support. This is important: it's also a place to have fun. On average, ten youth visit the centre each day. That's not all; these tireless volunteers provide outreach to the broader community in the form of workshops and training opportunities for government, business, non-profit, school and anyone else who wants them. They also provide consultations and support to other non-profits looking to make sure their programming is inclusive. Simply by being, the Rainbow Youth Centre is a beacon of tolerance, acceptance and credibility within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to congratulate the Rainbow Youth Centre for receiving the Territorial Youth Centre's Award of Excellence last month. Mr. Speaker, when I was young and trying to understand my sexuality there was no Rainbow Centre to help. Having a Rainbow Centre in Yellowknife is a great accomplishment, not only for the youth who visit but for all of us. I offer the young people who established the centre and volunteer at it my warmest congratulations. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON A NEW DAY HEALING PROGRAM

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the rate of reported spousal assaults in the Northwest Territories is one of the highest in the country, second only to Nunavut, measuring in at nine to 12 times the provincial average. Members of this Assembly recognize that fact as a crisis. In our priorities document before we created the mandate we committed to taking action on the crisis of family and community violence. When the mandate was developed we made a commitment to continue to support healing programs for men who use violence

in intimate relationships, such as a New Day Healing Program. Today I'd like to talk a bit about the New Day Healing Program. Through 2015 this program for men who use violence saw 138 clients made up of 65 new male clients on a one-on-one basis, 28 female clients and 48 clients in group therapy at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

From January to September of this year they saw a total of 195 clients that have already been seen to date; 71 male clients, 28 female partners who sought help and safety planning and 89 clients at the correctional centre. This, combined with 31 repeat clients from the original program, makes for a total of 348 clients served by only two staff over a period of two and a half years. This program is the only program in the Northwest Territories that allows for self-referrals. People do not have to get arrested, be incarcerated, or be in a medical crisis to get service. They're the only program that employs Indigenous counsellors, northern Indigenous students, elders and traditional healers and uses traditional healing programs. They deliver group and individual therapy, as well as do presentations to community meetings with other service providers and do group therapy in communities with men and boys at risk of perpetrating abuse. They've been recognized by the Public Health Agency of Canada Aboriginal Best Practices Program, and, as this government has stated previously, this program is in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action to address residential school trauma. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. This New Day Program has presented both nationally and internationally and soon there will be a national CBC documentary just about this program and how effective it has been. The last thing in speaking to New Day, they say we know this program works because people come back, and that speaks highly to its success rates.

If we're going to continue to tackle this problem, this crisis of family violence, and change our dubious distinction as the second worst in Canada we need to continue to support healing programs like this, and A New Day is a great place to start; a great program to continue working with, to continue to expand. I'd today like to commend them for their efforts to help Northerners help themselves and focus on preventative care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CANCER AWARENESS IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the month of October is the month to promote awareness of breast cancer and liver cancer. Today I'll use my Member's statement to talk about the presence of cancer in the lives of Northerners. We know that the Northwest Territories performs poorly on many health measurements when they're compared to the rest of Canada. This includes physical activity, daily smoking, heavy drinking and healthy eating. These factors contribute to other health issues, including cancer. In fact, cancer is one of the NWT's top three leading causes of avoidable death. Knowledge is power, Mr. Speaker. We need to talk about these things, we need to learn. For example, thanks to strong public awareness campaigns we know that smoke can seriously increase as a cancer risk. But did you know that alcohol, even drinking in moderation, also increases your cancer risk? Many people do not.

Mr. Speaker, we often speak of battling or fighting cancer. The problem with talking like this though is that it sets up winners and losers, when we know that all patients supported by our medical professionals are doing their best and fighting in difficult circumstances. Mr. Speaker, cancer can be beaten, but right now not all cancers can be beaten. But working together on research, prevention, screening and treatment, I hope to see us get there.

Mr. Speaker, finally I'd like to recognize all Northerners who are dealing with the effects of cancer on their lives and the lives of their friends and families. I hope they know that they are not alone and that as their representatives we will continue to support them. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NURSING SERVICES IN TSIIGHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the years I have sat in this House, but my constituents in Tsiightchic look forward to this time of year, not only because it is the time of hunting and fishing, Mr. Speaker, but it is also one of the times during the year that we have a full qualified nurse, during freeze-up.

Mr. Speaker, I can't express enough the relief in the community during this time when we have a nurse in our community. Mr. Speaker, I think we're a little ways off from getting a full-time nurse in Tsiightchic, but I think we're making progress with the new unit that's been put in Tsiightchic for both

nurses and the RCMP. Mr. Speaker, I'll have some questions for the Minister later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POST-DEVOLUTION ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDATION APPROACHES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my statement is on the devolution and the transfer of responsibilities negotiated over many assemblies at a cost. Now that we are faced with the largest oil field industrial reclamation in the North, which also occupies the NWT Power Corporation's power plants and land tenure issues and for other various liabilities that could be viewed as a transfer to this government after the post-devolution of this piece of property is cleaned and transferred.

I will later have questions to the Minister of Lands. It could be also viewed in light of the fact that it's Small Business Week, that this could be a huge contribution to the economic community, the business community. Already we have seen permits being applied for by the occupant and a cost quotation estimated at spending \$178 million for the reclamation. I would think that's a sizeable market to track the small business community during this particular week. Later I will have questions, as mentioned, to the Minister of Lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TUKTOYAKTUK SHORELINE EROSION MITIGATION PROJECT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last sitting I spoke about shoreline erosion in the Community of Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, the climate is changing on a global scale with profound effects on local marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems across all continents. Moreover, although most regions of the world will be affected by these global processes, some of the areas of types of ecosystems such as the Arctic will experience effects of climate change more dramatically.

Mr. Speaker, as the Arctic melts the sea level is rising, the loss of our ice is challenging our communities dependent on snow and ice and turn these coastal communities at sea level, the global community shares that we are more common than we are different. In our relationship to the land the challenges we face as our land is changed rapidly and unpredictably, and the best practice is to mitigate these changes and adapt to the

challenges. Subsistence-oriented communities have a multi-dimensional relationship with the land, the environment, the animals, and the plants it provides. This relationship is spiritual, physical, economic and cultural. Subsistence-oriented communities including both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples depend on natural resources for our livelihoods and cultural identity.

Mr. Speaker, we know our land and our Indigenous knowledge of ecological systems can reflect great time depth. Our knowledge can deepen our understanding of the climate change by providing insight into its effects on ecosystems and people. In all regions of the world Indigenous peoples are observing multiple linked environmental changes. For example, as noted above, Arctic coastal communities link changes in sea ice, ice cover and dynamics to coastal erosion and recently the need to relocate some communities, Mr. Speaker. People also recognize that these changes have ramifying consequences such as effects on animal migration patterns. Many of the effects on climate change on communities' lifestyles. Fine-scale environmental changes have enormous consequences for Inuit communities. Mr. Speaker, today I will have questions for the Minister of MACA on the Tuktoyaktuk mitigation planning project. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I recognized the two pages that are here from my riding, but I got one of the schools wrong, so I'm going to do it again. I would like to recognize Bryanna Cheesma from the Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah and Joseph Charlo-Lafferty from the St. Patrick School here in Yellowknife. Also I'd like to recognize some other members from Detah that are here, our interpreter Mary Rose Sundberg of course has become a regular interpreter in the House thanks to you, Mr. Speaker. Also I'd like to recognize Mr. Ernie Abel, Ernie is a father of our hard working administrator Shawn Abel who's in administration here for us. I'd also like to recognize our deputy sergeant-at-arms who's also originally from Detah, Derek Edjericon. Thank you.

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

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize several Yellowknife South constituents. First of all, Mr. Eric Bilodeau. Mr.

Bilodeau is a student studying politics in the North. Welcome to the House. Also two pages from Yellowknife South constituency, Drew Wolfe and Elle Mitchener, and I also recognize all the other pages in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often I rise up in the House and recognize people, but I'd like to recognize Ernie Abel, the executive director of Tree of Peace and also at the same time Mr. William Greenland, facilitator of A New Day program. Mahsi.

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

MS GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce Jacq Brasseur, she's the driving force behind the new Rainbow Youth Centre in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd like to welcome my cousin, William Greenland to the House and also a well-renowned artist here in the Northwest Territories. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize Mr. William Greenland from the New Day program, Ernest Abel, Executive Director from the Tree of Peace. Thank you for all that you do for men in need. I'd also like to recognize Jacq Brasseur for her amazing work with the Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife. Finally, I'd like to recognize my constituency assistant Garrett Cochrane, it's his birthday today, and we're very pleased to have him in the Chamber. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Jacq Brasseur, providing small community contributions to our small communities and William Greenland, a familiar voice to our small communities providing announcements and emergency messages going to the smaller communities through the airways. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, want to take this opportunity today to

recognize a page that works with us that is also a Yellowknife North resident, and that is Rayyan Awan. I want to thank all of our pages for what they do for us. We're, frankly, lost without them, so we appreciate your efforts. I also want to take this opportunity to recognize Jacq Brasseur, who does a lot of work for the community, especially for Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife as well as her involvement in the United Way. I, as well, want to take this opportunity to recognize a well-known personality, Mr. William Greenland, who I believe is still a resident of the Yellowknife North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Anyone in the gallery, welcome to our Chamber. It's always nice to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Hay River North.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 10-20(2):
ALISON KILGOUR, GNWT LONG SERVICE
AWARD RECIPIENT

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge longtime Hay River resident, Alison Kilgour. Earlier this month, Ms. Kilgour received the Long Service Award for her 45 years of service with the GNWT. This is a milestone that only one other GNWT employee has ever achieved. Ms. Kilgour was raised in the North. After attending university, she moved to Hay River, began working at Library Services in the Hay River Centennial Library, and she has been there ever since. Her co-workers describe her as a model employee. It's assured that whatever task she takes on will be completed thoroughly and without compromise. In addition to acknowledging her achievement, I also want to thank Ms. Kilgour for her 45 years of dedicated service. Today is her last day with the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Congratulations to her, as well. Acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 365-18(2):
TUKTOYAKTUK SHORELINE EROSION
MITIGATION PROJECT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about the shoreline erosion in the community of Tuktoyaktuk, and my questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, my question is: what is the department doing to help the community of Tuktoyaktuk address its long-standing shoreline erosion challenges? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs submitted a proposal to the federal and national disaster mitigation program. I'm pleased to report that we have been just recently approved for the amount of \$250,000 through this program to complete a disaster mitigation plan for Tuktoyaktuk. The hamlet is also contributing \$70,000 towards this project.

The mitigation plan will lessen the impact of future disasters resulting from intense wave action and severe storm surges. The plan will also guide the development and protection of critical infrastructure and improve planning and emergency preparedness and flood response. Both the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the hamlet council are supportive of this work, and we're pleased to be able to complete this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my second question to the Minister is: when will work be completed, and how will it involve community leadership and residents?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Work will begin right away, in the fall of 2016. We're assuming that the project will take approximately 16 months to complete. Much of the work will occur during the summer of 2017. In addition to community visits, the project will involve engagement, consultation, and collaboration with community leadership and residents. We also recognize that traditional knowledge is a really important part of understanding flood risk and the damage that has occurred over the years. As such, this traditional knowledge will be incorporated into the research. We'll also be sharing the report with the federal Minister of Infrastructure and with the Minister of the Environment.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my third question to the Minister is: given the effort is aimed at completing a planning study only, what can be done beyond this project to actually protect the shoreline and residents in the future?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Government of the Northwest Territories takes the climate change and the shoreline erosion very seriously, so we have seriously invested time and energy into lobbying the federal government.

Once the mitigation options are identified through the plan, the hamlet may also submit future funding proposals through this program to help fund mitigation projects, such as potentially relocating structures to safer areas, diversions, and flood

proofing. We're also going to continue working closely with the hamlet to identify any options and opportunities to action the recommendations in the plan. Of course, we recognize that good community planning will be necessary to ensure success in this project, so the hamlet is currently taking steps in this area through their review of a community plan.

Once again, the Government of the Northwest Territories takes this issue very seriously, and we're looking for all funding and options to actually implement the plan once developed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response, very detailed. Mr. Speaker, my final question for the Minister is: will funding be available in the future to complete mitigation projects? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the moment, the federal government has made funding available for only five years. However, there remains a great interest amongst the provinces and territories and, I believe, the federal government to address the climate change issues that we're experiencing.

Therefore, MACA will continue to advocate for disaster mitigation funding through its role at the federal-provincial-territorial tables. As before, MACA will continue to work with the community to prepare any proposal that they wish to advance. However, there are no guarantees at this time that approval will be received. The program is entirely merit-based, and approval depends largely on where the greatest cost savings might be achieved from future flood events.

The hamlet currently has the ability, also, to allocate a portion or all of their community public infrastructure dollars yearly to mitigation projects to support the erosion issue that is impacting this community. We do recognize that the community of Tuktoyaktuk is in serious condition, and we are doing our best to try to support them in mitigating this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 366-18(2):
CASSIDY POINT LAND TENURE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the June sitting, I asked some questions for the Minister of Lands. Today, I wish to follow up on these questions. Can the Minister please provide the title of the official who made the commitment to

move ahead with the fee simple transaction at Cassidy Point? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the commitment to Cassidy Point leaseholders was made by the then assistant deputy minister of MACA in 1992. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: 1992, that's a long time to follow through on a commitment. I appreciate the government's ability to do that. Could the Minister please provide this House, is there a tabled document that they can show, or was this a verbal commitment, a written commit? Can we table that document?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I'm not able to table the 1992 letter to the Cassidy Point leaseholders. It's correspondence between a government official and private individuals about lease arrangements and contains information that is not appropriate for the public domain. However, I would be happy to share with the Member the exact wording made to the leaseholders at Cassidy Point. I'm quoting now: "The intention of Municipal and Community Affairs, MACA, is to grant title to the existing leaseholders on Cassidy Point by September 1993.

In order to accomplish this, a legal survey will be required to define the properties. The legal survey should be completed by September 1992 as a first step in the transfer of ownership. Title to only the Cassidy Point cottage leases are being offered at this time because of its long-term status as a cottage subdivision, its year-round access, and due to the absence of subdivision plans for other cottage areas on Commissioner's lands.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. Can the Minister please explain to this House what arrangements were made with the Yellowknife Dene First Nation to allow this land to be sold instead of the common practice of returning the lease in the areas where land claims are not settled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The Department of Lands, under formal consultations with the Akaitcho Dene First Nation between December 2014 and February 2015 about offering existing leaseholders at Cassidy Point the opportunity to pursue fee simple title. This letter was also copied to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation chiefs. No concerns were raised during the consultation period. It is also important to note, Mr. Speaker, that Cassidy Point is not located within the Akaitcho Interim Withdrawal Area, which is an area temporarily protected from disposition in support of concluding a final agreement with the Akaitcho.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister, again, for his answer. I guess I'm a little concerned, if it's not part of that territory, then did they work with Yellowknife? But that would be further on, I'll be asking some questions on that. Will the Minister please explain if the arrangement made with the Yellowknives Dene or the Akaitcho First Nation or Regional Organization can be used in other unsettled areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: It is not GNWT policy to offer fee simple title in unsettled areas of the Northwest Territories. In certain circumstances, exceptions are possible, but it is important that we do not create a patchwork of exceptions and one-offs in our approach.

In the case of Cassidy Point, an exception was made to honour a long-standing commitment to leaseholders over two decades ago. Going forward, we want to rely on a systemic approach. Decisions will be based on broader policy goals of sustainable land management for the benefit of all Northerners, now a commitment to finalization of land claim agreements in all areas.

I suggest also, Mr. Speaker, that it is particularly important that the Government of the Northwest Territories honour its commitments no matter how old they are. It comes with the honour of the Crown. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 367-18(2):
A NEW DAY HEALING PROGRAM

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have questions for the Minister of Justice. In the 17th Assembly, the honourable Member for Great Slave was Minister of Justice at the time. During the time of his tenure as Justice Minister, he expressed his gratitude towards those involved with developing and delivering the New Day Program, as well as those men who were choosing a better way: "We know that family violence is deliberate. We know that violence is based on a pattern of behaviours against the will and against the well-being of family members. This program will be a significant step towards positive change." So that's when the pilot started, Mr. Speaker.

Today, my question for the current Minister of Justice: does the Minister recognize the significant achievements of the New Day Program in fulfilling the mandate of this Assembly and the designed intentions of the program, and does he commit to

continuing to support this program after the pilot expires? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes the seriousness of family violence in the Northwest Territories. We are committed to the types of programs such as New Day. As the Member opposite likely knows, this is a pilot project, however, which ends on December 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: What is the intention of the department today? Is it to extend this program or is it to move forward with something different?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As I mentioned in prior questions, I think during our last session, there is a study of the program that is being conducted at this very time. I am expecting the results of that study within the next few weeks, I think by the end of November. At that point, we will decide which course we will take.

MR. TESTART: At this point, the facilitators of the New Day Program are unsure of their continuing role in delivering this service in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister commit to meeting with the staff of the New Day Program and perhaps working on ways to improve the current existing program? I think Members of this House have signalled, by putting the name of the program in the mandate, that this is something we support, continue to support, and want to see preserved.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I am very much looking forward to receiving the report. It's going to be a very extensive report, and when I receive that, I'll determine what action we should take next.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit to providing that report and an update on the situation before December 31st of this calendar year, when the pilot program is due to expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a differing opinion on this side of the House, but I don't think I can commit to any specific date, as I'm not certain when I will actually receive it, but it will be shared with Members opposite. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 368-18(2):
CHANGES TO INCOME ASSISTANCE
REGULATIONS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Earlier this week, I asked questions about the change in Income Assistance Regulations. You will recall that the government has eliminated the food and clothing allowance for children under 18. The Minister assured us on both Monday and Tuesday that there have been no concerns brought to our office.

Mr. Speaker, a resident contacted me with his concerns about this reduction. The resident forwarded to me written responses signed by the Minister addressing those concerns, which he brought to the attention of the Minister. I'll table these e-mails at the appropriate time. Could the Minister please clarify his statement that he hasn't heard any concerns about the change in Income Assistance Regulations? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will continue going on and saying that we haven't heard any concerns since the implementation of the Canada Child Benefit. Leading up to the Canada Child Benefit implementation here in the Northwest Territories, there were some concerns that were going around on Facebook and social media that were brought to our attention. We assured individuals that nothing was going to change; in fact, money was going to go up after August 1st. So, yes, since we have the implementation, we haven't heard any concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: To say again, this is an e-mail exchange where the Minister has signed the e-mails and the resident has signed the e-mails, and he expresses his concern about the reduction of food and clothing allowances within the Income Assistance Regulations. Could the Minister please clarify that, in fact, he has heard concerns about the changes that have been made?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Any concerns that were brought to the attention of the office, we clarified the situation. As I mentioned, we've taken out the Canada Child Benefit that was introduced on July 1st, so we wouldn't count them in the assessments, meaning that all children and all families, in fact, got the full amount of the Canada Child Benefit and we just clarified anything that came up. Since that, we haven't heard any concerns since then.

MS. GREEN: So is the Minister saying, then, that he has heard concerns about the changes in the Income Assistance allowances?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. Prior to implementation, actually our CSO staff got very good training, should that anyone that's on income assistance that was concerned about the changes coming forward, that we are going to provide them the information that they need. If the client that the Member is talking about, and the Member herself or any Members of this House, any of the 19 Members that are concerned about the implementation of our changes to the income assistance we'd be glad to give an update; have them sit down with one of our client service officers. As I said, each situation is unique and different and we'd be willing to sit down and provide that information to clarify the concerns that the Member has.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to table these e-mails and I will pursue my concerns in greater detail at another time. But my last question in this string is to ask the Minister what his department has done proactively to explain the changes to people who receive income assistance about their allowances. Not about the child benefit, the Canada child benefit, but about the change in the income assistance allowances.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned earlier, all our client service officers got the adequate training; the training that they need should any concerns be brought forth from our income assistance clients. As I mentioned yesterday, all the dollars that were going to the clients, ones with families especially, have actually gone up in every household. So any other further concerns, I'd ask them to go and speak to a client service officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 369-18(2):
SUPPORTS FOR NORTHERN AND LOCAL
BUSINESSES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. My questions are about the government's policies in support of northern businesses and manufacturing. Northern manufacturing includes the full spectrum of the economy from agriculture to industry. How is the GNWT promoting local manufactured products and encouraging residents to buy local? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I'm glad to answer this question, because before I got elected to the 18th Legislative Assembly I helped move the manufacturing group together and get lobby together to how we can make things better within the GNWT and working with the manufacturers. Currently, the department is working with the Manufacturers' Association in updating their marketing plan moving forward, with a goal to help them promote their products both within the Northwest Territories and within industry and this is something that we are working on.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply, and I also commend the Minister for his previous efforts in this regard. Mr. Speaker, recently ITI provided a presentation at Opportunities North conference that showed small businesses were in significant decline in the NWT. How is ITI working to determine why small business is in decline, more importantly how will they correct this trend?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, small business is in decline in the Northwest Territories and probably right across Canada in most jurisdictions as the economy has been in a downturn for quite a while. There are lots of challenges facing northern businesses. People are shopping online, people are going south to stretch their dollars as much as they can, but what is the department doing to correct this trend?

We have a number of programs that we're trying to do to help small businesses in the Northwest Territories, from the SEED Program, to marketing their programs, to assisting them with financing and stuff as such. We will continue to do that and we will continue to work with the small businesses and chambers across the Northwest Territories to try to correct this trend.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: as we develop contracts for larger projects, are we emphasizing local benefits by ensuring that subcontracts are bundled into manageable accessible segments for local independent business?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As a government, we're always looking at how to maximize local and Northern content in all contracts and procurement in the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to review our policies and stuff moving forward to maximize that.

A couple of things that we do use already to help maximize local involvement is the BIP Policy; that gives someone local and northern content to give

you a little leverage over anyone else, and also the Northern Manufacturing Policy has a whole different set of rules around it to help people purchase northern manufactured products in NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 370-18(2):
RATIONALE FOR DEPARTMENTAL POSITION
REDUCTIONS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We just went through a business plan session with the departments; I'm still trying to wrap my head around it. The first time we went through this most of us were very new and I didn't quite understand the process, and I'm still not clear on some things and so I'd like to clarify with the Minister about some of the decisions that were made. Specifically, when the department is looking at cutting positions as was done throughout the GNWT, what factors are considered when determining which positions are expendable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the departments look at any kind of reductions within our programs, specifically when it comes to positions in the GNWT, we look at three factors. One is the nature of the position: does the incumbent require specialized training or could the task be delegated to others within the work unit.

Another one is the status of the position; whether it is vacant or not. The third factor that we do take into consideration is risks and impact on program delivery: could the program continue to be delivered with staff that are still within that division.

MR. SIMPSON: So what level in the government are these expendable positions identified at? Is it the office manager, regional manager, director, ADM, deputy minister, et cetera?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, all positions from entry level to management are looked at and reviewed and we base it on those three factors that I mentioned; mostly the one that would be least disruptive to the program delivery in that division.

MR. SIMPSON: My question, I must not have phrased it properly is: who determines if the position is expendable? Is it the deputy minister? Is it the ADM? Is it the director? Is it the director in consultation with the manager? At what level is that position identified and that decision made?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Given the confidentiality of the reduction exercise, senior management that the department delivered the exercise with the positions as mentioned from entry level to management.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So from the sounds of it, it's senior management, which I assume is above a director. I'm not quite sure what "senior management" means, but they identified positions that they feel as though could be filled by someone else or it won't affect the work being done on the front lines. So I just want to confirm there's no consultation with the actual office manager or a direct supervisor of someone's position who is up for the chopping block? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Going through such an exercise is difficult on our senior management. Obviously, we don't want to look at any positions being cut as affecting residents of the Northwest Territories, but we do look at the position based on those three factors. It's not based on the individual that's in that position, it's based solely on the position and using those three factors to identify should a job be cut that it will have the least disruption to the programs that they serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 371-18(2):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATORY
SYSTEM

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, I spoke of the uncertainty and lack of transparency around how hydraulic fracturing seems to be taking place in the Northwest Territories. There doesn't seem to be any kind of monitoring program for abandoned wells and no funds from industry to help to do this or pay for any remediation that may be necessary. Alberta has an orphan or abandoned well system. Will the Minister responsible commit to developing and implementing a polluter-pay system to ensure that there is monitoring, inspection, and the necessary funds to carry out remediation of abandoned wells? Merci, Monsieur le President.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have committed in our mandate to develop and propose amendments to the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the Petroleum Resources Act. These acts are currently mirrored on the federal government that was in place prior to

devolution, but, moving forward, we are currently in the early stages and we will be seeking input from MLAs and others for information on this process. The public review process, when it happens, will be the opportunity that we must use to identify and address those in areas of concern and priority of NWT residents.

I guess the other thing I'd like to mention is the Member has raised a number of concerns on oil and gas so far in the House, and I can assure him that these are well recognized, and I welcome him to bring these comments forward when we help guide this review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister. I really look forward to bringing forward my ideas and suggestions when we finally get there, but the response by the Premier to my written questions tabled earlier in this session reveals a convoluted regulatory system that is not open or transparent.

Previously, we've heard the words "evolve" and "devolve." Can the Minister responsible provide any assurances that we will improve this and move to a co-management system as is currently in place for land and water, where openness and transparency are far greater?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: To answer the Member's question, we will need to obtain the technical information from the office of the regulator of the oil and gas operations, and, as such, I'll have to take this question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 372-18(2):
CANCER AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I spoke about the month of cancer awareness. Many times, on occasions, we're given the opportunity of trying to raise the awareness, so my questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In the NWT, what services does the department provide for cancer patients from initial diagnoses to treatment and beyond? Mahsi.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's kind of a difficult question to answer, given that every individual will be treated differently, depending on the nature of their illness. We do have providers across the

Northwest Territories who can do some frontline diagnosis and assessment, and, if an individual is at risk or there are concerns about cancer, they certainly can be referred to a specialist who can help develop an individual care plan that suits the individual and the particular type of cancer they have.

But, on a broader scale, Mr. Speaker, we do have the 10-year cancer strategy that we put in place. In fact, I tabled it in October of 2015. This is a 10-year plan. This is the first strategy that we've had in place, and, as a result of that, we're doing a number of things across the Northwest Territories to help people who are living with and/or going through treatment processes, things like sharing circles and other opportunities for people to get together, share their experiences, and work together through the healing process. But, when it comes to actual treatment, Mr. Speaker, like I said, very difficult to answer. It really depends on the individual and the nature of the cancer that he or she may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for his reply. At the very minimum, cancer patients that go through the experience of dealing with this condition, at the very minimum, this system should have a care and compassion, and a public system sometimes becomes very impersonal. What is the department currently doing to promote cancer awareness, prevention, and standardized access to screening? The Minister has stated that he's tabled a 10-year cancer strategy. Can he please explain in terms of the prevention measures that his department is taking?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, in addition to the cancer strategy, we're also trying to work with residents across the Northwest Territories and create awareness of healthy choices. Those are not only to help prevent cancer but also help prevent other chronic diseases that are really prevalent here, in the Northwest Territories. We're trying to get more information out there on healthy diets and physical activity, reducing or quitting smoking preferably, as well, you know, controlling the amount of alcohol that one consumes, basically everything that the Member said in his statement, which I thought was a very fantastic and a very thorough statement.

We're working with different communities. There are different community wellness plans in place to create awareness, to create promotion, and we do have the cancer strategy in place. We have "Let's Talk About Cancer" websites, where there's a tonne of information. I would strongly encourage the Member to encourage all of his constituents to please take a look at this website and learn about the information that's on there and talk to family members, encourage people to eat healthy and not

smoke and get physical activity. In fact, I would encourage all Members to use the means that are available to them through newsletters and other promotional materials to get that information out, as well. We all need to work together to create awareness and encourage people to make healthy choices moving forward.

MR. NADLI: Going forward, building upon the tabling of the 10-year cancer strategy, how are Indigenous traditional beliefs reflected in treatment of First Nations patients?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, that's one of the things that we're trying to do across the Northwest Territories. We've been holding different cancer sharing circles throughout the Northwest Territories, with different groups, working with organizations like the Gwich'in to try to get those sharing circles out to different communities. I believe we had one in Aklavik.

We want to keep doing this type of thing, where we're working with the communities, trying to find things that work with the communities but also give people who have cancer an opportunity to share and have some people to share their experiences with, people who have a lived experience who can talk about the frustrations they had, the fears they had, but also the successes they had and where they were able to get support and help. Once again,

I would strongly encourage people to take a look at our website, the cancer website, where there's a lot of this information, very detailed, in there that they can go and figure out what's happening and figure out who they might want to talk to.

If people are worried that they might have a chronic condition or cancer, please go to your Well Woman, Well Man clinics. Please go to the health centres and talk to the resident practitioners, whether it's a nurse practitioner, community health nurse, or visiting doctor. So talking is important, but they also need to get out and talk to the practitioners if they're worried. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I ask these questions to try to bring awareness to cancer and also, at the same time, to the public to be more educated in terms of understanding this plight that affects lots of people in the NWT. The Minister encourages the public to, you know, refer to their website, but, at the same time, not everybody has an opportunity in terms of basic access to the Internet, including the website that he refers to.

Many Northerners volunteer for many different anti-cancer organizations but can feel frustrated

when high cancer rates continue to affect themselves, their friends, and their families. What is the department's role in coordinating cancer awareness, screening, and research efforts across the NWT? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the Member's point. Yes, not everybody has access to the Internet, but the information is out there in other means. There are paper copies which sometimes are as hard to get to the constituents and residents as digital. I understand that. We are making sure that information is available in our health centres, or health stations, our regional hospitals, our hospitals, so that individuals who have questions can get a hold of that information in paper.

Through the strategic cancer initiative, we're working with organizations and creating partnerships with places like University of Alberta, who are helping us design programs and bringing, in fact, some southern dollars into the mix to help us do creative new things at a community level as far as creating awareness, getting involved, getting the message out to residents.

At the same time, I'm happy and willing at any time to sit down with Members and take your input, feedback, on areas where you think we might be missing the target...and where we can improve the way we're getting the message out there. I believe we have a bunch of the information we need. We have a lot of good programs. We need to work together to make sure that our constituents have that information and I'm absolutely committed to working with you and all Members to make sure that information is getting to the people who need it, when they need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral Questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 373-18(2):
NURSES IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little follow-up to my Member's statement earlier. As I mentioned, nursing in Tsiigehtchic is a high priority for our community. You know, this time of year, usually there are nurses in Tsiigehtchic for up to two months, depending on the weather. With climate change, here we are on the 20th of October and, only today, a little bit of ice has started on the Mackenzie. So I'd just like to ask the Minister: when will the department have the nurse located in the community for freeze-up?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The department won't be putting a nurse in the community of Tsiigehtchic. It will actually be the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority. I can't tell the Member the exact

date that they expect somebody will be going in there, but I'm happy to follow up on the Member's behalf, get him that information, and get him a concrete date.

MR. BLAKE: You know, in the future, it's very important that we have a set date. I noticed the last couple of years we've been waiting for the ice conditions. The ferry is almost shut down on the side of Tsiigehtchic before the nurse is actually put in place. So just for the future, maybe we could set a date, whether it's October 15th, for example. Will the Minister please pass this on to the Health Authority?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Traditionally, as the Member has indicated, it's sort of been based on what the weather is suggesting, whether freeze-up is early or late. But I hear the Member and there might be some value in having set, fast dates so that the community has some certainty. I certainly think there is some merit to that.

I will certainly talk with the department and the authority to see what it would take to set some hard and fast dates so that the community can have some certainty. I don't know what that date might be. The Member has thrown out October 15th; that may or may not be appropriate based on, you know, averages of freeze-up. But, you know what, there is some merit there. I will certainly have a conversation with the department to see what it would take to make that happen.

MR. BLAKE: While we're at it, maybe October 1st would work better.

---Laughter

Actually, the other point I wanted to raise was, usually the nurses are in the community until December 15th about, usually about the time the ferry access is open to Tsiigehtchic. The community has noticed that, last year, because of the crossing being put across at the Arctic Red first, the community noticed that the nurse had been taken out of the community earlier than usual, so they are very concerned and would like the department to have the nurse there until the same time, roughly December 15th?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I can't be aware of every specific decision that the authorities make, and I couldn't tell you when they chose to remove a nurse from a community, but I do hear the Member. Similar to his previous question about setting a set date for coming in, there might also be some value in having a set date for when an individual, a nurse, might cease their permanent stay in that community. I think that we could have that conversation at the same time, and I'm willing to do so.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we do have a couple of weeks left here in session, so maybe I'll save this question for the Minister later and make sure we have a concrete date by the end of session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 374-18(2):
REPRESENTATIVE PUBLIC SERVICE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I made a Member's statement on suggestions on the Affirmative Action Policy of the GNWT. I would like to ask the Minister of Human Resources questions. I would like to ask the Minister if Human Resources have the staff to ensure that the departments are serious about applying the Affirmative Action Policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the numbers of the affirmative action employees across the GNWT, and I believe we have about 1,608, that's a good indication that our government and the departments are serious about applying affirmative action into the positions that they open. However, having said that, I've also, in my initial briefing with the department when I first got Human Resources, I made it quite clear that I would be watching very closely the number of affirmative action employees that were hired. I want to make it quite clear, though, that a lot of these employees, I want them to be hired, put into positions, based on merit. We have a lot of good employees out there with a lot of good qualifications. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister, when having discussions with department heads or staff of HR, if there is any sort of plan to develop a strategy to move the affirmative action numbers, which have been kind of stuck around 30 per cent for many years? I would like to know if the Minister has talked about any specific strategies that might change that number?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I think one of the best strategies is to encourage our young Aboriginal people out there to get the training that's necessary so we can get them into the system and put processes in place where they can succeed based on the qualifications and the work ethic and everything else that they bring to the position. What other strategies are we working on? We have the Aboriginal Management Development Program.

Right now we have, I believe, about 16 per cent of our Indigenous Aboriginal senior employees who are eligible to retire immediately. We have 52 per cent who are eligible to retire with a full pension within the next five years. So it's very important that we start developing a lot of good Aboriginal employees and get them into the system and try and move them through the system based on merit and the qualifications and work ethic they bring to the job.

MR. BEAULIEU: Earlier this week I talked a bit about - or possibly last week I talked a bit about the Regional Recruitment Program. I'd like to ask the Minister if the Regional Recruitment Program is targeting priority one candidates?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As you can tell from the numbers that I quoted last week, it is targeted. We have a lot of P1 candidates, I think it was 24 of the 32, that have taken us up on it, so that's a good indication that they are targeted.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the Regional Recruitment Program was actually inclusive of only priority one candidates, but that's my misunderstanding. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister have a discussion with the Premier about putting some sort of measurable evaluation in the department heads' evaluation that will indicate successes and failures within the Affirmative Action Policy on their job evaluations? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I could have that conversation with the Premier. I'll also have a conversation with all my colleagues. You know, we hear the concerns in the House. We actually hear the concerns from the people out there about the fact that sometimes they feel like they have an unfair disadvantage trying to move through the system.

I want to make sure that all our employees, our Aboriginal employees, and those who are thinking of coming into the public service come in with the understanding is if they come in and they put in some good work and have some good training and add a lot of value then that will be recognized and they will get an opportunity to move through the system. I want to make it my goal to ensure that they have a fair opportunity to work through the system with the qualifications and the values they bring to the organization.

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

QUESTION 375-18(2):
POST-DEVOLUTION ENVIRONMENTAL
REMEDATION APPROACHES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I was talking about, in my statement on the devolution responsibilities transferred from the federal government to this territorial government and being prudent and responsible over those responsibilities transferred on land and resource management.

I would like to ask the Minister of Lands if he's willing to come to Norman Wells with his deputy minister to better understand the site, the scope of work, the area. In looking at the document submitted to the Sahtu Land and Water Board for a permit, it clearly shows that there's Commissioner's land within this proven area boundary, so that's just an example of one of the purposes of the visit. So I wonder if the Minister would accept my invitation with the deputy minister to do a community visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As this House will know, Imperial Oil is responsible for the remediation for their oil and gas operation at Norman Wells, and that the vast majority of the property on which their operations are located are in the proven area. I understand that we hold one lease with Imperial Oil. We will look into the matter but I don't know if it's worthy of a trip. Thank you.

MR. MCNEELY: In being supportive, also part of the trip would give the Minister a site visit to viewing his other portfolio responsibilities in the area of the NWT Power Corporation. The actual plant itself is within the boundary, so that exposure to liability on un-surveyed property would be another item on the agenda.

So given that reason, on analyzing the liabilities in conjunction with the regional office and a site visit would be another purpose. So my question to the Minister in putting on his Power Corporation hat would he come to the community and extend my invitation for that responsibility, to look at the power plant itself?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. Yes, I'd love to. Yes.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I thank the Member opposite for the kind invitation to me, both as Minister of Lands and Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation; however, prior to contemplating such a visit I'd like to examine the issue so that I'd be fully apprised of all the issues should I decide to go to Norman Wells. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister commit to work on the logistics of an agenda trip with me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. Yes. Yes.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The Minister of Lands and the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation is always happy to work with the Members opposite.

---Laughter

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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

QUESTION 376-18(2):
COMMISSIONER'S LANDS APPLICATION
PROCESS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my questions will be for the Minister of Lands. I'm very grateful to hear that they make a commitment that he follow through on it, and I wish the other Ministers would follow the lead and follow the Lands Minister and any verbal commitments will follow through. Well, can the Minister please explain why the department still uses the Commissioner's lands application process in areas where the unsettled land claim area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The Commissioner's land application process applies on all Commissioner's land regardless of whether it's an area of settled or unsettled land claims. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. What are the government's rules for the sale of Commissioner's lands in regions without the settled land claim areas?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, fee simple title is not normally granted in unsettled regions due to the land lease only policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. THOMPSON: I didn't understand that, but I have another question I need to forward on. We know that at least there are 43 exemptions in Cassidy Point, which is Commissioner's land, and that there's other out there that I'm aware of. That as I continue to bring this issue forward from my constituents there is exceptions to this rule. So can the Minister please advise this House what the process is for making exemptions to the rules?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, department officials review such requests and based on the merits and rationale the request can be forwarded to the Executive Council for review. Executive Council determines whether an exception to the land lease only policy is granted. Requests for a fee simple title are reviewed through the department's broader policy framework. In the future, our review will also be informed by the soon to be completed Recreational Land Management Framework and its policies and guidelines.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you to the Minister for his answer. I'm not sure that really solves the issue of unsettled unclaimed areas, so can the Minister please explain how these exemptions were made and applied besides the Executive Council? It seems the Executive Council is making these decisions that have an impact on the residents of the Northwest Territories in unsettled land claim areas. So again, can the Minister explain how these exemptions were made and apply that method to other cases in unsettled land claim areas across the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, each request for fee simple is unique and reviewed individually. In the case of Cassidy Point which was referenced earlier, we made an exception to honour a long-standing commitment to lease holders. As I mentioned, our review of exceptional situations will also be informed by the soon to be completed Recreational Land Management Framework.

One of the difficulties with dealing with matters on a case-by-case basis is that you can conceivably set precedence. There's a saying that hard cases make bad law, and I think what we want to do is make the process simple, transparent in the future, so that everybody can understand the system and be treated equally.

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

QUESTION 377-18(2):
RATIONALE FOR DEPARTMENTAL POSITION
REDUCTIONS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to follow-up my line of questioning with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I didn't quite get where I wanted to go with that. So from my earlier questions I gather that its positions that were identified as expendable in the last budget were identified and a determination was made that they're expendable by deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers with no consultation from anyone below. He said that it's based on the

nature of the job, which is a job description, a piece of paper, if it's vacant or not so a checked box and an impact on services. I'm unclear, and I'd like the Minister to explain to me how a DM and an ADM sitting in Yellowknife knows what the impact on services is going to be in an office they've never been to when they're making decisions about personnel they've never met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senior management involves workers that we have throughout the Northwest Territories. There's consultations between the head office and the regional offices in terms of positions that are made.

As we said, we looked at entry level jobs to management jobs. We do have directors and senior managers in the regional offices, as well, that communicate with our head office staff. We look at positions throughout the whole Northwest Territories, so there is discussions. As I mentioned, given the confidentiality of the exercise in the reductions, they were conducted by those senior management, Mr. Speaker, and not just here, in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SIMPSON: I'm still unclear of how that works, if because of privacy concerns they can't ask maybe the regional managers or the office managers, how things would operate without these certain positions. So, to determine how this all worked out, is there a baseline? Do they know what the level of service is before the cuts, and do they know what the level of service is after the cuts? I'm just trying to get my head wrapped around this whole process.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As mentioned in those three factors in terms of job reductions, the main was what that risks and impacts on program delivery was one of those three, and we want to make sure that programs are being delivered, can continue to be delivered within that division, and, in some cases, picked up by other members, other staff, that are working within that division or that department.

MR. SIMPSON: So, in the positions I'm talking about, the ECE cuts in Hay River, were other positions in that office re-profiled, or were duties given from the cut positions to other employees?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, Mr. Speaker, duties from the reduction of that position were up-taken by the six other staff in that department. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there follow-up on how positions, how things are going now? Are the staff who are picking up the slack, do they feel as though things are running smooth? He doesn't have to talk specifically about this office, but does that discussion happen afterwards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Any positions that were reduced within our department, we'll continue to follow up and monitor to see how that position that was reduced is affecting the program delivery as well as other staff in that area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Member for Nahendeh.

Petitions

PETITION 4-18(2): FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE WORKSHOPS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition dealing with the matter of increasing funding for local programming and governance workshops for community-led boards and district education authorities. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 144 signatures of the Northwest Territories residents, and, Mr. Speaker, the petition requests that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase funding to community-led boards and district education authorities to increase local programming in areas such as governance, workshops readiness, trades, and outdoor and cultural activities to improve the operations of community-led boards and district education authorities and the success of youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Petitions. Item 12, reports of special and standing committees. Item 13, report of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 163-18(2): CAPITAL ESTIMATES, 2017-2018 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 164-18(2):
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS 5

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following two documents entitled "Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 for the Department of Public Works and Services and Department of Transportation" and "Taking Care of Business 5." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 165-18(2):
2016-2017 CORPORATE PLAN - NWT BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT
CORPORATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 166-18(2):
2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT - NWT BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT
CORPORATION

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following two documents entitled "2016-2017 Corporate Plan, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation" and "2015-2016 Annual Report, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

TABLED DOCUMENT 167-18(2):
E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DAVID
POITRAS AND MLA JULIE GREEN

TABLED DOCUMENT 168-18(2):
E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DAVID
POITRAS AND MINISTER ALFRED MOSES

TABLED DOCUMENT 169-18(2):
E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DAVID
POITRAS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to table today e-mails between David Poitras and myself, dated October 20th; e-mails between David Poitras and Alfred Moses, dated July 28th; and e-mails between David Poitras and the Department of ECE, dated August 29th.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notices of Motion

NOTICE OF MOTION 26-18(2):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment produce a plan to implement junior kindergarten in 2017-2018, along with a fully costed budget for presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Development;

and further, that the department implement all the recommendations of the junior kindergarten review tabled in February;

and furthermore, that, in developing an implementation plan, the department acknowledge that a one-size-fits-all approach to junior kindergarten is contrary to the report's recommendations;

and furthermore, that the department tailor the introduction of junior kindergarten to each community with a focus on providing the greatest need to improve school readiness;

and furthermore, that the department accommodate existing community programs for four-year-olds without jeopardizing their viability;

and furthermore, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this function within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Motions

MOTION 24-18(2):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
OCTOBER 25, 2016,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Great Slave, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on October 20, 2016, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 25, 2016;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to October 25, 2016, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and

Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

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

---Carried

Masi. Motions. Member for Frame Lake.

MOTION 25-18(2):
MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, that the following terms referenced for mid-term review be adopted:

1. Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning shall each evaluate progress on implementing the mandate, make their reports public, and table them in the House at the earliest opportunity;
2. the mandate be public and tabled in the House at the earliest opportunity;
3. the mandate be revised, if necessary, by Cabinet with input from the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, reviewed in Caucus and tabled for potential debate, amendment and adoption in the first sitting of the third session; a Mid-Term Review Committee is hereby established consisting of all 19 Members;
4. the Mid-Term Review Committee will conduct its sessions publicly in the Chamber and be chaired by one or more Members;
5. meetings of the Mid-Term Review Committee shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. the Premier shall speak for up to 10 minutes on his leadership and performance and the collective performance of Cabinet, each Member will be permitted up to two questions no longer than two minutes each, responses will be no longer than two minute each --

Merci, Monsieur le President. I think I'll start over again, if I may? I'm probably as red as the flag.

--- Laughter

A mid-term review process, Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has directed that a mid-term review be conducted in the fall of 2017

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures was directed in Motion 7-18(1) to review options for the establishment of a mid-term accountability review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2016-2019, and that it include the performance of the Executive Council and standing committees, both collectively and individually;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has received and adopted the committee's report on the review of the establishment of a mid-term review process; and whereas the committee has recommended a process to guide such a review;

AND WHEREAS the process proposed will demonstrate the commitment of the 18th Legislative Assembly to greater transparency and accountability; and whereas key principles were established in the committee report to ensure that the integrity of the review process, namely that it demonstrate accountability to the Legislative Assembly and the public, that it provide a flexible and adaptable mechanism to adjust the government's mandate to fit changing circumstances, and above all that it be fair, transparent, consistent and evidence-based;

AND WHEREAS the government is committed to public annual reports on its progress in implementing the mandate.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, that the following terms of reference for mid-term review be adopted:

- 1) Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning shall each evaluate progress in implementing the mandate, make their reports public, and table them in the House at the earliest opportunity;
- 2) the mandate be reviewed, if necessary, by Cabinet with input from the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, reviewed in Caucus and tabled for potential debate, amendment and adoption in the first sitting of the third session;

- 3) a Mid-Term Review Committee is hereby established consisting of all 19 Members;
- 4) the Mid-Term Review Committee will conduct its sessions publicly in the Chamber and be chaired by one or more Members;
- 5) meetings of the Mid-Term Review Committee shall be conducted as follows:
 - a) the Premier shall speak for up to 10 minutes on his leadership and performance and the collective performance of Cabinet, each Member will be permitted up to two questions no longer than two minutes each, responses will be no longer than two minute each;
 - b) each Minister, in alphabetical order, will speak for up to five minutes on his or her performance and leadership, each Member will be permitted up to two questions, but no longer than two minutes each, responses will be no longer than two minutes each;
 - c) Members shall conduct themselves in a dignified and respectful manner and will follow the procedures of the Territorial Leadership Committee where applicable;
 - d) on completion of the process described above Members will be called upon to cast secret ballots in an open forum:
 - i) indicating their confidence or non confidence in the performance and leadership of Cabinet as a whole; and
 - ii) indicating their confidence or non-confidence in the performance and leadership of each Minister;
 - e) ballots will be counted by the Clerk, vote totals are not announced, the Chair will announce the aggregate result of Cabinet as a whole and then the result for each individual Minister in alphabetical order by surname; and
 - f) in the event of an equality of votes being cast, the Clerk shall report an expression of confidence in the Cabinet/Minister, and further that the Standing Committee on Priorities and

Planning meet annually with each Minister to conduct an oral performance appraisal similar to those in many work places and for Ministers to raise any performance issues they may have with committees. The meetings should be informal and in-camera to promote frankness.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is on the floor, motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the decision was made early on by all of us as Regular Members to hold a mid-term review, even before Cabinet had been selected. It was one of the first pieces of businesses in this House to establish or refer this matter of a mid-term review process to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, and I'm pleased to report that it was the first standing committee report tabled in or brought forward and presented in this House.

The Rules and Procedures Committee is an unusual creature in that we do have representation from our Cabinet colleagues on it and that always makes life interesting, but it was a good discussion and debate that we had there.

Our job as rules and procedure was really to come up with a process for -- and the terms of reference for the mid-term review. That duty has been discharge with the receipt and acceptance and adoption of the committee report on Tuesday of this week. This motion proposes a clear transparent evidence-based and fair mid-term review process. I would be the first to admit that the process outlining the committee's report could have been a little clearer. But we were dealing with a report that where the majority of the committee members when we had a dissenting opinion it became a virtually impossible task to coordinate both parts of the report as we moved forward. So we also had very busy schedules, travel and deadlines, but we did manage to meet that.

The process that we set out in the report is virtually what's in the motion that is before the House. We want to start the process off on a positive note and it will be a positive way of proceeding, it'll be an evidence-based assessment of progress that we're all making towards the mandate. I believe that it can be done in a respectful and constructive fashion, and that's why we're all here.

Of course, there are good things that Cabinet is doing and that'll be a way for us to recognize them. I'll give one example, Mr. Speaker, the open houses that Cabinet is having in communities, that's a very good thing and I think something that we all want to

carry forward. But there also needs to be an opportunity for honest feedback and areas for improvement. So that's how we're going to start this off, with an evidence-based process.

Now, the process that we've developed as rules and procedures is largely based on what happens in Nunavut. They've carried out four of these reviews, and during those reviews there's only been one Minister that received a vote of non-confidence, and I think that speaks well of the process that's been adopted and used in Nunavut.

I think it's important too for the public to understand this is about making sure that we're steering the ship in the right direction, that we're all on board, and we're doing the best possible job that we can. I don't think it's anything more or less than that, this mid-term review, and it's something that all in this House should support. I can confidently say to all Members of this House and the public that the committee worked very hard to come up with this process, that all options and consequences were very seriously considered, and we tried to come up with the fairest possible process.

It's weighed heavily I think on all the committee members and me personally as well as we've tried to put all of this together. I sincerely want to thank all of the Members of the Rules and Procedures Committee for their very hard work in meeting many times to come up with this. I'd like to recognize the work that Mr. Sebert contributed, Ms. Green, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Beaulieu in helping us achieve that. So I urge all of my colleagues to support the motion. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request to record a vote on the motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion, Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. I'd like to thank all Members that worked on the mid-term review. It was not easy to come up with a position that has so many different moving parts to it. We had all kinds of possibilities: how long do we give the Cabinet Members to speak; how many questions would we be allowed to ask, you know, in all fairness if everybody asked a full set of questions of every department with every Minister and so on. So there was a lot of possibilities, a lot of combinations and so on and we worked hard to try to come up with something that we thought would be fair; something that would reflect what we were trying to achieve, and what we're trying to achieve, of course, is to have a better government. So we've got Cabinet Members in place and we looked at a way to go through the mid-term review in order evaluate ourselves as a government for the people of the Northwest Territories. Evaluate ourselves to make sure that

we're doing the best possible job that we can do for the people who have elected us.

I'd also like to thank people, the staff researchers that have helped us in looking at other jurisdictions and bringing us some historical information which was very valuable. So we had an opportunity to look at what was successful, worked and what didn't work so well. So with that we've come up with something that we are here willing to stand behind and we thought it was a lot of good work. I'd like to especially acknowledge Kevin O'Reilly for his work on the committee in the chair. He did a lot of work. He made sure that this kept moving, and called meeting after meeting after meeting and eventually we have a document that we think is a very good document; I think that the whole House will be happy with. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Members of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for their thorough work on the options for a mid-term review. Setting up an effective and fair process was one of the first things we wanted to accomplish as an 18th Assembly. The motion before us describes such a process. Most importantly, it is based on actual performance in meeting the mandate we have set for this government. The process proposed is also transparent. It will be easy for the public to follow and it will be supported by information that is public. The Mid-term Review Committee will do its work in this Chamber in public with the TV cameras rolling.

Many of us heard criticism of consensus government during our campaigns last year. I have learned a lot myself about accountability in consensus government since taking office. I know we can improve the accountability of our government as a whole and of the Ministers we entrust to carry out our mandate. This is no slight to them, Mr. Speaker, we are all working within a system and today we are all working together to improve it. The method proposed for the mid-term review is an improvement. I am proud to say that we in this House want to stand up and be accountable for the work we do. I'm proud that we will stand up and explain what we are doing and why. The government, the Premier, and the Ministers are accountable to the Assembly every day of their term in office. The mid-term review will show this is the case. It shows that we, as Members, are all accountable to the public every day of our term not just at election time.

The mid-term review is a way to take stock of what we have accomplished in our first two years of office and to measure our effectiveness. If we are succeeding we will renew our confidence in the

government and Ministers and update direction to them for the remainder of our term. But the mid-term review process has to allow for cases when progress is inadequate and provide a method for change if it is needed for this government and future governments. I want to stress that this is a necessary tool in our democracy, not a weapon.

It is important to me that throughout the review process Members and Ministers are free to express themselves; this is part of what it means to be both transparent and accountable. This is especially true of the votes of confidence. The only way every Member can vote freely is to have a secret ballot. That is how democracy works and we should be proud of it, not afraid of it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to support this motion and I am proud to have a hand in helping our consensus government work better for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Great Slave.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my remarks I want to state clearly and for the record that I believe wholeheartedly in the principles of accountability. Cabinet shares that belief with me and that is why on December 17, 2015, all Members in this House supported unanimously for Motion 17-18(1) which was to establish a mid-term accountability review.

I'd also like to point out in case anybody has forgotten, that the Premier, prior to his selection as Premier, was the mover of that motion which established with the unanimous agreement of all 19 Members that prior to the fall 2017 in this Chamber this Assembly would conduct a mid-term accountability review of its adopted mandate, including the performance of the Executive Council and standing committees. Mr. McLeod would not have moved that motion if Members did not believe that each one of us on both sides of this House has a fundamental duty to be accountable to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Accountability and democracy are inseparable. The people who elect us exercise power on their behalf and place enormous faith in each one of us. Collectively and individually we must earn and maintain that trust by submitting our decisions and actions to the judgment of the people that we serve openly and transparently. Every four years the people of the Northwest Territories have the opportunity to directly convey their judgment about our actions in the territorial election. This is direct accountability. There is nothing like facing a voter on a campaign trail to remind us who's boss and how we must work and maintain the trust of our

constituents. Accountability between elections is no less direct and no less real.

As a government we are accountable to the people of the Northwest Territories through their elected representatives in this House. Every time we are asked a question we are being asked to account for our decisions and our actions. Every time our budgets and plans for implementing them are examined and debated in committee of this House we are being asked to account for our decisions and actions.

Every time government legislation is introduced for debate and disposition in this House, we are being asked to account for our decisions and our actions. At almost any moment on every day this House sits, Members have ample opportunity and tools to hold Ministers to account for living up to the expectations of the Assembly as outlined in the mandate and to the people that have elected us.

This includes the ability to remove any Cabinet Member from Cabinet at any time. That this business is conducted primarily in public is an important aspect of the accountability that contributes to the openness and transparency that the public demands and expects of all 19 Members. But accountability needs to be about more than personality, Mr. Speaker. Accountability is about keeping our promises, and for the 18th Assembly our mandate is our promise to the people of this territory.

Our decision to adopt the process convention of priority setting and reporting that was first established by the 17th Assembly is a significant evolution in consensus government and a major step towards accountability. Past Assemblies had priorities but had never made specific commitments about how they would advance those priorities like the 18th Assembly did when it adopted unanimously its mandate. In the past there was no clear way for the people or for the Assembly itself to determine how successful it was. The mandate is now a measure of our success and the progress we could make by everybody in this House working together. Ours is the first Assembly to formally develop and adopt a mandate specifically created to advance the priorities we all identified together. Unlike past Assemblies, Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly is a clear statement of our intent as a government and a clear yardstick against which our successes as an Assembly can be judged.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet is not afraid of being judged. We believe that we are already making progress and will have made even more progress by next fall. We are confident that we could stand on our record collectively as well as individually. But we do want to make sure that we are being judged on the

basis of whether or not we have done the things that we said we would do, specifically, the commitments all MLAs agreed to within our mandate. Of course, our mandate cannot be written in stone.

Circumstances change, Mr. Speaker. Priorities evolve and new tasks emerge as we check items off our to-do list. Pausing mid-way through our term to take stock of the mandate and whether or not it continues to be aligned with the Assembly's priorities, frankly, it only makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

The provisions of the process convention that outlined the structured process for reporting on and reviewing the relevance and adequacy of the mandate are both necessary and sensible. We should welcome that opportunity as a whole Assembly to formally review our mandate and ask ourselves if it continues to serve the needs of the people and the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Cabinet was unanimous in its support for that review last December, and we continue to support the need for the review.

While I and my Cabinet colleagues absolutely support the principle of accountability that is at the heart of our democratic system and are more than prepared to be judged on our records, we feel that the report on the establishment of the mid-term review process is flawed. These flaws were clearly outlined by Mr. Sebert in his dissenting opinion filed with the committee report and which expressed Cabinet's shared views on the proposed process.

I'm not going to recite all the concerns that Minister Sebert expressed so well, but I do want to highlight a very significant concern Cabinet has with the proposed process, specifically that is a decision to cast votes on Cabinet performance in secret. Cabinet believes that this recommendation is fundamentally inconsistent with the commitment we have made as Members to openness and transparency. Even the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recognized and, in one of its principles, outlined in its own report that processes for assessing Cabinet's performance, among others, "must be fair, transparent, and evidence-based." Anonymous assessment surveys, the report continues, "are not consistent with a fair and transparent process."

The process recommended here today doesn't seem to align with that principle, and that is a serious concern, Mr. Speaker. Consensus only works, Mr. Speaker, when all 19 Members work together in the spirit of collaboration and trust to play their respective roles, which can all be evaluated. This was the spirit that guided our discussions and priorities and mandate and the spirit that we have seen in places like Fort Providence, where we met as Caucus. The spirit

appears to be lacking in this motion, Mr. Speaker. This is not just a concern for Cabinet; it should be a concern for all of us who are committed to working together to make the lives of the people of the Northwest Territories better, as I know all Members are.

The original motion called on Ministers and Regular Members to work together to evaluate our shared progress on implementing the Assembly's priorities. A review like that would be a clear demonstration of our accountability as a Legislative Assembly to the people of the Northwest Territories. The proposal before us has departed from that vision and now seems focused on a review of Cabinet and its performance alone. Cabinet does not feel it can support a motion that has strayed from what was originally intended.

At the same time, Cabinet remains absolutely committed to transparency and accountability and continues to support, without reservation, the need for a mid-term review of its progress on mandate. The goalposts have moved, Mr. Speaker, but we are confident that we are making good progress on the mandate and will each welcome any kind of mid-term review. We think the process being proposed could be fairer and more open, but we will not challenge the decision of this Assembly to establish whatever process it sees fit, even one that includes a secret ballot.

Out of respect to this House, and for the will of its Members, Cabinet will abstain from voting on the motion and look forward to meeting with you again next fall to review this government's progress on the mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased today to stand in support of this motion, and I'd like to thank the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for their very hard work and for providing me, as an alternate member of that committee, to join the committee on the regular discussion around this topic.

Transparency and openness was a long-standing priority of many voters in the last election, and long-standing for many Northerners as well. The consensus government always needs to be evolving, and all systems of government do as well. We made some very bold steps early on. Allowing a nomination for the premiership a week early to allow our constituents to provide their feedback was a huge step in opening up the transparency around leadership decisions. In other systems, regular citizens have more opportunities to weigh in on those leadership decisions and clearly identify who their future leaders are going to be after the election

and what their priorities are going to be through clearly articulated platforms. These are features that our unique system does not have.

The mandate and many of the changes being proposed now are attempts to bring those features to the people of the Northwest Territories, to allow them to have more say on how our decision-makers are being selected and how, ultimately, they are held accountable, which is why a mid-term review is so important. I have gone on the record several times calling for a different way to select Ministers, and I've even criticized secret balloting. But ultimately I have to look around this Assembly and see what the will of the majority is, and also respect the processes that brought our Cabinet together in the first place, and that process was by secret ballot.

This process does exactly that. It is a reflection of the Territorial Leadership Committee and establishes a unique process that suits the model of consensus government. We always endeavour to work together and work collaboratively. Although we enjoy healthy tension here on the floor of this Chamber, we do a lot of our work outside, and it is productive, effective work.

We need to continue with that spirit and develop processes, procedures, and bodies such as a Mid-term Review Committee to allow that work to proceed effectively. If a process was agreed to by the majority as the best process to elect our Cabinet, the Mid-term Review Committee done by secret ballot is clearly the best process to review their performance.

I think those kinds of considerations were well weighed by the standing committee, and I was hopeful that we would all be able to come together at the end of the day. I respect what my colleague, the honourable Member for Great Slave, has said today and I appreciate that we will all work on this process moving forward to build a stronger government and give Northerners the accountability that they have asked for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's no accident that we haven't had a mid-term review in this Assembly since the 12th Assembly, since before division. It has been really a lot of work to come up with a set of principles and a process to conduct this mid-term review. I want to emphasize that, with Mr. Sebert's help, we canvassed thoroughly the different options and tools that we could use to produce a mid-term review that was fair and equitable, and I have confidence in the report that we produced, that we were able to hit that mark.

That doesn't mean to say that, once the review takes place, it won't need improving or tweaking to accommodate the realities of what happens, but I want to stress that the purpose of the review is to measure progress towards our common mandate. The review is not about taking out individual Cabinet ministers. In fact, it's worth nothing that, in Nunavut, in all the years that they've been doing mid-term reviews, and they've done them in every Assembly since division, only once has a Minister been replaced.

The purpose here is to measure our progress on our common mandate, and it would have been my desire, Mr. Speaker, to have seen us support this unanimously, since the mandate came from all of us and the motion to have a review was also unanimous, but the government has its own reasons for going its own way.

I do want to say that we are committed to a fair and open process and one which furthers the interests of the 18th Assembly's mandate and to be accountable in every possible way to the people who put us here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this motion. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues that put tremendous effort in ensuring that the report and the motion that was tabled in the House, and what we're seeing today was their greatest effort. I've seen them work many hours and commit themselves to ensuring that it was very reflective of the desires of the House, even to the point of involving Members of Cabinet in those discussions.

The mid-term review I think is a time of reflection. We're going to reach an important juncture in terms of the halfway mark of the 18th Assembly and it's going to be a healthy exercise; perhaps a lot of introspects in terms of where we should go, and that Mid-term Review will provide that opportunity. At the same time, for us it's also bringing home to the home front, like, November 26th will be almost a year since we've been elected and we need to check to ensure that we're going in the right direction, and that will be a healthy exercise, and so, therefore, I support this motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. I'll allow the Member for Frame Lake to give the concluding remarks.

MR. O'REILLY: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I too had wished that this could have been supported unanimously by all the Members, but I understand that there are some differences of opinion here. I would like to try to assure the public and my

colleagues on the other side of the House that there is goodwill on this side of the House to make sure that we have a productive, constructive mid-term review. It is focused on progress on the mandate, but necessarily that will require looking at performance as the original motion of referral did specifically reference evaluate performance of Executive Council collectively and individually.

I think we've done our best to try to come up with the fairest possible process. There's obviously some issues around whether the ballot of confidence should be done in the open in public or whether it be done in secret. We always have that option to do it public every day the House is sitting. So I think what we've tried to do is to look at the best way to come up a fair process and preserve, as one of my colleagues said, the right of each MLA to vote freely as they see fit and try to find a way to deal with Cabinet solidarity. So, in any event, I do appreciate all of the views that the Members have expressed in this House, the work that we did as a committee, the work that we did and reviewed in Fort Providence.

I look forward to moving on and conducting some other business as well. But I believe that there is goodwill on this side of the House certainly, and probably for all Members, to make sure that the mid-term review is carried out in a professional manner that will help make sure our ship is steering in the right direction. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. At this time a Member requested a recorded vote. So I'd like to ask those all in favour of the motion please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Those who are against the motion please stand. Those that abstain please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha.

MR. SPEAKER: In favour, 11; against, zero; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: 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 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018, with Member for Mackenzie Delta in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018. Committee would like to continue with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and then get into Municipal and Community Affairs, Department of Health and Social Services and the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We'll continue after a short recess. Does committee agree? Sorry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Okay, we will continue after a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 for the Department of Education. I'd like to ask the Minister, does the Minister wish to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right, I have my deputy minister, Sylvia Haener, and to my left Deputy Minister Olin Lovely. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Committee, we're finished off on page 12 with Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and standards, infrastructure investment, \$9,157,000. Mr. Testart, I believe we left off yesterday.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yesterday we were discussing the Post-Secondary Strategic Investment Fund, and I had asked the Minister if he was aware of an application that Dechinta University had made to the federal government to access this fund. I'd like to start with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we were aware that Dechinta had made that application. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is the Minister aware of the total request for funding and the commitment that the federal government had made to this initiative from Dechinta? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. Can the Member please repeat his question? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: In the proposal from Dechinta to access the Post-Secondary Strategic Investment Fund, can the department share the total amount of federal investment that was being requested?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, thank you. I believe the business case in the proposal that Dechinta was asking from the specific fund was in the amount of \$5 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In speaking with this I guess very important private sector in developing our economy, the number was much higher from them, around \$30 million with additional sources of funding lined up for O and M endowments going forward. So my question then is what was Dechinta looking for from the department in order to support their proposal? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do know where the Member's going with this, Dechinta did approach the department for a letter of support.

At the time we were looking at some of our own needs and our inventory as well to support some of our programs moving forward through the Aurora College, and knowing that we were coming up with the Skills 4 Success Action Plan and the strategic framework going forward, the 10-year strategic framework going forward to address some of the in-demand jobs, skills and training that was needed. So I know where the Member's going. They did request a letter of support. At the time we didn't feel it was appropriate to give that letter of support, as we were looking at our own infrastructure needs throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Any further questions? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister being candid, and that was where I was going. I'm not very knowledgeable about this fund. Is it all or nothing? Can you only make applications for the Northwest Territories from one agency or can multiple agencies access this funding? Does it need to be government-sponsored? Those are a couple questions, but I'd like answers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Well, as you can see in the last callout, there was a couple of different organizations, including ourselves, that was asking for funding and put in an application. It doesn't have to be government-sponsored to get that funding. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Would the Minister agree that it's helpful if the government does write a letter of support for these funding applications? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It's not required. In the past though we have written letters of support for Dechinta to access funding in other areas that there were throughout Canada. On this specific one we thought, because we were putting in an application as well, that it wouldn't be appropriate. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Any further questions? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I suppose there's some competing strategic priorities here. But given that our government's mandate also includes diversifying our economy, investing in post-secondary institutions such as Dechinta and

College nordique, is there a way we can provide more? Are we picking winners and losers here? Is it Aurora College versus other institutions or are we providing equal support for all our post-secondary partners in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, there's no winners or losers here. That's not how we do our business. We have an Aurora College Act that we do follow and fund the Aurora College and the learning centres. We do fund College nordique and we also fund Dechinta, and actually I think we just signed a multi-year agreement with them just recently or are about to, increasing the funding that we do give to them. So we've funded Dechinta over the years, and continue to fund Dechinta. I'd also ask the chair that we also focus on the infrastructure side of things, rather than discuss some of the program delivery and how we fund certain programs as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Any further questions? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that we do provide O and M funding, I'm discussing a capital request that Dechinta had made to the federal government, and that was more the line of my question; if we have a competing interest versus federal and capital investment for Aurora College versus other post-secondary institutions. But I take the Minister's point that it's his assessment that all of our post-secondary partners are treated fairly.

If Dechinta or College nordique or anyone else who wants to invest in this Post-Secondary Strategic Investment Fund in the future or a fund similar to it comes along, would the government be willing to support those partners or is Aurora College always going to come first for capital needs? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As discussions from yesterday where we had talked about some of the school and learning centres, a lot of our community members that spoke up yesterday talked about the need for learning centres in our community as well, which does get on the needs assessment based on priority. We do have an Aurora College Act and we do want to ensure that our communities also have the opportunities to provide learning outcomes and opportunities for some of our residents that do live in small communities. So we're still in talks with Dechinta and College nordique in terms of working

together and we'll continue to have those partnerships moving forward. But we also have a lot of buildings under our responsibility that we need to make sure are up-to-date rather than expanding, that are even just up-to-date to meet the needs of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Committee, I'd just like to remind everybody we're overlooking the Capital Estimates, you know, we're not doing the O and M, but did give the Member that opportunity to get his questions here. But we will stick to our agenda here and overlook our Capital Estimates. Any further questions from committee or, Mr. Testart, sorry?

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand the discomfort around this line of questioning, so I will cease for now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any further questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate it. Yesterday, the Minister was talking about I think heavy equipment operators' facility thing there and saying that 60 per cent territorial government, 40 per cent federal government. My biggest struggle is why is this program being put in Fort Smith or utilizing the money in Fort Smith, where it cannot sit at the end of the road? Why couldn't it be located in maybe Fort Providence, where there is a lot of highways or Fort Simpson, as there are a lot of highways there available and a lot of industry available? So I'm asking why this was done this way? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When the announcement for this funding came out, we had about a month, as did other institutions, to try to get the funding, so we had to look and act fast to get a proposal developed and together and out the door and look at where we can provide training and opportunities in the Northwest Territories. The heavy equipment facility in Smith was a prime example which we can support. The Mine Training Society actually just donated a bunch of equipment to the campus there, as well, so it was just a great opportunity for us. There was a lot of federal dollars, and we didn't want to miss out on the opportunity. We had to look at places where we could have addressed those.

The building itself that's in Smith was constructed in 1953, and we wanted to build on that and upgrade it so that the program there was going to be reflective on having a safe environment for students and residents to get the training in. There also was a great opportunity to address the jobs, the

in-demand jobs, out of our Skills 4 Success Action Plan moving forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess my biggest struggle is the vision, where we're looking outside of what we exist presently. Having these facilities in the major centres, which is Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Yellowknife, are challenging for the smaller communities. Also, you have to look at the industry out there.

We're offering these programs, which is great, but where is industry in this? Have we been talking with them? So I guess I would like to ask the Minister, it's kind of a wish list with this here, is that any future opportunities that the Minister looks at outside so that the smaller communities can be given this opportunity where industry, as well, can be tapped into and existing roads can be done?

Because my struggle is, in Smith, it's great; we're working on this equipment. But it's a six-week or eight-week course, maybe three-month course, and then we're out there building roads. Industry is not going to put somebody in with only three months' experience in there. So will the Minister look at this, if money, federal money, comes available next time, that looks outside of the bigger centres and starts looking at the smaller communities and look at industry? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I think that's exactly what we've done through the labour market information report and needs assessment as well as developing that Skills 4 Success Action Plan. We did get a lot of input from industry throughout the Northwest Territories, and, moving forward, we also have the mobility trades trailer in Inuvik that we try to utilize. But I do understand the Member's point and that we need to get some of these training opportunities into the communities, possibly partnering up with industry moving forward.

With this particular project, because it was the length of time, we had to find an area that we could have put in a proposal that would benefit Northerners, benefit industry, and benefit the training opportunities that we could get out of this, so that was one of the projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess my big thing is that, if we're only going back to status quo, we're not going to move ahead. That's my biggest challenge. Yes, I understand the facility was built in 1953, but we need to be looking outside the box, and here's an opportunity. I would hope the Minister will work with this department to develop something for the future so, when these opportunities do come available, it's outside the major centres and it'll have an impact on the smaller communities. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Member for his concerns and comments. That's, I think, the main direction for the Skills 4 Success Action Plan is to get out into the small communities. I know we've had Members who have brought those concerns forward of finding unique ways to increase the employment and the training and skill development in our small communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Any further questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister again for his work. I understand. I'm just looking for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Next we have Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was happy with the responses that came from the Minister on the community learning centres in Fort Resolution and Ndilo. However, I asked the questions on the wrong category as yesterday we were on schools and not the college. So I just, I guess, wanted to clarify if the responses yesterday would still be applicable, even though they were given in a different category. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Moses.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, they would be. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Committee, any further questions on page 13? I see none. Committee, we're on Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and standards, infrastructure investment, \$9,157,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. We will now return to the summary on page 9, total capital investment, \$23,611,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Does the Minister have any closing comments?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: No. I just want to thank the Members for their questions, and I know there are a lot of concerns and a lot of issues out there in terms of infrastructure needs throughout the Northwest Territories. We try our best to meet them as we move forward.

Sitting as a Regular Member in the 17th, I understand some of the frustrations, but, in our current fiscal situation and with all the competing infrastructure needs, it's always a tough job to see where we put the dollars. But I appreciate the questions and just thank everybody for their support and the questions that they had. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Moses. Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of Education is complete?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you, committee. Committee, that brings us now to Municipal and Community Affairs. Does the Minister have any witnesses that she would like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Thank you, committee. Will the Minister please introduce her witnesses.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to introduce Eleanor Young, who is the acting deputy minister for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Committee, we will defer the total estimate, \$28,002,000 until after consideration of activity summaries. Starting on page 65, Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations, infrastructure investments, \$28,002,000. Any questions? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's been many years since the municipalities had an increase in the capital estimates. I know that they sometimes shuffle the money around from one community to another, but

the bottom line never changes. So I'd like to ask the Minister if there is any possibility that this number will go up sometime soon. I don't ever remember it being anything other than \$28,002,000, so I'll start with that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Ms. Young speak to that, since she has the history on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct. Since capital funding started being provided to communities in 2007, the number has remained at \$28 million. Every year, we seek an increase to operations and maintenance and water and sewer funding, but the capital funding has remained constant.

Even though a number of years ago the overall GNWT capital plan went from \$150 million down to \$75 million, the community government funding was protected at the \$28 million when that decrease happened. Where we focused our effort in the interim was on leveraging federal funding, and we've been quite successful in receiving additional federal funding using that \$28 million to leverage federal funding for community governments. Members are aware of Small Communities Fund, Building Canada Fund, other programs that we've been able to bring infrastructure funding to communities.

That said, in 2014, we did an infrastructure deficit analysis and have identified an infrastructure funding gap, and we are currently recalculating our numbers and will be bringing forward a plan in 2017 with regard to how to address the remaining infrastructure gap.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm interested in the criteria for small communities funding. I'm wondering if the Minister could give us the criteria, and as far as population goes, small community funding. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The criteria for the small communities funding is communities that were under 100,000 people, was the federal criteria for that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a minimum number of people in a community in order to access this funding?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, there is no minimum number of people to access the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there other criteria in the Small Community Fund that would, say, restrict this funding to larger communities in the NWT? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. As I stated, it is federal and the criteria is populations under 100,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this project-specific? So is this funding approved by project as opposed to by community? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, there is an allocation done for each community, and then it is project-specific after that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the federal government has a program called the Small Community Fund which has a minimum of 100,000 people, or a maximum of 100,000 people. That fund is then taken and distributed to all the communities, including the very smallest of our communities, then from there the communities are asked to do project-specific items that are then funded by this Small Communities Fund program? Is that what I'm to understand from what the Minister is saying?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Member is correct. There is a cost share within that formula, so it's 75 per cent to 25

per cent, and then the small communities have to use their share of the \$28 million to access that funding source. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when this funding was last allocated, small community federal funding, where did it go? Did it go to all communities, project-specific? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the first time the Small Communities Fund has been delivered in this manner by the federal government, but the previous program prior to this was called Build Canada and we did make access to every community the same way that we have done with the Small Communities Fund.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister mentioned that there was some sort of infrastructure deficit in the whole system of all of the community infrastructure that exists. So what I'm curious about is, if a community does not have, say, paved streets. We'll use that as an example. If a community doesn't have paved streets, would that be considered an infrastructure deficit?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we calculated the deficit, we did use a core suite of infrastructure in doing the calculation, and paved streets was not one of those core things for every community. That said, community governments can use the funding they receive, either through the \$28 million or through other federal programs, to do pavement on streets if they so choose.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm getting down to what my question would be, here. So certain items which are considered infrastructure deficit by the government would not include other things that larger communities already have, like paved streets. So therefore, if those don't count as infrastructure deficits, then they don't appear anywhere as a need, therefore there is high potential for this reallocation of infrastructure funding to be taken away from smaller communities and given to larger communities.

I've looked at a document previously which shows that, that things like not everyone has everything, and I don't expect every community to have everything, however, I expect the basics to be given to the communities and for it to be completely ignored as an infrastructure deficit I think is wrong. I would like the Minister to commit to returning to the Regular Members any change in the infrastructure allegations of this \$28 million back to committee? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we were looking at the deficit figures, we did consult with the NWT Association of Communities on their advice on what the infrastructure component should include. It should be noted, though, that if we did include things like paved streets then the infrastructure deficit would be quite a bit larger than it actually is. It should also be noted that we haven't changed the \$28 million; the funding is still allocated to the communities as previous. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Sorry, Mr. Beaulieu, your time has expired. Would you like me to put your name on again? Okay. Next we have Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the existing system. I've seen the existing system from our business plan reviews to the O and M discussions and then going back to the communities for this summer's construction season, seeing where the dollars are coming from and where they're going and how they're spent on capital applications being put forth.

So this whole model of capitalization, O and M and federal offsetting of access dollars such as what I've seen here, the small community fund, in one particular community they accessed \$3 million. That's a significant amount for the construction season and the job it created.

So I'm just complimenting the system that's in place already. I wasn't here prior to what Ms. Young had mentioned on the Build Canada Fund opposed to the system now, but if the system now is working fine and if we can have assurances in the small communities that that system will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't make assurances forever but I can ensure that during my tenure as the Minister of MACA that formula will remain. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Next we have Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does the department with this money have rules and guidelines for the projects that each community can and cannot do? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we do. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for her answer. Can we get a copy of this rules and guidelines so that we're aware of what is able and not able to be built with this money? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we will provide the Members a copy. It comes from the CPI funding and we will provide a copy of it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister who will be providing that for us. In regards to this funding, the infrastructure deficit, does this funding allow communities to purchase or build homes for staff so they can get quality people in to the communities and give them homes so that they can do the work that's needed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the communities can choose to do that within their capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, and I thank the Minister for that because in some of the smaller communities I represent have been asking that and I've just actually got three or four e-mails that have just come to me and asking the same question. So this capital plan actually came at the right time. So is it 75/25 per cent for building these homes for the infrastructure people, like, it's for the staff that are working there, correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that isn't correct. The federal money is a split 75/25 per cent; however, they can use their core funding to actually -- capital funding to provide those units if that's their desire. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I'm just going to assume I know this answer already but I'm going to ask it anyway: has this been shared with the communities and are the councils informed of their ability to do that? Because there seems to be some confusion out there so I'm wondering if it has been available to the communities that that's what they can do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it has been shared with the communities; however if there is any community out there that is unsure of the policies going forward MACA's whole priority is to work with communities and provide them the supports they need, the tools they need to function properly. So we would more than happy to go back in and work with any community that is a bit confused on the funding process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister. I'm good with that. Once I get this information I can share with the communities, and I understand who the people are already in my riding who does the work. I again thank the Minister for clarifying that and deputy minister for clarifying that today. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Mr. Thompson. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of questions for the Minister. You know, I'm very familiar with municipal funding to the communities as it just came into place when I just became a chief and mayor. You know the advantages this fund has for the communities it just can't be compared to the way it used to be.

You know everybody was in line for, you know, a project for many years, but now we've just got to budget for it and plan and go forward. I really hope that this fund could continue over the years to

come, and I'd just like to thank the government at the time and this government for following through on this. I know there is plans over the last while here to possibly reduce the amount going to communities. Just moving forward, I'd just like to be assured that funds, for example, for Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Aklavik will remain the same over the next few years? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I'd like to say thank you for the appreciation of the work that MACA has done. I am honoured to be the Minister for MACA; it is about community development and it works well with my social work degree.

I also agree that some of the changes that they've made, things like the New Deal, the funding formula, are really progressive and do talk about community development. So thank you. The second part of that is as long as I'm here I will ensure that the funding stays. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Anything further? Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sure the department does know this, but coming from a small community, for example, like Tsiigehtchic, with the amount of funds that we do get for a major project, for example, the band office or the new municipal office they're planning for, in order to build a piece of infrastructure like this, we do have to save for a number of years to have enough funds to proceed with the project. It's always important to keep this in mind.

I know that was one of the concerns, that the communities weren't spending that money, but you always have to remember from the communities' aspect is we have to first save in order to have enough to pay for our projects. That was one of the reasons why those weren't happening, but in visiting all the communities, you see the infrastructure, whether it's the new hamlet office in Fort McPherson or all the other great infrastructure the communities have, all the new equipment now. It's very good to see, very positive, and hopefully this continues. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that's a bit of a comment, but I do want to express my honour to be able to travel to the communities and see both the strengths and the challenges that are faced within the diverse communities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Committee, any further questions on pages 65, 66? Questions? Thank you, committee. That brings us back to page 65. Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations, infrastructure investments, \$28,002,000. Are we agreed? Oh, sorry. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I thought I had indicated that I wanted to get back on the list. I won't be as long. Just two questions. The first question is: when they talk about infrastructure deficit in the communities, we know now that paved streets or chip sealed streets or whatever type of suppressant you wish to put on your streets is not part of infrastructure deficit. Is housing, is staff housing, part of infrastructure deficit?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, housing is not in the allocated amount. But as stated earlier, we will provide a list of the items that are approved. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier on the deputy referred to the Building Canada Fund. At one point, MACA had a seven-year agreement followed by a ten-year agreement. I'm wondering, since this is well within the time, I'm wondering why the BCF is not incorporated into this number. In fact, not incorporated into the actuals and last fiscal year as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The federal funding programs that we receive show up as Fund 3 in our budget, not as vote to funding, capital funding. So all you see here is the GNWT funding provided, the \$28 million. All of the federal funding is an application-based program to Canada, and when we get the money from Canada it shows up as Fund 3, as federal funding received on behalf of others.

Mr. Chair, the Minister has asked me to clarify. The infrastructure deficit is calculated based on a core basket of goods. Community governments can still choose to spend money outside what that core basket of goods is.

So when I say they can spend money of staff housing, that's true. Is it included in the infrastructure deficit calculation? No, it's not. So because it's not included in the deficit calculation

doesn't mean you can't spend the money on those things. So just to clarify the disconnect there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if I heard the term "vote 3." "Vote 3" is the term? When do we see the capital that is vote 3 capital through the Building Canada Fund? If we're well within the agreement and we need this \$28 million to leverage the funding, at which point is it incorporated so that we can vote on it?

If the Building Canada Fund is used to build territorial infrastructure like highways and so on but a portion of it is going to the municipality, yet it's not reflected anywhere -- like, today, we're talking about capital. Right? We're not going to talk about capital again this year. We're talking about it now. Why would it not be reflected here? What prevents vote 3 funding from being reflected in this document? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Fund 3 actually is federal monies. You don't see it in here; this is only Government of the Northwest Territories monies. We do not have a vote in the federal monies. We fund all the projects through; the federal government decides what allocations they'll accept and what not. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if we look at infrastructure for other departments, we'll say, such as Transportation or maybe Health, we know that there is \$81 million in the capital plan for our partners that are building the hospital.

This is the cash flow that's going through here. I don't understand how that could be reflected in here, or other federal money that's going into the Inuvik-Tuk Highway gets reflected in the capital plan but the Building Canada Fund of money that's going to the municipalities is not reflected in the capital plan. I just wouldn't mind having that clarified.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the difference is the Inuvik-Tuk Highway as an example is a GNWT project that is being done by the Department of Transportation. When it comes to

community government projects, all we have here is the block amount of money that we are providing out to communities.

Their projects are determined through their own individual community capital plans and they apply to, for example, when there is federal funding, they apply for projects to Canada and have them approved. So in our capital plan, we aren't approving community projects. We are only approving the block of money that we provide out to communities. Communities themselves through their community councils approve which projects they are proceeding with and which ones are being held, and that's the difference. These are not GNWT projects; they're community-specific projects.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just can't agree with that. The funding through the Building Canada Plan was given to the GNWT under three different bundles, Bundle Number 1, Bundle Number 2, and Bundle Number 3. Within those bundles, a percentage of it was taken out and it was put to municipalities.

The GNWT indicated that some was going to go to territorial infrastructure, some to municipal infrastructure. So I'm just trying to figure out how the communities can reach into the Building Canada Plan on their own to pull the money out and then reflect it in their communities? What are the logistics of that? I'm not understanding it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Young.

MS YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we receiving funding through a federal program like Building Canada the Member's correct, there was a decision made on how much would go to Department of Transportation projects and how much would be set aside for community projects.

In the case of Department of Transportation, they've identified their three bundles of projects that are being brought forward to Canada for approval and they're put on the GNWT Capital Plan because they are GNWT projects.

For the community projects what happens is we decide on an allocation per community, but then the community prepares the project application and we funnel it through to Canada for approval. We actually don't approve or not approve community projects under the Building Canada. So it's a slight nuance. But that being said, these are publicly approved lists, once the project is approved by Canada we can provide a complete list of all of the

projects to the Members that have been approved under any of the federal programs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Young. Mr. Beaulieu. Thank you for not taking as long there, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee, any further questions on page 65, 66? If not, committee, that brings us to Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations, infrastructure investment, \$28,002,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. That brings us back to page 63, Municipal and Community Affairs, total capital estimates, \$28,002,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out of the Chamber.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Mr. Beaulieu.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Motion is on the floor to report the progress, the motion is in order and it's non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Blake): The motion is carried. I will now rise and report the progress.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Simpson): May I have your report, Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018, and we'd like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Do I have a seconder? Member for Frame Lake.

---Carried

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Simpson): Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

The House adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Government Operations Committee at adjournment today. The orders of the day for Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018
 - Tabled Document 163-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 for the Department of Public Works and Services and Department of Transportation
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

