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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 1, 2017****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 pm

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Transportation.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 148-18(2):
YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT EVOLUTION**

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, the NWT economy needs a boost right now and the Yellowknife Airport is an important instrument of economic diversity. Finding new, proven ways to support and fund improvements and growth at the airport will help strengthen and diversify the NWT economy and create benefits for all travellers and business that use the airport.

The Department of Transportation is engaged with air carriers, the public, and other key stakeholders who believe there is an opportunity to improve the Yellowknife Airport to support economic growth and better services. To achieve this, the Department of Transportation is proposing to introduce a new revolving fund framework for the airport, which would allow it to become financially self-sufficient by funding its own ongoing capital, operations, and maintenance expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Airport is currently funded through the government's consolidated revenues, making it another draw on GNWT resources used to fund all its other operations. Meanwhile, traffic at the airport increased 16 per cent from 2011 to 2015 and continues to rise. This additional pressure makes the need for costly improvements even more critical. The Department of Transportation believes the airport can use its robust passenger volumes to support itself financially if it were to use a fee system that is in line with other similarly sized airports in Canada. Moreover, this would shift the financial burden of supporting the airport away from NWT taxpayers to airport users, more than half of whom are non-residents.

Mr. Speaker, as outlined in the draft business plan developed for the Yellowknife Airport, the Department of Transportation has a very clear plan of how it would use these fees. All airport improvement fees would go towards making capital improvements, while other fees would be used to cover the cost of services provided to users. Input into this business plan was provided by key airport stakeholders who identified the improvements they believe are necessary for a strong and effective airport moving forward.

All of the actions identified in the business plan were accompanied by clear timelines for implementation. This plan will ensure the airport has the financial resources and flexibility it needs to provide enhanced services to travellers and more opportunities for northern businesses.

A dedicated source of funding for the airport means that more resources can be invested into things like increased parking and retail space, helping to attract more business to the airport and stimulate our economy. Improving the capacity of cargo facilities could benefit industries that rely on the timely and efficient movement of large quantities of goods and material to support their operations.

Infrastructure improvements such as upgraded lighting and a central de-icing facility to reduce travel delays would have a direct impact on the ability of airlines to deliver operations and services. Improved security services and expanded holding areas that reduce congestion, along with modern amenities, will improve traveller experience and comfort. It would also allow tourists visiting Yellowknife or connecting to other destinations in the Northwest Territories to take away better first and last impressions of the North.

The number of visitors to the Northwest Territories has increased 45 per cent over the past five years. While this growth is extremely positive for our tourism industry, it is putting a strain on the Yellowknife Airport, which needs to be upgraded and modestly expanded in the short term to cope with the pressures.

The possibilities for evolving the airport are many, but without a reliable funding model we cannot make the changes that are necessary for economic development and service growth. The minimal

impact increased aeronautical fees would have on the cost of living would be greatly outweighed by the positive economic activity generated by improving the Yellowknife Airport. Already, approximately 1,000 people are employed directly through activity at the airport and there is an opportunity to generate more jobs for Northerners.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to invest in the Yellowknife Airport as an important economic catalyst for our territory. With the support and feedback of residents and stakeholders we can work together to make infrastructure improvements that will attract investment, supporting the addition of more flights, increased passenger numbers, greater cargo volumes, and new business opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 149-18(2):
PROGRESS STATEMENT – EDUCATION AND
TRAINING

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the work that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has done as part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' commitment to education, training, and youth development. Today, I would like to provide an update on the progress the department is making in the area of governance, capacity building, and support for community governments in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of attending or delivering training in the Northwest Territories has always been high and can be challenging for community governments to work into their budgets, and for staff to accommodate in their busy work schedules. The Municipal and Community Affairs' School of Community Government has taken steps to improve accessibility and reduce the cost of training in the North through the use of digital and online technology. This will allow community government staff and elected officials to receive training online or via videoconference without leaving their home community.

Mr. Speaker, in 2016, Municipal and Community Affairs signed a \$248,000 funding agreement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to support the development and implementation of an online platform for the delivery of self-directed and self-paced governance workshops to both municipal government elected officials and Aboriginal community governments with municipal-like responsibilities.

This new online platform has many potential applications. The department has recently

partnered with the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories to develop the Local Government Administrators Essentials program in an online format. By increasing the accessibility of this type of programming, Municipal and Community Affairs aims to support enhanced capacity among senior administrative officers in communities across the North, as well as allowing the program to be delivered more often to accommodate staff turnover.

Mr. Speaker, the department has also been busy working to modify several existing courses so they can be delivered through the school's new online platform, including courses related to bylaw development and recreation planning. Several of these courses are currently in a pilot delivery phase, designed to ensure that the new approach to delivery is effective and provides results.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that Municipal and Community Affairs has also recently completed the development of a state-of-the-art training room, which provides all regional offices, and soon all community governments in the Northwest Territories, with the ability to participate in distance training. This new online training capacity has the potential to save community governments money through alleviating travel costs. It also provides the opportunity for more frequent delivery of short course offerings, or webinars, on specific issues or concerns that are common across communities. Eventually, the School of Community Government will have the ability to deliver training to all communities in the Northwest Territories via this new system. The first course to be delivered in this manner will be the Municipal Contracts course next month, with 16 people from seven communities participating in a combination of face-to-face and teleconference delivery approaches.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made a commitment in its mandate to provide capacity development to community governments across the Northwest Territories. The new platform, technologies, and facilities developed by Municipal and Community Affairs, as well as the work to adapt and update existing curricula, underscore the department's commitment to ensuring that community government staff and officials throughout the Northwest Territories have access to appropriate, relevant and high quality training as they need it. This will ultimately allow Municipal and Community Affairs to support improvements for community governments and subsequently, the quality of life of the residents in those communities.

I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me at the launch of our Distance Training Facility tomorrow, Thursday March 2nd at 11:30 on

the fifth floor of the Northwestel Building to witness this progress first-hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 150-18(2):
CANADA'S OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS:
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT
MILESTONE STATEMENT

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've said in this Assembly, education is one of the cornerstones of development and success. There are always people behind a student's experience in education, and they are usually teachers or principals.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Carolyn Carroll, principal of both Harry Camsell School and Princess Alexandra School in Hay River, on being recognized as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2017. Principals who receive the award are nominated by their colleagues, school staff, and community members. She is the ninth principal in the NWT to receive this honour.

Originally from Newfoundland, she came to the Northwest Territories in the late 1980s and taught throughout the Tlicho region. For the past 20 years, she has taught at all of the schools in Hay River, and as principal of Harry Camsell and Princess Alexandra since 2013.

Ms. Carroll has created inclusive learning environments at the schools with all staff members committed to a philosophy of child-centred learning and collaboration.

She recognizes the importance of the school reflecting the culture of the community, and has spearheaded a number of culturally responsive programs for the school populations.

Ms. Carroll is a strong believer in inquiry and play-based learning in students. In 2013, self-regulation was introduced in three classrooms in Harry Camsell School. Self-regulation helps students manage their energy levels. When teachers create classroom environments that minimize stressors as well as help students to recognize, respond, and manage their energy levels through self-regulation, students are better able to approach learning in a calm and focused manner.

At Harry Camsell, these classrooms include ways for students to help manage their energy, like stationary bicycles to help burn off extra energy, and options for children to learn and participate without sitting at desks.

In addition to her focus on student identity, culture, and learning, she is a strong believer in

professional development for teachers and collaborative learning environments. As a team, they collectively set goals, share and analyze student data, plan targeted interventions, and share their successes.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Carroll is described as an "agent of change," with very positive support from her community and from the parents of the students in the schools. Her teaching principles reflect exactly what we're trying to embody at the department, Mr. Speaker. Education renewal is a strategy of transformative change in the NWT school system, with a focus on increasing student wellness and outcomes, and improving teacher wellness. We recognize we must do things differently to ensure the needs of our students and teachers are being met, and Ms. Carroll is a leader in this regard.

Ms. Carroll is currently attending a five-day Executive Leadership Training Program delivered by the internationally renowned Rotman School of Management. Once complete, she will join some 400 exceptional educators who comprise the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals, which offers its members ongoing networking, mentorship and professional development opportunities.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Carolyn Carroll and her continued dedication to her students, community, and excellence in education. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMITMENT TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about our commitment to action on climate change.

People in the Northwest Territories and other northern regions are among the first in the world to be experiencing the concrete, sometimes drastic impacts of climate change. How we confront climate change in our lives is a personal decision, but an effective response depends on individual and collective action now and in the future.

It is a complex issue and touches on a lot of areas of our lives. Climate change has an influence on how we heat our homes, and how much that costs. In our resource-driven economy it has an impact on

jobs and local economies. For Indigenous people of the NWT, it now further threatens their traditional way of life. It is important to me as a leader in our territory that we have a solid plan in place and that we take action now. Our government has an opportunity to lead society towards sustainability. Many departments are working on a strategic framework to give GNWT departments guidance.

While this is an important start, I would advocate for more direct action to be taken. The reach of the framework should be expanded so that it incorporates teaching, research, demonstration, and accelerating solutions beyond the GNWT. We must state our commitment as individual leaders, and as a government, to provide guidance, and make the concrete changes necessary to address this challenging issue.

For example, as we expand educational opportunities we should also be investing in the long-term in our research institutions. As we improve healthcare, we should also apply northern research to measure how climate change is a factor in our people's health. As we design supports for small business, we must promote innovation and green technologies, and as we advance exploration we must prioritize carbon-neutral extractions methods and seek new ways to mitigate the impacts.

We should encourage more and better collaboration within our government departments, and partnerships with Aboriginal and community governments and the private sector. These are steps that will support real economic growth and create good jobs while doing the work to combat climate change and protect our pristine environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROTECTION OF THE BATHURST CARIBOU HERD

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I have raised the plight of the Bathurst caribou herd in this House since the beginning of our term, probably almost as many times as the Minister of Transportation has talked about the Yellowknife Airport. To date, the responses from Cabinet have been non-committal at best. Ministers say work is being done to create a management plan while plowing ahead with plans for an all-weather road into the heart of the herd's remaining critical habitat, including its calving grounds. The only concrete actions by our government to date have been harvester restrictions. Not one square centimetre of habitat has been permanently protected in any way by our government.

I will commend the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for leading the Bathurst Caribou Herd Range Plan exercise that started in the fall of 2014. Even if it is years late and follows several damning findings and recommendations from environmental management boards, it is the only thing going in terms of a process to bring all the parties together to look at the future. A discussion paper and plain language summary were prepared in December 2016 and public consultations are to begin soon as announced by the Minister on February 8th in this House.

I have reviewed the discussion paper and it presents a sound path forward with the following:

- Maintain human disturbance below threshold levels;
- Maintain connectivity between seasonal ranges;
- Maintain the integrity of sensitive habitats; and
- Manage human access.

To properly manage human activities and protect the Bathurst caribou herd, it will be necessary to implement cumulative effects disturbance frameworks, protect areas important to caribou, guide land use, and control access. The discussion paper suggests that we assemble guidance on practices related to caribou-friendly road construction techniques and consider winter-only access in the calving and post-calving and summer ranges of the Bathurst caribou herd.

The herd is in desperate condition with extreme limits on harvesting. It's incomprehensible that our government continues to plan for an all-weather corridor that would link up with a similar road on the Nunavut side of the boundary that would bisect the calving grounds and post-calving critical habitat. The discussion paper on range plan presents models for future development where people will have to make a choice between caribou or mines. What choice will our government make?

I will have questions later today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEAD NORTH FILM FESTIVAL

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, I had the profound enjoyment of taking in this year's Dead North Film Festival, watching 31 short films that capture the imagination and creativity of Northerners. Dead

North is the world's only circumpolar genre film festival and has produced 90 original short films over the past five years. These films are not short on originality, Mr. Speaker, cutting across horror, science fiction, and fantasy genres, and for the most part, shot in familiar locations here in Canada's North. These films touch on themes as diverse as the traumatic legacy of residential schools, imagining an arctic zombie outbreak, or investigating a fur hat from space with an appetite for human flesh.

Some of Dead North's films have gone on to screen at major festivals around the world including Fantasia, BFI, New York City Horror Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, and soon, the prestigious International Cannes Film Festival in France. This great northern film festival is made possible by the support from local businesses and great organizations like the NWT Arts Council, Western Arctic Motion Pictures, and of course, the NWT Film Commission.

I am delighted that this event is so well received and is supported constantly by our community with tickets selling out in two hours this year. So without a doubt, Mr. Speaker, the Northerners want to tell their own stories by creating their own films here in the North. Not only is this something that Northerners want, but something Dead North proves that Northerners can do.

Mr. Speaker, one of those Northerners is Keith Robertson, whose film BAIT! won best poster at Dead North and now has been handpicked to continue on to the Cannes Film Festival, where it will be screened along with selective films as part of Telefilm's Not Short on Talent program. Apart from being a filmmaker, an amateur filmmaker, Mr. Robertson is a teacher at Range Lake North School and his success is proof positive that Dead North is a potentially life-changing creative experience. I want to congratulate him for his achievement, and I wish him continued success on this film and future projects as he continues to tell original northern stories.

Mr. Speaker, these projects are not only the work of one filmmaker. They're the work of actors, crew, and production teams, and I'm thrilled to see these efforts play out on the silver screen. I want to congratulate all of those who contribute to our growing film industry, and for this year's amazing Dead North Film Festival. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. See you at the movies.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED CARBON PRICING CHARETTE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to return to a subject discussed earlier this month by my colleague, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

In June, energy stakeholders will come together to run a charrette on carbon taxing from opportunities and possible rules to revenues and community energy projects. They'll also be planning for the use of micro-grids to reduce emissions. There have been NWT-based energy charrettes in the past, and the GNWT has been a major player. Some might say that we don't need another conference, or that we need to take action, not just talk about it.

Mr. Speaker, to that I say: progress can be slow, but that doesn't mean we should just stop trying. Discussion takes time, true, but that's how ideas for action are born. Charrettes bring people together to solve problems. Here, Aboriginal and community governments, industry, and environmental NGOs want to come together, Mr. Speaker. That's big. That means that these partners recognize the big questions raised by carbon taxing and ideas for alternative energy, and that they want to get together, find solutions, and make changes that will make a difference on the ground.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council is in full support, and like several other partners, the council is making a funding contribution. All Members recently received a background on this charrette. There's a seat at the table for the GNWT, and organizers are looking for a commitment, a commitment to participate and to complement the contributions already made by private donors. I hope they'll see us there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED CARBON PRICING CHARETTE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, affordable energy, the cost of living, reduction in diesel use in remote communities, micro-grid technology, the impending carbon tax are all big, important issues, especially for the 26 off-grid communities. Today, we will focus our attention in this House on those issues.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen what is possible with micro-grids in Colville Lake and what is achievable with similar technology in the communities. The communities have also seen what is possible with power purchase agreements and economic opportunities in Lutselk'e, and what can be realized in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the upcoming federal budget there will be a \$50 million fund for remote, Indigenous communities to assist in the transition off diesel fuel. We know a carbon tax is coming soon to the NWT and we need to get ready. There is much to discuss with the communities, Aboriginal governments, mines, businesses, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the people, the process and the table to bring Northerners together to exist. The time for these discussions is now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in Tribal Council is proposing to host a charrette in Yellowknife in June on the issues I have mentioned. Leaders from the Aboriginal governments, the president and board of the NWT Association of Communities, and mine representatives will be invited. To date, neither the GNWT nor the federal government have committed to be a part of this critical partnership event, even though it is a political priority for both governments.

Mr. Speaker, planning is well under way for this charrette. The GNWT should be playing a leadership role in this collaborative partnership. Our communities are looking for that leadership. The NWT Association of Communities are looking for that leadership. There is huge benefit to having the collective wisdom of all these Northerners gathered around a table, offering their collective advice and recommendations to government on how to move forward on the critical issues I mentioned in this statement.

The 18th Assembly, the first Assembly after devolution, made a commitment to Northerners to doing things differently, to getting things done. Northerners from all sectors have organized themselves to work with government on these issues. They have contributed funds towards the charrette. They are reaching out to the government to join this collaborative partnership to sort out these critical issues. It is time for the government to step up and step forward. Northerners are moving, and they need the government to move with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN THE SAHTU

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Climate change. Mr. Speaker, evidence of climate change is all around us and affects every aspect of the way we do business and everyday living standards. We are seeing animals and birds never seen in these parts before.

Mr. Speaker, resupplies to Fort Good Hope is a prime example, amongst others. The last barge destined for that community rarely makes it due to low water seasons and the challenges faced between Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope with two sets of rapids.

The impact of this is fuel, public and private goods and services destined for that community, building materials. If they do not make the destination, building projects are prolonged. They are delayed. Private groceries do not end up to resupply the community household until the following winter access road season, and fuel by this government destined for the community there is handled twice. It's then brought back to the community of Norman Wells, stored, and trucked over the winter road season. Our winter road seasons are experiencing shorter seasons and also warmer, mild temperatures.

Mr. Speaker, Northerners are resilient. We are now saying we need more all-weather road infrastructures to connect our lacking 28 per cent non-community connected to the all-weather road systems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN CARBON PRICING REGIME

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in December 2015, world leaders gathered in Paris signed the historic agreement to fight climate change. They committed to ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas production and to halt the disastrous advance of global warming. Last year, the Mining Association of Canada endorsed the federal government's effort to establish a national price on carbon pollution.

In the months since the signing of the Paris Agreement, our federal government has announced its intention to introduce a carbon price. Ottawa has consulted with provinces and territories, asking them to develop a system for their jurisdiction, which honours minimum reductions. Our government has participated in these processes and I understand there is federal funding to offset costs.

Throughout this mandate, this government has missed no opportunity to condemn carbon pricing, without a mandate from the Assembly's committees for taking this position. Even while signing the national climate change framework in Ottawa last December, the Premier remained reluctant of pricing carbon, intoning fears of cost impact and skepticism at the significance of NWT greenhouse gas reductions.

As we know, the impacts of climate change are all the greater here in the NWT. If anything, these exaggerated impacts call us to make an even greater northern commitment and example as we call upon the world's governments and industrial leaders to ease the damage most felt here.

Mr. Speaker, the time for resistance to the inevitable is past. It is time for acceptance, endorsement, and action. When our world leadership en masse, our global corporate leadership, and the national organization representing our mainstay economic driver call for action on carbon pricing, we need to climb on board. I will have questions for the Premier on the current state of NWT carbon pricing development. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEH CHO BOREAL CARIBOU STUDY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have been travelling across the NWT, the topic of caribou comes up with a lot of people. The more people I talked to, the more I became interested in what was happening in the Deh Cho in this area. After doing research, I found out the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is doing studies with boreal caribou in the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, it was initiated in 2004 with the deployment of 10 satellite collars on adult female caribou at the request of, and after consultation with, Samba K'e Dene Band.

I am happy to say that there are extensive consultations in response to requests from other registered First Nations, and have increased the study area and number of First Nations partners in this study.

From looking at the Dehcho Boreal Caribou Study Progress Report, which was completed by April 2016, a total of 145 collars have been deployed on adult female boreal caribou.

Mr. Speaker, in the report, the department studies talk about the daily movement patterns of collared female caribou, which determines when and where a female boreal caribou calved or not. The great thing about using movement data is the department does not need to use the aerial survey, which helps reduce disturbance during the calving period.

Mr. Speaker, as seen from the high number of births and pregnancies from the collared females, this implies that capture and wearing a collar has not prevented females from becoming pregnant nor bearing calves. This is good to hear as they

continue to study and monitor the caribou in the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say the department and regional staff are doing a great job of studying the caribou in our region. It is very interesting to see the home range of the caribou in the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed that, in January 2016, the department was part of a cooperative inter-jurisdictional project that had the first aerial wolf survey conducted in the Deh Cho. This information is helping the department with their caribou study.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the department for doing a great job and encourage them to continue doing it. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INUVIALUIT WATER BOARD

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, water is life. The vision of the Inuvialuit Water Board is to have clean and plentiful water available today and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, the waters of the Mackenzie Basin eventually flow into the Delta and the Arctic Ocean. The Northwest Territories Water Board was established in 1972 and was renamed the Inuvialuit Water Board in March 2014. It provides for the conservation, development, and use of inland waters to benefit all Canadians and, in particular, the residents of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Mr. Speaker, under the Waters Act, the Inuvialuit Water Board is responsible for licensing water use and waste disposal in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, those waters may be in a liquid or solid state, on or below the surface of land. Projects that require large amounts of water and produce waste that could potentially impact the quality of the environment are of concern to the board. The Inuvialuit Water Board also regulates waste that may enter waters and would alter water quality. The role and function of the Inuvialuit Water Board deals with municipal and industrial requests for water licences in the portion of the ISR in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the board consists of five members, currently appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. Two members are nominated by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and one member by the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The board maintains a website and produces an annual report.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit are ready to take on a more government-to-government approach to the Water Board. As we update the Waters Act to reflect our post-devolution context, we can expect changes in the area of appointments. It is important for the Government of Northwest Territories to make decisions independently.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit Water Board will have an important role in all future developments in the Delta and Beaufort regions. The Government of Northwest Territories and other governments have a great opportunity to work to protect and preserve water resources. The Inuvialuit will be part of the steps we take towards our vision of clean and plentiful water now and for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jay Bulckaert and Pablo Saravanja from the Artless Collective. They were big creative forces behind the Dead North Film Festival I spoke about earlier today. Without their mentorship and guidance for the next generation of northern filmmakers, I think we would be further behind than we actually are. Keep making great films and keep helping put the North on the map. Thanks, guys.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the gentlemen from Artless Collective, Jay and Pablo. They are not only great film producers and makers, but they are also business residents of Yellowknife North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize one of our translators who is here with us this week, Miss Ruth Carroll. She is a former resident of Inuvik and I just want to say mahsi cho for all the work that she is doing translating to the people throughout the Northwest Territories, and also say mahsi cho to all the translators. March is Aboriginal Languages Month, and I appreciate the work that they do in maintaining and revitalizing our Aboriginal languages here in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgments. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 658-18(2): INUVALUIT WATER BOARD

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement earlier today, the Inuvialuit are ready to take on a more government-to-government approach to the Water Board. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain how the Government of the Northwest Territories would work with the Water Board on some of the benefits of a government-to-government relationship? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Government of Northwest Territories, we have a vested interest in working with the Inuvialuit Water Board and the water boards of the Mackenzie Valley. As water partners, we work closely with the Inuvialuit Water Board and other regional and land water boards in the implementation of a five-year action plan for the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, so we do have a vested interest in working with the water boards with all the Aboriginal governments across the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my second question is: what role will the Inuvialuit Water Board have in the development of a renewed Waters Act?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Inuvialuit Water Board, they are a key partner with responsibilities to uphold our legislation that governs water resources in the ISR. The Government of the Northwest Territories, through ENR, will be seeking input from all water partners including regulatory authorities such as the Inuvialuit Water Board as we advance work to modernize the Waters Act.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my third question is: how has the Inuvialuit Water Board been involved in transboundary water management negotiations?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Inuvialuit Water Board was asked for input on the GNWT interest development of negotiation position and intention document for both the Alberta-NWT and the BC-NWT agreements as well as the development

of a negotiation position for agreement with Saskatchewan and for updating our existing agreement with the Yukon. We have had specific meetings with all of the NWT regulatory boards to solicit input as we move forward with some of these transboundary water agreements.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. That leads to my final question. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain how the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Water Board work on transboundary water issues with the Yukon in areas that impact the ISR? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an existing agreement with the Yukon that was signed in 2002. We are going through a process right now to update the agreement to align with the more recently completed transboundary water agreements. We will work with the Inuvialuit as we develop our position going forward, and we will continue working with them as well as the other Aboriginal governments across the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 659-18(2):
INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I will be asking questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, as we have seen in the main estimates, ECE has planned to cut \$1.8 million from inclusive schooling. ECE has since confirmed to leaving \$1.3 million alone and dedicated the rest to a specialized training group for PST teachers. Since this isn't reflected in the mains, where is the department going to find this money, whether it is internally, through a supplemental or presented to this House or both? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$1.3 million, as we stated during Committee of the Whole, will be moved back into the inclusive schooling funding that will be provided to the education authorities throughout the Northwest Territories and distributed for the 2017-18 academic year. The remaining \$500,000 is going to be used by the department for training of all NWT program support teachers, school principals, as well as classroom assistants in the 2017-18. Currently,

right now, some of that training is happening here, in Yellowknife, this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess my question, though, and I understand that: where is this money? Is it still in the budget? Was it something from here? Okay, thank you.

The Minister has also referenced ECE commitment to seeing a program support teachers in each community NWT school. I understand from our discussions in Committee of the Whole that they will be funded through the health, wellness, and students line item. What dollar amount has been identified to get these positions filled and bring a PST to each NWT school?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: For the 2017-18 academic school year, \$9.6 million has been identified for approximately 72 program support teachers. The overall budget for inclusive schooling is over \$25 million. In the health, wellness, and student support, the line item budget for that is over \$3 million.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. That is pretty exciting news, to see that that money is there. Can the Minister tell us how many schools already have at least one PST teacher in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, all education bodies decide how to distribute their inclusive schooling funding throughout their schools to ensure that all schools have needed access to PSTs. We can get the number for the Member. Under our renewed inclusive schooling directive, we have made it mandatory for education bodies to look at prescribing a number of program support teachers based on the enrolment of students in each of their schools in the regions, so that sends a new directive from 2016. We can get those numbers for the Member, how many schools have PSTs right now.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. I look forward to that information. I guess, when he is providing that information, will the Minister commit to providing us how many new PST teachers will be needed for each school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we provide the funding, inclusive schooling funding, to the education authorities, and

they work out, based on enrolment, how many program support teachers that they need based on the enrolment and students that they have in each of their schools. We can get that information, working with our education authorities.

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

QUESTION 660-18(2):
NORTHERN CARBON PRICING REGIME

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier, who signed the National Climate Change Framework on our behalf. It has been reported that federal funding would be made available to help meet the costs of governmental measures to reduce greenhouse gas production, such as the replacement of diesel generation. Can the Premier give us an overview of the funding transfers we can expect to receive and any details available at this time on the use of those funds? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials have been having discussions with federal officials. We have no details as to those specifics. I expect we will have more information when the federal budget comes out later this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Premier for that response. Recent media reports indicate that the Nunavut government may be seeking an exemption under its carbon pricing for certain types of fuel, specifically heating fuel, jet fuel, and fuel for generating power. Obviously, action on climate change must be across the board and achieve the new carbon-free economy, which is the only solution to runaway climate change. Can the Premier assure us that we are negotiating a full-spectrum carbon-pricing system to motivate replacement of all categories of fuels?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We are holding roundtables throughout the Northwest Territories. We have had very excellent feedback, and we are looking at all options. Certainly, we will do what is best for the people of the Northwest Territories.

MS. GREEN: I didn't hear an answer there, but maybe I will capture it in the next question. As I pointed out, the Mining Association of Canada has announced its endorsement of carbon pricing as the most effective and efficient means of driving emissions reductions. The mining industry in the NWT is both a major producer of greenhouse gases and, of course, a major contributor of revenue. Has our government reached out to the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines to enlist their

partnership in transition to a carbon price? If not, will the Premier commit to doing so?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As people in the southern parts of Canada are wont to do, the Mining Association of Canada without any consultation went ahead and put forward their position on climate change. We understand that that's not necessarily shared by the local Chamber of Mines. We are setting up meetings with them so that we will have very specific industry input and if we do our consultations.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. That's a very curious twist. My last question, Mr. Speaker, is that we recognize that carbon pricing is just one element of an array of measures that must be put in place. Can the Premier report on the current status of the climate change strategic framework and when we may expect to see this document, including a cost of implementation plan with timelines? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are continuing with our consultations and we expect that will be completed by the end of March. We have committed to working with the Standing Committee on the Economy and the Environment, so I expect that it will be the fall. The federal has indicated that carbon tax or carbon pricing will be imposed in 2018. Our expectation is that we'll have our strategies completed well before that.

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

QUESTION 661-18(2):
NORTHERN CARBON PRICING REGIME

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to apologize in advance if some of these questions are a duplication. I just sadly lost track a little bit of what my colleagues' questions were being asked. I was focusing on something else, but my questions, however, are for the Minister of Finance. They might be similar in nature. I just wonder: can the Minister of Finance provide us with some degree of update on what is going on between our territorial government and the federal government on -- I won't call it a negotiation, but discussions on a carbon tax and what regime might be being considered since the federal government's announcement that we will be seeing a carbon tax sometime in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. We have been having discussions with the federal government. We have agreed to work together to better understand the impact of their proposed

carbon pricing in the Northwest Territories and, in our meetings we had down there, they understand the unique situation of the North and how it is going to have a wider affect up here than, I think, they expected. So we're continuing to have those discussions and I will update committee as those progressions progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. I wonder if the Minister can share with us at this time, you know, we have shared our concerns with the federal government as it relates to what a carbon tax may or may not do as it relates to our cost of living. Can the Minister maybe provide us any insight as to what that discussion has been like with the federal government, and is there any consideration being given to the impacts that it's going to have on the cost of living here in the North?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We have been having those discussions as an item. As I mentioned earlier, the federal government, we made them well aware of the actual effects of their carbon pricing and the effects it's going to have on the Northwest Territories, so we will continue to have those discussions. We will continue to make our case. I have had assurance from the Minister of Environment Canada that they will recognize the unique situation of the North. Whatever that entails remains to be seen and I guess that's part of the wider discussion that we plan on going with them.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate the Minister's reply. I expect that, to some degree, we're going to have the ability to do some kind of tweaking to whatever this form of carbon tax is going to be. We know that other jurisdictions such as Alberta have done some tweaks with regard to their carbon tax. There are some exemptions, Mr. Speaker. The oil and gas industry has certain kinds of exemptions. The agricultural industry has some certain kinds of exemptions. On our front here, are there any exemptions that we'll be considering if a carbon tax is to come into play?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We're very early in the process, and our exemptions could be one approach. We'll also be looking at rebates or tax credits as approaches to mitigate the impact of cost of living, but we are early in the process. I do realize we had a briefing committee, but I would like to, once we do a bit more of the work. I would like to come forward and have an opportunity to meet with committee, give them some of our early findings, and get some feedback from committee as we continue to move forward. At our earliest opportunity, we will make the offer to committee to have a sit-down with them and have a discussion as we move forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's well appreciated. We look forward to any information or presentation or briefing that the Minister can provide. That would be fantastic. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering what the intention would be with such a tax in terms of: are we going to neutralize this tax? Is this a tax that's going into general coffers and then just spent as and where the territorial government feels it's required, or is this something that's going to go directly back to investing in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and investing in developing and initiating alternative energy sources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't determined that yet, but one other thing I could share with Members or share with this House is, in our discussions with Canada, they recognize our high cost of providing services up here and they have a green energy fund, I believe it is, and there are some opportunities for us to apply for money through that fund to help mitigate our emissions. Again, to our advantage is that they know about the high cost of living up here, the 22 or 23 communities on these. We've made that case. I believe that we're working with Canada to try and access some of that green funding. Again, my offer before stands that, once we do a bit more work on this file and after we pass our budget, then we will have a sit-down with committee and have a discussion moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 662-18(2):
PROPOSED CARBON PRICING CHARETTE

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, work is under way to host a charette in Yellowknife in June hosted by Gwich'in Tribal Council with support in the Centre of Indigenous Aboriginal Resources. I'm going to ask the Minister responsible for Climate Change and Energy questions on that. Will the GNWT join those partners to help make the charette happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to receiving a proposal from the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: The focus of the charette will be discussions and impacts and opportunities presented by the impending carbon tax and come up with a northern solution. Will the GNWT begin

discussions with the group that is working on coming up with a charette?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories is in the process of engaging with energy stakeholders as part of the development of the climate change framework and energy strategy. To date, we have held meetings in Nunavut, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Fort Simpson. Next week, we will hold a session in Hay River. We have an upcoming workshop session in Behchoko. We have received submissions from Alternatives North and other energy consulting businesses and are considering those perspectives. We welcome the opportunity to hear from all interested parties and will work to integrate those comments and suggestions into our draft energy strategy and climate change framework, which we expect to table in draft form later this year.

MR. BEAULIEU: In my Member's statement I spoke about the federal government putting \$50 million aside for remote Indigenous communities to transition off diesel fuel. Has this government had any discussions with the federal government as to that \$50 million fund?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We've had discussions with the federal government. The federal government has contributed \$250,000 for us to hold consultations with regards to developing an energy strategy and a climate change strategy for the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know in the House, small communities have lower incomes and there would be some impact from the carbon tax so this money that the federal government has put in place is very specific to transitioning Indigenous off diesel fuel. I was wondering if the Minister could advise us if there have been any discussions specific to that initiative. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, our officials have had discussions with federal officials and the indications are that funding that will be used for climate change and to introduce carbon pricing will be in the federal budget that will be coming out sooner. Specifically to the \$50 million fund, I'd be pleased to get more information for the Member on that.

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

QUESTION 663-18(2):
INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY GREEN HOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. We have made a commitment to reduce a certain percentage of our greenhouse gas emissions in line with international agreements and with our own commitments. We also have an obligation to support our mining industry and to develop new mines. So how is the Northwest Territories going to do both, essentially, when one new mine can increase our greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 25 per cent? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Public Works and Services.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware, we are in early discussions on how we're going to move the climate change framework forward. As the Premier just stated, we are out in community engagement. We have also met with power suppliers in the Northwest Territories and we are reaching out to the mining industry on how we are going to implement this moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: That work is important work. There are some mines in southern jurisdictions that have converted to 100 per cent electrified processes, which has greatly reduced their greenhouse gas emissions, something that is unlikely to happen in the Northwest Territories.

Is there a plan along with these transportation corridors to expand power supplies for communities and mines? Is that a tangible plan, or are we just talking about it with people in the North?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Moving forward with our transportation corridors is going to open up a lot of different things in the Northwest Territories, along with lowering the cost of living for a number of communities, for the residents of the Northwest Territories. As for the specific Slave Geological Province, which would open up the road to a significant area of development for the residents of the Northwest Territories and Canada, you can't put the cart before the horse. We are promoting the corridor and moving forward, looking at if we can do it sustainably without a whole bunch of impacts on the residents of the Northwest Territories and the environment. If we can get the road to the Slave Geological Province built, I'm sure we're going to be looking at how we can access power moving forward to that corridor.

MR. TESTART: I would say priorities of building that road, which I support, go hand in hand with the priorities of building a transmission line, and it's debatable which one would come first. It does appear that one is much farther off. Has the department ever considered providing financial incentives for companies or think tanks to provide alternative energy to the mines, specifically, creating a prize for those projects?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As we move forward with our energy strategy, this is something that maybe the Member wants to bring forward in our community consultation. As the Members of this House all know, the mines are all under a lot of pressure on how to do business in a profitable manner and they continue to look for innovative ways of how to produce power in a cost-effective manner that makes them a profitable business in the Northwest Territories. If the Member would like to bring that initiative forward in one of our community consultations on energy strategy moving forward, I'd be pleased to have that as input.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to be a member of this community, but I'm also proud to be a Member of this House and I'm going to bring forward that idea now. So can the Minister commit to developing an incentive for companies to provide alternative energy solutions to industrial activities in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take it under advisement.

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

QUESTION 664-18(2):
PROTECTION OF THE BATHURST CARIBOU
HERD

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. It seems to be environment and climate change day in the House, and I love it.

---Laughter

My question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The recently released Bathurst Range Plan discussion paper recommends winter-only access in calving and post-calving and summer ranges of the Bathurst caribou herd. Does the Minister accept this recommended next step and that there are trade-offs to be made between caribou protection and mineral development? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we recognize what they're trying to say and there is a correlation between that and some potential development down the road, and we will continue to work on how we can mitigate and find a balance between the two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for his response. We know that the proposed Grays Bay port and road project, which is on the Nunavut side of the boundary, includes an all-weather road that passes through the calving and post-calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou herd. Is it still the position of our government to oppose development in the calving grounds of caribou herds and will he commit to communicate that position to the Government of Nunavut?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, our commitment is to work with the Government of Nunavut on the questions of shared caribou concern. I have already had a preliminary discussion with my counterpart in Nunavut and we will continue to relay our concerns to the Government of Nunavut and work with them in trying to find a balanced approach.

MR. O'REILLY: I thank the Minister for that response and look forward to seeing some of the correspondence that he might have with the Government of Nunavut. Can the Minister explain why our government continues to pursue funding for an all-weather road into the Slave Geological Province before the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan is completed and implemented? It's sort of like putting the cart before the horse.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I take the Member's point. As far as the road, I mean, it's still, very, very early in the discussion stage. We may not see a road for a number of years. If we see a road at all, again, that's contingent on the federal government and the funding that they might have and then as well as funding from the Northwest Territories government once we get through our budget process and we have the resources to commit to these types of projects.

So I can assure the Member that we will continue to do our part to ensure that there is a balance, but we do like to see economic development but not at all costs, and I can assure the Member we will continue to have that position.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to get that commitment from the Minister. Sorry, I

mixed up my analogies a little bit earlier. I should have talked about trucks before the caribou. Clearly, the routing for the Slave Geological Province road was chosen by our government without any regard for caribou, as stated by the Minister of Transportation at least a couple of times in the House. How will Cabinet decide whether such a road can be safely built without causing irreparable harm to the Bathurst caribou herd, or has that decision already been made? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that no decision has been made on the route yet. I think it was just a preliminary discussion. I can assure the Member that it is not development at all costs. We will have a position, and we will continue to put our position forward, ENR, to the appropriate decision-makers. Cabinet actually does not decide on the route. We would work with the decision-makers and make our concerns known on the calving grounds as well as any other effects it might have on the environment.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 665-18(2):
NOTIFICATION OF NORTHERN CARBON
PRICING

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Guess what, my question is on climate change and directed to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. What preparatory notice has the Power Corporation staff done to notify the customers that are on the potential carbon tax on the 26-community off-grid system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think any notice, formal notice, has been given. Thank you.

MR. MCNEELY: Well, that means, if there are no notices given, will there be notices given on the dialogue that has been taken by this government in regional consultations, so the information is going out there rather than hearing it third-party?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, as Members of the House will know, we are working on an energy strategy, and there has been consultation with communities and Members opposite. Those consultations will continue as policy is developed.

MR. MCNEELY: Once policies are being worked on and they are currently working on the strategy, as well, my next question is: will there be some form of

notice given out to the customers in those respective communities in the off-grid system?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As mentioned, of course we are developing the energy strategy. I am not sure what type of notice the Member opposite is thinking about. I hope the first notice they have of any change of strategy or plan will not be a higher bill. We are working on an energy strategy. Of course, the Power Corporation is involved in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is: when is this notice going to be sent out on the impacts on the diesel-burning generators creating electricity in the off-grid communities, and is this notice going to take into the account the potential effectiveness for this tax to take place in 2018? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Public Works and Services and ENR are working closely to analyze the results from regional workshops in developing statements, targets, and actions to address energy and climate change concerns, so talking about a notice is well down the road in the sense that we have given a notice because it is well-known that we are going out for consultation on our energy strategy moving forward.

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

QUESTION 666-18(2):
PROPOSED CARBON PRICING CHARETTE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two questions, in follow-up to my Member's statement, for the Honourable Premier. I would like to ask the Premier: will the Premier be working with organizers to participate and to make a funding contribution to the proposed charette? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be helpful if the Member would provide who these organizers are and how much money they are looking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: In my statement, as I stated earlier, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, along with a number of other Aboriginal governments and community governments in the City of Yellowknife and surrounding, from what I understand, they are looking for in the neighbourhood of \$135,000. I am sure the Premier will see another proposal here shortly. From what I understand, there was one

submitted earlier, but I am sure another could be resubmitted.

Also, my next question is: to make sure we are not reinventing the wheel, the charette's participants will need to know clearly where this government stands on its energy and climate change planning. How will the Premier in his role as the chair of the Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Energy and Climate Change make sure the charette's organizers have transparent and up-to-date information on the GNWT policies and planning actions, for instance, providing a summary document and sending staff representation?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I am very much looking forward to the proposal. I am not exactly clear whether this is a private sector initiative or it is something for government. At any rate, we have a team of people from the Departments of ENR and Public Works working on public engagement and the development of strategies that align with our long-term objectives. These teams include senior officials of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has a responsibility to lead the development of an energy strategy and a climate change framework, and that is what we intend to do. We are, of course, open to participating in stakeholder-driven engagement sessions. We may consider providing a summary document, depending on where we are at in the process of developing an energy strategy and a climate strategy because, from what I understand, what is being proposed is in June and, if we are only halfway through the process and there is nothing finalized, we don't want to mislead anybody. In principle, we are very open to working with all stakeholders.

MR. BLAKE: It sounds promising. I would like to ask the Premier: what project priorities can we expect to see the Ministerial Coordinating Committee take action on in the coming year?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The priorities that we pursue have not been determined, but they will be informed by our energy strategy and our climate change framework that we are developing. Certainly, we are pursuing funding from federal sources for various projects, including Taltson hydro initiatives, Inuvik wind projects, and projects to reduce the use of diesel fuel in Northwest Territories communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 307-18(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE
REPORT 4-18(2): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF
THE 2014-15 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 308-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
505-18(2): PEOPLESOFT PUBLIC SERVICE
HUMAN RESOURCE REPORTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 309-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
606-18(2): STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled "Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 4-18(2): Report on the Review of the 2014-15 Public Accounts," "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 505-18(2): PeopleSoft Public Service Human Resource Reports," and "Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 606-18(2): Status of Transboundary Water Management Agreements." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Nunakput.

TABLED DOCUMENT 310-18(2):
WE CAN DO BETTER: HOUSING IN INUIT
NUNAGUT REPORT OF THE STANDING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL
PEOPLES, SENATE OF CANADA, MARCH 2017

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples entitled "We Can Do Better: Housing in Inuit Nunagut." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act; Bill 13, Marriage Act; Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act; Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-18; with the Member for Hay River North in the chair. By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 18-18(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018 with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will consider the document after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will call the Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we agreed to consider Tabled Document 261-18(2), Main Estimates 2017-2018, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I will turn to the Minister responsible for any opening comments. Minister McLeod, do you have opening comments?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2017-2018 Main Estimates for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of \$1.2 million over the 2016-2017 Main Estimates, which is a 1.3 per cent increase.

These estimates continue to support the GNWT's objective of ensuring a strong and sustainable future for the government and its programs while managing expenditures.

The 2017-2018 Main Estimates include an amortization increase of \$2.3 million from the 2017-18 business plan reviewed by standing committee in September. At the time business plans are reviewed, the 2017-18 amortization plan had not been calculated. The majority of ENR's increase is a result of the Air Tractor 802A FireBoss Amphibious Water Bomber Fleet coming into service in April.

The 2017-2018 Main Estimates reflect the department's commitment to fiscally responsible management of its programs. These estimates include:

- \$2 million to continue implementation of the water stewardship strategy towards the

implementation of trans-boundary water agreements with British Columbia and Alberta, the negotiation of similar agreements with Yukon and Saskatchewan, and the expansion of the hydrometric network.

- \$1.6 million in operational reductions.

The department's proposed spending in 2017-18 continues to support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Specific activities in support of these priorities include the following, which are in the base budget:

- \$5.6 million for wildlife research and management which includes activities related to the barren-ground caribou and management strategies for wood bison, muskox, and moose;
- \$5.7 million for ENR regional field operations, which includes the development and implementation of a culturally appropriate hunter education program;
- \$6.3 million to ensure to meet our obligations to support environmental monitoring, research related to cumulative impacts on our ecosystems in settled and unsettled land claims area, and support for Aboriginal communities to participate in the land and resource management processes;
- \$2.3 million to support the traditional economy and knowledge program that will enhance existing programs and build new partnerships to support healthy and sustainable traditional lifestyles;
- \$1 million to support conservation planning which includes our commitment to completing Thaidene Nene;
- \$1 million for climate change initiatives, including finalization of the Northwest Territories Climate Change Framework, which will identify key themes and gaps in mitigation, adaptation, monitoring, research, and public engagement; and
- \$2 million for the operation of the environmental laboratory.

Environment and Natural Resources will continue to work towards updating and modernizing four acts, the Environmental Protection Act, Environmental Rights Act, Forest Management and Protection Act, Waters Act, and developing new protected areas legislation.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the Chamber?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses to committee.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, with me today to my immediate right I have Dr. Erin Kelly, the assistant deputy minister of Environment and Natural Resources. To my left I have Susan Craig, who is the director of Corporate Services. To my far right, first day on the job, started at 5 a.m. this morning, is Dr. Joe Dragon, who will be our new deputy minister of Environment and Natural Resources, so we'll be having him answer all the questions today.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to all the witnesses. We will begin with general comments from committee. Just so everyone knows, this department starts on page 55 of the main estimates. Do we have general comments? First, I see Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister and the department may know, I've done a number of statements over the while on the need for funding for a couple of my communities that I represent, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic, with the firebreaks. It's very crucial that we keep these clear of debris and new vegetation that keeps growing. We are fairly lucky that we haven't had a major fire in these areas in the last while here, but it's just a matter of time. It's very important to be prepared, as we learned here in the south. We have been fortunate, no communities have had challenges anyway in the past. As we plan ahead, it's very important that we work with these communities to ensure that we update the firebreaks and ensure that we have funding available.

As I mentioned, Fort McPherson was so close to being approved, but a major fire near Yellowknife took a lot of those resources away that were available at the time. So, hopefully, within the next few months here we could plan to ensure that those communities receive the small amount of funding that's required. I know there is new funding available under other departments, but it is the responsibility of Environment and Natural Resources as well and good to work together. Thank you.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to my previous colleague's comments; I'll just add a little more to that. Certainly, the committee respects that ENR has a number of major commitments during the life of the 18th Assembly's mandate. It has an ambitious legislative agenda as the government goes forward and implements new responsibilities for land and water management after devolution. Of course, with important initiatives like the Land Use Sustainability Framework and the Water Stewardship Strategy, the department, of course, has led the way in demonstrating collaborative and cooperative policy development process with Aboriginal governments and key stakeholders, and that is well appreciated.

The department is currently also in the midst, as we heard earlier today in a presentation, of preparing a Climate Change Strategic Framework that will help the territory meet its emission targets and, of course, ultimately help Canada meet its commitments with the Paris Agreement. These are no small matters and, of course, require time, expertise, and commiserate resources as we move forward.

We all are aware after many of the Members' statements today in the House that climate change is placing significant pressures on our land, our plants, animals, people, and, of course, as well the infrastructure of varying kinds throughout the North. The technical expertise, monitoring, and research within ENR is an asset to this government and will be an asset going forward with the decision-making that we have to make.

We need to continue to support these efforts, not just in principle but in allocating appropriate resources required to implement effective programs, and, of course, this is going to have dire effects going forward on our budget that's already arguably stressed.

Those are some general comments, Mr. Chair, but I think it is incumbent upon me to also indicate some of the aspects that the committee has shared with the Minister in the past with regard to areas within the department that we have either proposed or shown to the Minister that we are in opposition of a particular reduction or would like to see a certain investment instead. So as we move through today, we're going to hear folks as we get to key activity 2 under corporation management, the committee has shared in the past that we're opposed to the reduction to implement a corporate services model. We have shared our opinion on being opposed to eliminating the communications position. ENR is advancing a suite of environmental legislation that needs policy and communications and we see that that position will be critical in moving forward with that legislation.

Key activity 3, which is the environment; we've expressed opposition to eliminating the environmental protection officer position. This is a position in a small community and instead of removing it completely we would like to look at ways to modify the job description to better fit the immediate needs of the region.

Then, Mr. Chair, in key activity 5 under water resources, the committee has been in opposition to the source water protection. We understand the argument that the program originally funded by this line item has run its course, but water monitoring, baseline information gathering, implementing transboundary agreements are all the things that remain very important, and with climate change putting pressure on our resources we think it's crucial to continue to fund water protection and monitoring initiatives.

Those are just some of the general comments, Mr. Chair, that I wanted to share and just a repeat for the Minister and his staff, in particular new staff, as to some of the positions that we've been maintaining. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Next, I have Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to elaborate a little further from my colleague from Yellowknife North and my colleague from Mackenzie Delta. My first concern I would have to say is the reduction of the environmental protection officer in the Deh Cho. This has an impact with our mandate in the development of our work within our smaller communities. This position, from what I understand in talking from the community's standpoint, is important for them to continue to grow, and this is one of the areas that I will have to steadfast ask questions about why it's being reduced.

The second comment is I would have to agree with my colleague from Mackenzie Delta about firebreaks and the importance of them. There seems to be some confusion about who is responsible; is it MACA or is it ENR? This needs to be brought forth, who should the community be working with on that. So I'll be asking some questions in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too look forward to going through this department. Like my previous colleagues have mentioned, we have post-devolution activities to modernize the current acts related to that chapter of taking on responsibilities, and I see we have several funding initiatives for several important areas related to my

large area, for example, some new equipment there to cover fire suppression and funds for conservation initiatives such as the Thaidene Nene, and in the Good Hope area we have the initiatives under way for the Rampart Wetlands, so that is similar Thaidene Nene, and we also have wildlife management in there. Caribou is a large preservation initiative in my area, so I pretty much feel comfortable that quite a number of these areas are covered with, I think, sufficient resources. There are never enough, but considering the reduction initiatives we are going through, we have to try to manage the best with what we have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to touch on the topics I would like to cover during the review of the Environment and Natural Resources budget. I am interested in seeing what type of forest development with working with some forest industry people can be realized by the department and by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

I am interested in where things go with the conservation economy. There is a lot of talk about developing some sort of conservation economy in order to develop or look at possible legislation that may exist in protecting wetlands. I think that is something that is interesting, something that we, as this department, should be pursuing.

I have mentioned, and I think some other colleagues of mine have mentioned, a national Indigenous guardianship program, which is a very good program, again, for development of a conservation economy. That is something that I would like to discuss with this department.

I think that one of the important items in this department is that I just think there isn't enough money or there isn't enough attention paid to the environmental cleanups. I know that in the riding that I represent we have many, many waste sites, contaminated sites, and I think that is something that this department works on, but I would like to see more emphasis put on that.

I like the traditional economy, support for the traditional economy. I think that is excellent.

The whole issue of wildland fires and how we fight those fires, I had asked questions a few times on whether or not we are going to use our own resources. We have enough of our own resources, I think, to fight the fires within the N.W.T. It is good for our own economy, and I think that is something that is important, and that, before the department deals with the agreement that they have with other

jurisdictions, whether it be other jurisdiction across Canada or even the United States, I think we should utilize our resources as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I will try to keep my comments on some of the higher levels and some of the issues that maybe some of my colleagues have not covered so far.

Earlier today in the House, there was a lot of discussion around climate change and carbon pricing. This department plays a really crucial role in moving forward on those issues, and I believe they actually have the expertise in-house to do some work on this. I want to make sure that that stays within the department, but I just don't sense that there is any urgency on these issues with our government. I expect that ENR is going to play a critical role in these areas, particularly with regard to greenhouse gas emissions reductions and that there is some expertise there on carbon pricing, as well.

We have made some good progress on transboundary agreements, but, of late, this seems to have slipped. Earlier, I think it was last week, in the House I talked about this and asked questions of the Minister. We want to make sure that we actually continue with the implementation of those agreements and that the remaining agreements are negotiated in a timely fashion. Those are very important arrangements for people who live downstream, and that was the whole premise of the integrated resource management system that was negotiated as part of the Dene-Metis land rights agreements.

One of my colleagues spoke about the cuts to source water protection. We have one department, MACA, that does a lot of work on trying to get communities up to speed and ready to make sure that their residents have safe water. We have another department that is actually cutting funding to protect source water. This is just not consistent, not good.

The one reduction here that is of the biggest concern for me is the loss of four positions at headquarters in the corporate management part of the budget. These are positions that relate to policy, legislation, and communications. Some of them may be vacant, but perhaps they should have been filled because we are already behind schedule on the legislation that this department was supposed to be bringing forward. The Minister talked about these in his opening remarks. This department has a huge amount on its plate in terms of legislative change, policy initiatives (I mentioned climate

change) and ongoing programming, like the development of a Bathurst caribou range plan, fire management. Air regulations are now behind schedule. Without that capacity, I just don't see how the department is going to be able to deliver on the commitments that are part of our mandate, part of priorities, and part of the departmental business plan. With those four positions being lost in corporate management here, in Yellowknife, I just don't understand how the department is going to be able to stay on schedule.

I will also have some questions around the status of the Wildlife Act and Regulations -- this is sort of the second phase of those regulations -- the expansion of the water quality monitoring network that we partially funded last year, and a few other matters as we go through, but that is it for now. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to provide some general comments affecting this department, and I just wanted to highlight some points that I have just noted.

One of them, of course, is my interest in terms of the move from the protected areas initiative towards, kind of, morphing the initiative into another, called conservation area networks. My understanding is that there are some key advances that have been made at the community level in terms of identifying and designating conservation area networks. Communities remain interested in terms of how that will play a part in terms of setting aside some lands throughout the NWT, so I just wanted to make a comment on that.

As colleagues have raised, too, in terms of the legislative initiative, one thing that I was reminded of was the Forest Management Act in terms of it being necessary to be updated, particularly with respect to the non-timber forest products. As we move down the road of looking at forest timber products and alternative energy initiatives in terms of trying to look at more sustainable uses of energy that we have in the NWT, my understanding is that there are legislative initiatives that will be coming forth at some point, so we wait in anticipation for those initiatives.

There are some other points that I wanted to highlight, too. Where I live, close to the Deh Cho, we realize that there are fewer caribou for people to hunt. We have a free herd of bison that live in the Mackenzie Sanctuary. This puts the population, especially the moose -- we have a special interest in ensuring that the population remains sustainable. There have been pressures, of course, stress on the moose population, as well, so we remain

interested in ensuring that there are good management plans in place to ensure there is survivability.

The other note that I wanted to point out is just the land use sustainability framework, the ongoing initiative, and ensuring that it's based on traditional knowledge that is properly reflective of the Indigenous philosophy in terms of land management and conservation in the NWT. Some other points that I wanted to highlight, too. Again, my colleague raised the idea that the guardianship program which has been very successful across Canada. We need to look at ways of making it work here in the NWT. Those are just some general comments. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. I see nothing further from committee. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, I think climate change is a crucial issue, not just for us here in the Northwest Territories but for Canada and the world. In fact, perhaps more so for Northerners, we've been combatting or struggling with low water levels; increased forest fires; we've seen new species entering the Northwest Territories; rising sea levels and coastal erosion; and, of course, our economy is dependent on ice roads which are increasingly seeing degrees of fluctuation, unprecedented degrees of fluctuation.

Thankfully, this department and the government as a whole have placed a high degree of emphasis on gathering the scientific knowledge necessary to make a difference on combating the worst effects of climate change. I think they should be commended for that. The North is and should continue to be a leader on informing Canada's response to climate change and our government has a very important leadership role to play in that.

That being said, I share my colleague's, the honourable Member from Frame Lake's concerns about cutting capacity to address these problems accurately. In a post-devolution context, we now have the tools available to us to be masters of our own domain, to quote a historic phrase, and start to be more proactive in creating our own unique northern solutions.

I hope the department continues to work on these issues and continues to be a leader in climate change and certainly does not underestimate this very important priority for both our residents and people across the country and the world. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have much to say, but I know from the

presentation today, and then looking at the estimates, I'm a believer that scientific research and traditional and Indigenous local knowledge should work closely together in tandem to ensure that we get a good map of the condition of the people, the marine mammals, the land-bearing animals, and the fur-bearing animals as well, too, across the territory.

As well, I noticed that the mapping in one of my regions has become quite important to the way that we will start planning for the relocation of some communities. My region, Tuktoyaktuk, is a good example. I think that this year is a good start. I'm going to mention the drone one more time, and I think that's good, 3D mapping and using different types of cameras. That is a huge step forward for the government to take. I think it's important to utilize that in places that are sensitive to shoreline erosion as well as permafrost degradation. I just wanted to commend the department for bringing in new ways and also different focuses and approaches to research and how conservation is done in the territory. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. I see nothing further. I will give the Minister ten minutes to respond if he wishes. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I won't take up too much time here. We've heard the concerns of committee and they did mention that they were going to raise these concerns as we go page by page. We'll look forward to the exchanges we have on each individual page. I will hold my comments until then. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. As always, we will defer consideration of the departmental total until we go through each activity. The first activity we will consider is conservation, assessment, and monitoring, found on pages 62 to 65. This is the first of six activities. Conservation, assessment, and monitoring, pages 62 to 65. I will give committee a moment. When you're ready, raise your hand indicating that you have comments or questions. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at page 63, and there's a reduction in conservation planning from 2016-17 to 2017-18. It's around \$105,000. Can the Minister explain the reduction here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What appears to be a reduction is that in 2015-16, we did the engagement for Thaidene Nene, which was

included in the costs that you see there in the actuals and there's been a reduction in the position. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I can see the reduction as we go down to page 65. There are actually two people being cut, or two positions, I should say, being cut from this function within ENR. Can someone explain what these two positions are and why it's necessary to cut them? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The conservation areas advisor, there are several in the department, and we feel we can do the work. Others can take on the duties that this position was doing and it was vacant at the time. The second position is an environmental assessment analyst, and the same is true. There are other environmental assessment analysts in the department. With devolution, Lands has become the lead for coordinating environmental assessment, so we feel we can make do without these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think it's probably fair for me to say that the Protected Areas Strategy, or what was known as the Protected Areas Strategy, has languished somewhat over the last couple of years. I understood that there was a renewed push to try to complete this network of protected areas. It's in the mandate for the 18th Assembly and I know that the Minister -- it might have been the previous Minister -- made announcements about renewed effort to try to get this moving again and so on. I know the position was vacant, but how can we, you know, say on one hand we're interested in trying to reinvigorate this effort while we're cutting a position? It just doesn't make any sense. So I probably need to hear from the Minister on this one rather than the staff people. I would appreciate a response. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's desire to hear from the Minister directly himself. We have a five-year action plan that we're working on right now. As we go forward and we find that some of the work that we have to do in future years or within the next budget cycle, I mean, there's an opportunity to expand on that work, then I suppose we would

have to go back and look at bringing the necessary expertise on board. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just would like to ask a few more questions about the staffing levels within ENR then when it comes to this conservation network initiative. How many other people are working on this initiative within the department? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We believe there might be five others, but we would have to confirm that and share that with the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think this is another example where the fiscal strategy is driving the bus here again, and we are developing an action plan, yet we're cutting staff while we are doing that, or at least maybe the position is vacant, but we are cutting positions while we are developing the policy and the framework to do it. We have seen this whether it is Aurora College or whatever. It is just a repeating pattern within the government where we are cutting positions for a fiscal strategy before we have the policy work, the action plan to actually get the work done.

Can the Minister convince me that this is not one of these examples and that we are still going to be able to have a five-year action plan and deliver on this by the end of the mandate by cutting this position now? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't think the reductions are driving this budget. The department feels that they have produced a five-year action plan entitled "Healthy Land, Healthy People, Government of the Northwest Territories Priorities for Advancement of Conservation Network Planning." Our position is that we feel we have the necessary capacity within our existing department or existing people to complete the work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but I will continue to disagree that we have the capacity to deliver, but time will tell, and I will look forward to the progress

on this initiative, and I will continue to monitor it as it moves forward. Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's all I've got.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is on page 63, conservation planning. As I mentioned in my opening comments here, and the Minister has answered earlier or Dr. Kelly has answered earlier on the cuts taken to continue on with conservation planning, and I just want to mention, is there sufficient resources there after Thaidene Nene is done to move on to the next task at hand, and if it may be the Rampart Wetlands, I just want to hear that you have enough confidence or enough resources here to proceed to that conclusion request for preservation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I can assure the Member that ENR does have the necessary resources, and the Ramparts are priority. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Seeing nothing further from the committee, I will call this activity. Environment and National Resources, conservation assessment and monitoring operations, expenditure summary, total activity \$7,606,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will move on to the next activity. Activity two of six, corporate management, found on pages 66 to 69. Comments or questions from committee? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the area that was of greatest concern for me, as I mentioned in my opening remarks. On page 69, you can see that the positions that are being eliminated in corporate management. There are four of them here in headquarters. Can someone from the department tell me what the titles of these four positions are? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the time that we came forward with the business plan and the main estimates, we had identified four positions. Since that time, we have had some natural attrition. The only position that has actually been eliminated is the director position. We had the

incumbent retire, and with the amalgamation, we only need one director.

The other positions that were identified were of a policy or communications nature, but due to attrition, we have not had to affect any employees or eliminate any positions. We are taking this time because we have met the fiscal responsibility of reducing the budget. We are taking this time to do an assessment of the upcoming workload and the capacity of the staff that we do have within not only corporate services but also within the department to respond to the upcoming priorities and initiatives. When we are settled and we have finished our functional review, we will come back to Cabinet with an information item to address the FTE changes to reflect how we actually land; but at this point in time, Mr. Chair, we have actually only reduced one FTE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Great to hear that we are going to have a functional review, but are the figures in the main estimates correct then in terms of the active position reductions and the reductions in, it looks like it is the corporate services function within this section? Are those the actual figures or have they been changed in some way? Thanks Mr. Chair.

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

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The numbers on page 69 where it shows headquarters going from 30 positions to 26 positions, that's where we will come back when we are settled with an information update to address the FTEs. While we have met the fiscal, the monetary changes, we have not affected those other three positions that we originally targeted.

For right now, our FTE count is less than the number of FTEs that we have, but we will make that correction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. If I wasn't confused before, I certainly am now. What is the right number then for active positions for headquarters on page 69 for 2017-18? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now, the correct number is 26, from 30 to 26; and as Ms. Craig said, once we do the work and

functional review, then we may come back again, but for the purpose of this exercise, the number is 26. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess what I'm hearing then is that positions are being cut in the budget. The funding is being cut in the budget, and they're going to do some sort of a functional review. They may come back. The Minister might come back at some point during the 2017-18 fiscal year for supplementary appropriation for additional positions. Is that what I'm hearing? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, while we wouldn't necessarily have to come back with a supplementary, we would just come back with an information item as to which positions may have changed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Of course, I've never seen one of these information items, what it might look like. Is the Minister saying then that they might find the resources internally then to fill another position or two? Or how would the new money be found if the department does this functional review and they want to have more capacity? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we would look internally. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess, once again we have a situation here where positions are being eliminated before there is actually a plan in place, the functional review, so to speak. It follows this pattern of the fiscal strategy driving cuts in the budget again rather than looking at the workload that the department has to deliver on.

I have talked about the workload. There are five pieces of legislation the Minister has said he is bringing forward. We have air quality regulations, that are now behind schedule; the Bathurst caribou range plan; climate change work; fire management; a number of other initiatives that the department has going on. The workload assessment, the

functional review has not been carried out, yet we are eliminating the positions. It just does not make any sense. I don't know if I am going to get any further response from the Minister, but I am open to hearing it if he has any further justification for cutting these positions? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Anything further? Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, gladly, Mr. Chair, thank you. We had a plan. Because of attrition we have eliminated four positions, and that gives us an opportunity to work on a new plan, recognizing some of the workload that ENR is going to be facing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but I just do not think that these are wise reductions at a time when the department has a lot to deliver on in terms of its mandate, the mandate commitments that have been made, the announcements that the Minister has made. I just think that legislation and policy work, programs and services are going to continue to be delayed and not to the standard that our public deserves, so I continue to disagree with these cuts. I don't think I have anything further to say other than these are very serious concerns for me. I think they are shared by most or all of the Regular MLAs, and we just do not see how the department is going to be able to deliver on its mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking on page 68 and finding this financial allowance quite consistent outside of corporate services, quite consistent, and I am glad to see that there is consistency there to support communities like Colville Lake who are very active in trapping. Everybody knows one of the best sable comes out of Colville. The youth there are working very cooperatively and very positively with the resource council and the band to get subsidies by them as well as this government and this department to continue that trade. I just point that out. I recognize the consistency, and I respect that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Would the Minister like to respond to Mr. McNeely's comment? Nothing from the Minister. Seeing nothing further on this activity, I will call it. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to ask the Minister just to clarify the four positions. The four positions, one is being retired,

correct, and the three positions are not filled, so those three positions, is that money gone, or is that money just staying within the department? I am just trying to get a clear picture on this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the money for the four positions is gone from the budget.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. The issue has been clarified. Mr. Vanthuyne.

COMMITTEE MOTION 70-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEFERRAL OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity corporate management under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Main Estimates, 2017-18 on page 67 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. There is a motion to defer. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. We have deferred corporate management. On to the next, environment, found on pages 70 to 73. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. On page 70, the words "climate change" appear, so I am just wondering if the Minister or his staff can just talk a little bit about what sort of capacity they have within the department with regard to climate change? How many staff are working on it? What do they generally do, and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I respect the Member's concern. That detail of information, offhand, we just do not have. We can confirm the numbers as well as some of the functions that they provide. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell me when we might be able to expect to get that information? I am just very conscious of the amount of time we have left to sort out the departmental budgets and so on. When can I expect to get this information from the department? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will endeavour to get that information to the Member immediately.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I look forward to that bedtime reading. I don't know if anybody can answer this question or not, but I will try it. What kind of coordination, collaboration is there between ENR and Public Works and Services and, I guess, maybe Finance -- the same Minister -- with regard to carbon pricing? I think we heard maybe today at noon that there is some kind of a working group or something, but can anybody tell me who is on the working group, what they do and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will speak to the Minister of Finance because Finance is the lead on the carbon, and I will ask him to put some information together for the Member. I will also ask him to try to have that information ready before Finance comes up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Okay. I am happy to get that information. I'm just a little bit surprised that nobody at the table seems to know this sort of information because it's a big area of work within the department, but I'm happy to get it as quickly as they can put it together. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a pretty good idea or we do know, but, as I said before, it is a Finance lead and I think it's more appropriate that your questions be directed to Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on page 70 I'd like to just ask the Minister about the area of contaminated sites and remediation. On the contaminated sites and remediation there's \$319,000 in there. I see that this is for developing programs and policies to manage and remediate contaminated sites. So I guess my question is: is there a budget and how does the whole budgeting work between when you actually are remediating the site, when you hire a contractor to go in there and do remediation, where does that money come from? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You're correct that the money that's in here is for planning and developing guidance, and money that is for contaminated sites to actually do the work would be through the Environmental Liabilities Fund with the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recognize that it's another department. Instead of going through the process of asking the question again then, I was wondering if this department knows how much money is in the Environmental -- I forget the term, but the money that's in Finance to do the actual cleanup? Could somebody tell me how much money is there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I can't seem to find the exact amount, but I will get the exact amount for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Same topic. Could the Minister tell me if this money is mainly money used just to leverage other money from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: My apologies to the Member, but would he be able to repeat the question?

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I was just wondering if the money that's in this Environmental Liabilities Fund is money that's generally there to leverage other money or if that's the full pot to clean up the contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the GNWT? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the answer is no the money is not there to leverage other money, it's there for environmental liabilities. Thank you.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, is that cleaning up liabilities for only contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the GNWT? How does the contaminated sites retained by the federal government work in as far as remediation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct, that money is for the environmental sites that are administered by the GNWT, and for the ones that are administered by Canada or that Canada has the responsibility for remediating they will pay for that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you. I'd like to know if the Minister would be able to provide the amount of money that is in that fund and what we're responsible for. I'm trying to get an indication of whether or not we're ever going to clean up the sites. So if there's only a million dollars and there is \$150 million's worth of contaminated sites, I'll have a good indication that we are never going to catch up, but I'd like to get those numbers so that we could have a feel for them. I'm not expecting the numbers now, but if the Minister could commit to providing that, and, if possible, also the same information for the fund that the federal government is responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's it.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'll make that commitment to provide the

Member with the amount of money that's in there. As far as the federal government, I can't make that commitment. We really don't know what's in the federal government fund. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In my opening comments I talked about the elimination of the environmental protection officer in the Deh Cho. On page 73 they have four environmental positions in the regions. Can the Minister please advise: are these positions all the same? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these positions are not all the same but they do have similar functions, though. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. So can the Minister please advise us why the Deh Cho position was cut over the other regions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have another position in the community that can provide the same functions as the one that has been eliminated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. Could the Minister advise where we find this other position? Is it in another department or division within this department? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it's a water resource officer that's within the region that is able to provide the same services. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for his answer. I'm a little concerned, though, how the reduction of this position seems to

be able to be filled by another position within the department. Does the reduction of this position meet the mandate as set out by this government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have water resource officers that are regionally- based positions. They work closely and are cross-appointed with Lands officers as well. Since devolution, the water resource officers have also been cross-appointed and we are working towards cross-appointing them in all of the regions to be environmental protection officers, wildlife officers, forest management officers, and recreational fisheries officers. For compliance, there will be officers there who are able to do multiple tasks. There are other regions where there are not environmental protection officers any longer because some of the other positions have been able to take on those responsibilities within those regions. It's our understanding that that can happen in the Deh Cho as well and that is why the reduction has occurred in that region. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Dr. Kelly for her answer. Again, if I look at the numbers, if you go to page 81, there seems to be more positions in the water resource management area than there is into this environmental area. Some regions have three positions, and they already have one in there. Was this part of the functional review that the department did when they decided to remove this position? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: We have looked at ways across all regions to promote efficiency and effectiveness. That's one of the reasons that we've been doing the cross-appointments but also workload. In some regions, the environmental protection officer has not been required because others can do those duties. It's our understanding that that is the case in the Deh Cho region and that is why this position has been reduced. Thank you Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Dr. Kelly for her answer. I'm just struggling with this whole process that there seems to be redundancies they say in the Deh Cho but in some of the other regions, there's more positions in there. I'm looking

at one region where there are four positions combining these two or we'll have one. I'm struggling with how this works because you talked about water resources is that area. I'm looking at that page and this page here. There seems to be a large number in certain areas. That is a big concern for me.

It also really pushes my concern that it seems to be the smaller communities that are suffering these reductions here. I'm really, really concerned about that. It goes against what I feel is in the mandate and it also goes against the introduction that talks about the environment in our region. The environment is very important. It is very important for the DFN, and very important for the First Nations and for all municipal governments. By removing this position, it seems to be hindering this. Again, I don't understand the logic to it if the environment is this important and we're reducing it to only one position. It really doesn't say much for the Deh Cho. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I can understand and I take the Member's point of his concern for the elimination of this position. However, the department is content enough that the water resource person that's in the region has the ability to do the same function. In Fort Smith, the position was vacant and the person has been eliminated. The North Slave position was also eliminated. The department is very confident that we have the capacity within our existing people in the regions to perform the same function. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I have nothing further. I have kind of spoken my piece and the Minister unfortunately has a difference of opinion than I do. Very empowering or not, they get to make the final decision. Like I said, I respect his opinion and I understand where he's coming from, but he also has to understand where I'm coming from. I cannot accept this. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to touch briefly on the science agenda and climate change efforts of the department. In my opening comments, I spoke about the excellent work that ENR has done, developing expertise and gathering knowledge on climate change. I wonder if the Minister can explain the relationship of any we have with the Natural Sciences and Engineer Council of

Canada in regards to expanding our knowledge on climate change and being of assistance to developing this body of knowledge across Canada. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'll defer to Dr. Kelly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department has ongoing research relationships with faculty at several universities across Canada. Many of those studies are related to climate change specifically or indirectly through work we do on wildlife or forest management or water resources. Our relationship with NSERC, with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, is generally through partnerships with academic institutions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for that answer from the witnesses. Is it an opinion of the Minister that we have a capacity to host our own industrial research chair here in the Northwest Territories to be of the lead on climate change research for Canada's North? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as far as the capacity goes, we can look into that but I take the Member's point though about the – I mean we have a lot that we can share with the rest of the country. We should be leading that as far as climate change and that goes. I mean I will commit to the Members that we will do what we can to ensure that we take a leadership role in this and build our capacity where we're able to do host these type of events. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that commitment. It's not just about sharing knowledge too. It's about encouraging research opportunities and bringing more funding into the North. I know that the Royal Research Institute does a lot of that work and although that's not this department, it is related to our research opportunities in the North. I just think that if we pursue those kind of opportunities such as installing research chairs, we can greatly increase the amount of funding and research opportunities that come into the North and potentially find another

avenue of economic -- well, not economic development necessarily, but every dollar counts, and giving people from across the country and the world opportunities to study and learn in the North, and having a vehicle for that learning would be a great benefit to us all. I think, again, the Northwest Territories has proven itself as a leader in understanding how climate change affects the circumpolar world. I appreciate where the Minister is coming from. I'll just leave it at that. I welcome that approach. I hope we make progress on this sooner rather than later, especially in regards to the new climate change plan that the Minister is working on through this Department. Thank you. I have nothing further.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the Member's encouragement to the department to try to go out and get as much money as we can. I can tell the Member, though, and I think we get to it later on in the budget document that there is a lot of money that comes into the Northwest Territories through research projects, and we continue to try and explore every opportunity to have money come into the Northwest Territories to do research on climate change and mitigation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the Minister a couple of detailed questions. I'm looking at page 72 and there is some money allocated to the Sahtu land claim beneficiaries to establish baseline data, which seems like a great idea. It prompted a couple of questions for me. The first is: is baseline data being actively collected now in any other region of the NWT? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Baseline data is being collected in all of the regions across the Northwest Territories for multiple purposes; for water, forest management, wildlife, all of the main items that we work on at Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's good news to hear. Is there baseline data also being collected on climate change with respect to things like erosion? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Data is being collected on an ongoing basis related to climate change. Much of that is on water or wildlife or forest management because that's where we're seeing the changes. My understanding is that there have been studies on erosion, but I wouldn't say specifically baseline data collection. There has been study work done on it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that water and wildlife are important things to measure, but I wonder about the erosion. I've heard my colleague from Nunakput talk about the erosion in Tuktoyaktuk, for example. Is that being studied by other agencies? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think the erosion in the communities are being looked at by MACA. I could be mistaken, but I do know that the community of Tuktoyaktuk works very closely with MACA on the erosion. As far as the rest of the erosion, I would have to find that information and share it with Members, because it is something that this government and the Government of Canada is going to have a look at is the effects of climate change. You see it as you drive through the Delta with all of the ground falling, so it is a very important topic and it is a direct effect of climate change. I'm sure we will be putting something together, but I will share any findings that I have with the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's commitment to share that information. It seems to me that it's one of the most tangible ways for us to measure the effects of climate change, and especially in making some very significant decisions to relocate some or all of the different communities and their buildings in order to stay out of the way of the ravages of erosion. I have some questions on electronic waste. Is this the right section to ask those? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Yes, it is, Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when we started our jobs, it seems like a long time ago now, the collection of electronic waste was a hot topic with retailers pushing back against the deposit fee. I'm wondering if the Minister could update me on the implementation of the electronic waste. Is it being collected in every community, and

are the fees collected paying for the program? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: They are. The electronic waste is being collected in all of the communities. We weren't expecting the fees to pay for the program in the first year, and I don't think that it is right now. We could get back with specific numbers. I don't have them at this time, but that was not an expectation for the first year of it being implemented. We will be doing a review and speaking with businesses that are doing this program out in the communities and talking to them about the effectiveness of it, and that will be happening shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I understand is that there are two different things going on. One is a review of the financing of the program and the other is a review of the implementation of the program, and we will get some kind of a report on that in the next short while. Is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As soon as we complete the work, we will be sharing that with committee. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if the department has at its fingertips any indication of the uptake on this program, whether in fact consumers who produce the electronic waste are using the recycling opportunities that exist. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Over 76 tonnes of electronics have been collected under the program since it was launched in February 2016.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I want to give the department some unsolicited advice that they promote this figure, both as a way of showing that this program works, and also to encourage people to use this program. That seems like a significant amount of waste that might otherwise have just gone into landfills, where of

course they are very problematic because of the heavy metals they contain. Those are all my questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We appreciate the Member's comments and we will look to do a better job at promoting ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, any further questions or comments? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was just reflecting on the Minister of Finance's response to my earlier questions around the capacity of the ENR. Just so we're clear, I guess, what I'm looking for is I want to know what kind of capacity there is within ENR with regard to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, how many staff they've got, how they collaborate with Public Works and Services and Finance. It sort of sounded to me like Finance is going to take over the lead on carbon pricing and that's fine. They are bean counters, but I'm interested in making sure that the people that know something about greenhouse gas emissions actually are engaged and involved in designing a carbon pricing system.

My questions were with regard to the capacity of the ENR, not Finance. We are going to get to that department a little later. I hope that helps clarify what I was after in that. I'm looking to the Minister for a response wearing his ENR hat, not Finance. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my apologies to the Member. He was asking about the capacity of the ENR and I kind of said we would go through and look at Finance because they were the lead, and I knew that wasn't the end of it, so I was actually being prepared for him to come back with the same question. I will defer to Ms. Kelly. She will talk about the number of people we have in there and the working group that ENR is a part of, but I can assure the Member that Finance is not off doing this on their own. We are, as we should be, seeking advice from the expert, but I will have Dr. Kelly elaborate a bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my knowledge, there has been no reduction in the capacity in the climate change group. In fact, we have added an interim position to the climate

change group to help with developing the work behind the Climate Change Strategic Framework. We have also been in discussions with the federal government. There is some funding available for adaptation and we've looked to see if we can address the capacity issues through that funding as well.

Internally, we work closely with Public Works and Services. As you may have seen if you were at the engagement sessions, we were there jointly, ENR and Public Works. We also work very closely with Finance, Transportation, MACA, Education, Culture and Employment at the ADM level and at the working level on climate change related issues, including the Pan-Canadian Framework and the Climate Change Strategic Framework and energy work that's been going on. So it's at multiple levels that we're working together throughout the government on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Any further questions, committee? I see none. Mr. Vanthuyne.

COMMITTEE MOTION 71-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEFERRAL OF ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity, environment under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Main Estimates 2017-2018 on page 71 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Thank you, committee. That brings us now to page 75, Environment and Natural Resources, forest management, operations expenditures summary, total activity, \$39,803,000, with information items on page 74 to page 77. Committee, please identify the page you have questions on. Any questions from committee? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell us how this department and Municipal and Community Affairs work together to work with firebreaks around communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Mr. Chair, Environment and Natural Resources and MACA work together with communities in developing emergency preparedness planning. Specifically, ENR works on fire-smarting our community; preparedness plans related to fire management. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank Dr. Kelly for her answer. So does the department or Municipal and Community Affairs help communities provide funding for them to fire smart the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So my understanding is MACA provides communities with funding that can be used towards firebreaks. ENR does not have a specific funding source for that except in light of emergencies. So if there is a forest fire that's approaching a community, ENR would then participate in creating firebreaks at that point. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I'm looking at Fort McMurray, I was down there; I saw what happened, how quickly it can change. It's very scary, and how fires do amazing things. I saw trailers not touched where houses were burnt on both sides and back and front.

So can the department or the Minister provide us some assurances that the department will work with the communities to find some money to help put these firebreaks in place so that we can make these safer communities? We're living in an environment where a lot of our communities do not have the equipment necessary. Even in Fort McMurray they had the oil sands there and you saw what happened there. So is the Minister able to, maybe not do it this year in this year's budget, but start working towards it so these communities are safer? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair we can commit to working with the community with the resources that they do have. As Dr. Kelly said, when there is an emerging fire or if there is an emergency situation then ENR would work with them to complete a firebreak, but we will continue to work with the communities.

I think the Member's question may be is: does ENR have the funding to do it, and we don't at this time, to do firebreaks, but we do work with the communities that do have money at their disposal to complete firebreaks? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer, that's good to hear. I guess my big concern is that the department does a great job being reactionary, and I give them full credit to it, I'm hoping that the department will start looking at this as being a preventative way of making these communities safe.

In my riding, we live in very treed areas and sometimes the communities are totally engulfed in the trees. I would hope that the Minister can work with the department and get them to start looking at a proactive approach, a plan in place to address this concern in the communities in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We work with the communities on their plans and we have the expertise within our forest management division to help them identify combustible areas so we work with them on a plan and then the community will take the responsibility of trying to do some mitigation. In the event of a fire that's threatening the community, I think you've seen, it's been demonstrated in the past, that ENR does do what it can to try and help save the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess I'm just looking at springtime when the fire crews are ready to go and there are no fires, it is a perfect opportunity to utilize that staff in the communities and surrounding areas to maybe potentially fire smart their communities to start with. So that's where I'm looking is existing staff that are not fighting fires presently, and I believe each community does have a fire suppressant crew that could potentially be put to work in the short term to start helping them.

I appreciate the department working with the communities and working on the plans, but here's an opportunity again to be pro-active with the staff there. So this is what I'm trying to hopefully look for. That will be my last comment on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member's point is taken. As I said before, we do work with the communities, and then communities and others take responsibility for the fire. If it's threatening their area again, ENR I think has demonstrated in the past that they will step up to the plate when it's needed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of questions for the Minister on fire suppression. This is fire suppression for the wildland fires. I know that we have a MARS agreement with other jurisdictions, but I would like to ask the Minister if he could commit to ensuring that all of the trained firefighters and extra firefighters in the NWT are utilized before we enact any agreement with another jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I can commit to that. My understanding is that we do that already, but I will commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Further to forest fire safety, and I know that my colleague from Nahendeh had some questions around FireSmart, I have, of course, in the riding of Yellowknife North, the Ingraham Trail, and, as we are aware, last year there was the rather large Reid Lake fire, if that is what it is referred to as. Then we had one in the early season, very close to the roadway, right around Madeline Lake.

So, from that, of course, have come two primary concerns, and those are obviously the protection of assets, but probably arguably more importantly is the matter of communications, especially on that particular roadway and having the number of residents that live out there. Yesterday, I raised this point with the Department of MACA, and I know there are a bunch of interdepartmental responsibilities when it comes to public safety and forest fire management, but what steps or what undertakings is this department taking as it relates to an effort to improve communications for residents that are living out -- in this instance, I will use living directly out on the Ingraham Trail? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have an annual fire meeting where we review what has gone on in the past and look at recommendations for how we can improve. We have those conversations with other departments, as well, and communications of course is one of those things that we look at on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is good to know. I think one of the things that is problematic for some folks is their understanding who actually is the lead on communications. It seemed to be that, in a couple of the instances last year -- in particular I will use the Madeline Lake instance where there was a temporary closure of the highway -- that between the Department of Transportation, between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and between the Department of MACA that even myself, as an MLA, was a little bit confused on where the direction or update of information was coming from.

So, if we can acknowledge that that is a concern and that that is something that we have to work toward, I would make that a recommendation, that we have to have a primary source of communications for the public on these safety matters relating to forest fires. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I take the Member's point, and we have heard those concerns stemming out of some of the incidents we had around here, and we are going to go back and work with the departments and improve our communication plan and have a primary contact or a lead contact. So we have heard the concerns, and we are taking steps to address them.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, and that is well appreciated. I too can and am taking some steps to work with my constituents in trying to gather as many of their contact sources of information into one source so that I can share it with the respective departments so that, when these emergencies arise, they just have a go-to source to get information out.

Mr. Chair, let's talk for a moment just with regard to what was previously mentioned by the department in terms of the annual reviews that take place after a forest fire has happened. I know there are annual reviews that take place, and I will call it "inspections" that take place, and recommendations come out. A report comes out, and recommendations always come out in the report. We say in here, in our business plan, that we are going to develop a community wildland fire protection plans planning framework. Are those recommendations critical as part of these protection plans? I will ask that question first. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is quoting off page 74.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and my apologies. I should have told you that I was referencing the department's business plan. It is not the main estimate document. It is the planned activities for 2017-18 in the actual business plan, where we say that we will develop a community wildland fire protection plans planning framework. I am asking, relevant to that activity: do the recommendations out of these annual reports become a part of those protection plans? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, they would be considered because they are a very important source of information for the department as we do our planning. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the answer. Lastly, the recommendations that come out of the reports, what does the department do aside from, say, injecting them into the protection plans? What will be the steps that they are going to take to roll out those recommendations? How will they engage in getting those recommendations rolled out?

Obviously, we have a rather large obligation to want to protect people and assets. We want to avoid at all costs the incidents that have happened in recent years. I am just wondering: how seriously are we taking the recommendations? What kind of resources are we putting into the

recommendations? Will the recommendations be rolled out? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All of the recommendations are considered at the annual meeting and then operationalized. Each of the recommendations, the department can show how they have incorporated them into how they plan and implement the next fire season. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just lastly to that, that is positive. I like to hear that. That means we are engaging and taking steps after the recommendations.

The question then would be: on a go-forward basis, do we have a means or a way in which we are going to reach out to residents, in particular those who are impacted by, I will call it, recent tragedies in fire loss or what have you? Do we have a means by which to get back to them to tell them that here's what we intend to do, that, since those recommendations have come forward to us, these are our next steps? I would be happy to know that we are doing that and that there is a communication effort that goes to letting these folks know what our intentions are after receiving these reports and the recommendations within the reports. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that that is being done. There were some questions that were asked about what was happening with the recommendations, and the department has provided a response saying how the recommendations will be looked at and how they will be factored in to planning and implementation for the next fire season. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Vanthuyne. Any further questions from committee? I see none. Committee, that brings us to forest management, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$39,803,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed. Thank you. That brings us to Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$11,802,000.

Committee, we have information items from page 78 to 81. Any questions from committee? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. In the Minister's opening remarks, he talked about how there was an extra \$2 million to continue implementation of the Water Stewardship Strategy including work on the Transboundary Water Agreements. I think that amount is found under the watershed management item listed on page 79. Is that the case, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, the Member is correct, Mr. Chair. It is. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is this \$2 million in funding, a new initiative or is this a renewal? Is it an increase? Just maybe if I can get a little bit better description of what happened here. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Craig.

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding for the Water Stewardship Strategy and Transboundary Agreements has been renewed on an annual basis in the past. What expired or sunsetted at the end of 2016 was \$1,016,015. Our budget was changed to \$2,056,000 for 2017-18 and ongoing for three years. The net increase to this area was \$441,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Craig. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response. That's good to hear. If I just do the math here and add in 441k from 2016-17 to 2017-18, there are obviously some other things that are going on here within the Watershed Management function of the ENR.

Sorry, I'll just digress here for a second. Part of the problem is there's just no detail provided in the mains or even in the business plan about what this money is being spent on. I guess I would urge the department to find a better way to present what's going on with these functions in their business plan so that we can actually see where any money is brought in or things are being sunsetted and reduced and so on. I think it might have been in an earlier version of the business plan that we saw, but it's certainly not in the public version. That's just an aside.

Maybe I could ask if that's something that the department could look into so we don't have these big globs of money and not really knowing what's going on within the function. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think there was some information of the activity description in the front there as to where it might go. I take the Member's point though about – I think he wants to know exactly where all the money is going and, I would have to go back and see because I thought during our business planning process, we gave a better indication of where it was broken down as to where the money was going to go and then we bring it forward to a business plan and we have the one figure here for \$3,600,030. I'll go back and look at the business plans and if there's an opportunity to provide a bit more information to committee, then that's what we will consider doing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I'm happy to have an offline discussion with the Minister about this. There was a difference between the business plans that we reviewed in September and was publicly available. It's always a bit of a balancing act for a number of different reasons. I'm happy to chat offline about that. Let's go back to the numbers that are presented here in the mains.

There is something else going on within the watershed management. I think my colleague from Yellowknife North talked about source water protection being reduced. Can someone from the department talk a little bit more about that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's been a reduction of \$115,000 for source water protection funding. That money has, over the years, contributed to the development of guidance documents on source water protection for communities to use as well as workbooks. We've held community workshops and completed the workbooks with communities. We've produced source water protection maps. We've completed train-the-trainer events with some of our local environmental non-government organizations. We believe that we have the resources in-house within the water resources division to support continued source water protection in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the level of detail provided by the ADM. That's helpful. We have the materials now. Presumably, they're being distributed and there's some assistance from local and regional ENR staff. I'm not sure that's quite good enough to make sure that source water is actually protected. We need the plans.

I don't think it's just ENR's responsibility, clearly. There's a role for MACA here as well. MACA does spend a lot of money and tries to build capacity within the communities to have sound water systems for communities. Part of that is to make sure that the source water is protected. Just as MACA is doing some work to try to make sure we're going to have safe water for all of our residents and all, whatever sized-community you live in, we've got another department cutting some of the funding that could be used to help support that.

We finished the guidance documents. I guess I don't understand why this funding can't be used to support, say, workshops or getting people maybe even together on a regional basis to look at actual source water protection plans and how you actually develop and implement them at a municipal level. I'm not very happy with the cut. Maybe the department can convince me otherwise. What we have here is departments working at cross purposes and I think we need to find ways for them to work together better. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. ENR, MACA, Health and Social Services and Public Works work together on an interdepartmental drinking water committee. The source water protection money was for source protection planning. We have produced guidance documents and workbooks, as I mentioned, that will help communities. With respect to the other money that's part of Watershed Management and water research and studies, that also contributes to source water protection in the Northwest Territories because we do biological monitor as well as water quality monitoring. The Transboundary Water Management Agreements are a significant part of source water protection for the Northwest Territories. We feel that we have the expertise and the ability within other areas of the Water Resources Division to support source water protection and communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation. I guess I'd be much more favourably

inclined if we could find then a way to re-profile this money to actually support communities preparing source water plans, but we could probably be debating this for a lot longer. That's enough for me. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Seeing nothing further from committee. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like to talk a bit about watershed management. It is the fifth program under program detail. I'm wondering if there is some work being done on the Slave River which runs from another jurisdiction. What type of work is going on in the Slave River in as far as monitoring, developing baselines, and seeing if the water that's flowing out close to Fort Resolution is still water that is not affected by whatever is happening upstream. I'm wondering if that information is collected from a year-to-year basis for the Slave River. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is ongoing federal government monitoring for both quality and quantity on the Slave River. There is also ENR monitoring and community-based monitoring on the Slave River at Fort Smith near Big Eddy and in Resolute Bay as well with community members doing that work. All of the communities along the Slave River are part of a group called the Slave River and Delta Partnership that's been working for the last many years on beaver, mink, and muskrat studies, contaminants and sediment studies, all types of work that's been going on on the Slave River to address the types of issues that you've mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the Minister if that information gathered from that work by the federal government is available to us. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a report that's been compiled on Slave River water quality at the federal station that we could provide, and there are also numerous documents that have been compiled on the work of the Slave River and Delta Partnership and a partnership we have with the University of Saskatchewan on the Slave River as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you. Could that be made available to committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we will provide that information to committee and I will also encourage committee that there is the Mackenzie data stream site that is up and running now where a lot of samples are taken and posted on the site and we just did the launch in Fort Smith, I believe a little while ago, and then we did another launch in Ottawa, so there is a lot of useful information that is on that site. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had the same type of questions for Talston River. So in the Talston River, I think Talston River just runs within the NWT from maybe -- I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I'm pretty sure all of the spots I know of the Talston River are all within the NWT. Is there that type of information? Even though this doesn't run from another jurisdiction, that type of information on the Talston River, say, going from Rocher River all the way back up to, say, Deskataway and Nonacho. I wonder if that is something that, if the same type of work goes on in the Talston, and if that information is available. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is water quantity information available for the Talston River and intermittent water quality data, so those pieces of information could be made available as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, what is intermittent water quality information? I know what the words mean, but what does that actually mean? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When there was funding available to do work and there was water quality samples that were taken, so there are chunks in the record where there isn't water quality data, and then there are times when there is, so we

can provide the information that we do have, but it's not a consistent record for the entire time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is intermittent water quality information on the Talston River sufficient for the department to do any mitigation, if necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Could I have the question repeated, please? I didn't hear it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question was: Is the intermittent water quality information sufficient to determine whether or not there needs to be any mitigations, and I am talking about mitigations as any development that is on the Talston River, mainly the dam in the spillway, so that's what I'm referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The data on the Talston and on the Tazin River is being analyzed in light of the transboundary water management agreement negotiations with Saskatchewan, so I'd be better prepared to answer that question when I've had the opportunity to review that data in more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is that data available to the department? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are analyzing the data that is available and we can make that data available once we have a report from it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Seeing nothing further -- Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Sorry, one other quick question depending on answers. Page 80, water strategy action plan is being reduced. From 2015-16, we've seen this decline from 585 down to 325 for 2017-18. I believe this is money that's provided to perhaps Aboriginal governments

to make sure they are engaged in implementation and negotiation of these agreements. Is that what this is for and why is it declining? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This money is used for engagement when we were doing negotiations. We completed negotiations on two of the agreements and we have moved to implementation of those agreements, so the money has changed from contributions and grants to contract work to support the implementation of the agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is what I suspected, but we still have outstanding negotiations with Saskatchewan, Nunavut, and the Yukon. The agreement from 2002 needs to be updated in light of what was negotiated with BC and Alberta. I know BC and Alberta were big ones, but Saskatchewan and Nunavut are still presumably fairly large, and then you have implementation now on top of that. Why does this continue to climb? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first round of consultation on the Yukon agreement and the Saskatchewan agreement was completed in previous years while we were doing the work on Alberta and BC, so we have less consultation to do on the agreements that will be coming forward. The timing of those agreements is spread out so we don't need the money in grants and contributions for that work at this time, as much money, and we know that we can do it with the amount that is in here now.

The other money has gone to contracts towards implementation of the two agreements that we have signed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks for that. I thank the ADM for the explanation. So, the money for the contracts, that would show up where in this function, under contract services, which has increased? Is that where it would show up? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

DR. KELLY: Yes, that is where it would show up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this section. Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, operations expenditure summary, total activity. Mr. Vanthuyne.

COMMITTEE MOTION 72-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEFERRAL OF WATER RESOURCES ACTIVITY,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity, water resources, under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Main Estimates 2017-2018, on page 79 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. There is a motion to defer. The motion is on the floor and being distributed.

---Carried

Committee, we will defer activity, water resources. Continuing on, the final activity, wildlife, can be found on pages 82 to 85. I will give committee a moment. If you have comments or questions, please let me know. While you are speaking, please indicate which page you are speaking to. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am mindful of my colleague across the way. Page 83 in the program details, there is sort of this nibbling away here of money in terms of biodiversity conservation, field operations, wildlife research and management. What is happening here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There have been some reductions, both in 2016-17 and 2017-18. We have also reduced the budget that we had in place for some overtime and for doing the Dall sheep surveys. These were done in 2016-17. So there have just been some sunsetting of funds and some minor reductions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation. I think there was one item from last year's budget. Sorry, I am going to spring this on my colleague from the Sahtu, but there were plans to do away with the check station

at mile 222 on the Canol Road in the Mackenzie Mountains, and I think the department found ways to continue to do that work internally. Presumably, that station was still there this past summer, and we are looking at continuing that facility in 2017-18? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we are. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing from Mr. O'Reilly. Seeing nothing, I will call this page, this activity. Environment and Natural Resources, wildlife, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$14,478,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Next we have a series of information items on pages 86 to 91, including lease commitments, Environment Fund, fur marketing service, revolving fund, and work performed on behalf of others. We can tackle this all at once. If you have comments or questions on any of these information items? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have questions for the Minister about a number of climate change projects that are listed on page 90. My question is about the Climate Change Adaptation Project; the Environment and Climate Change Canada Climate Change fund; Environment and Climate Change Canada Watershed Management; and Environment and Climate Change Canada Water Research and Studies. What were the outcomes of these projects, and how have they been shared with the public? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are many, many small projects that make up these larger budgets. We could provide information specifically to you later, but it would take a lot of time to go through each and every one of them, and I am not sure that I am clear on every single one that is underneath here. I would comment on the fact that many of these projects are done in collaboration with communities, so they would be well aware of what the outcomes of them are. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for that answer. I think just some high-level summary information would give us a flavour of what kind of projects have been completed, and that would be useful. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Dr. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Some of these projects provide funding where ENR receives the funding but then it goes to different departments, where they work on things that are of interest to them, Department of Transportation, my understanding, Public Works. Other projects, we work with communities on those directly. I am not sure, if the LED Project worked, which one of these it fits under, but there are projects on that type of work where it is with communities on observations and changes that they are seeing to the environment related to climate change. Any more specifics, we can provide some documentation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Dr. Kelly. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. I realize that the witness does not have all of this detail at her fingertips, but, as I say, if she could provide some high-level summary of the kinds of projects that have been done, I think that would be very useful. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I believe the ADM just answered that, and she did make a commitment that we would provide to the Members some of the work and some of the projects that were going on. That type of detail, we just do not have at our fingertips right now, so we will commit to providing that to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Committee will be expecting to receive that information. Do we have anything further on any of the information items? Seeing none, we can return to the department total on page 59, information items on pages 60 and 61. Comments or questions. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 73-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEFERRAL OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF
THE ESTIMATES FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion to defer. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed.

---Carried

Committee, we have deferred Environment and Natural Resources. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I move that we rise and report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All of those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report, Member for Hay River North.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018, and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Thursday, March 2, 2017, commencing at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
 - Bill 13, Marriage Act
 - Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
 - Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

