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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 767-9010 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, March 3, 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 10:00 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good morning, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 155-18(2):
CORRECTION FOR NEW GENERATORS FOR
YELLOWKNIFE POWER PLANT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, this morning CBC published an article quoting from oral questions yesterday. The article repeats a misstatement that I made during my reply to oral question 670-18(2). I would like to take an opportunity to correct the record. Quoting from unedited Hansard, I said:

"I understand that there was a careful evaluation of the bid made by the Power Corporation. The bid from Viridi was the lowest rated, and among the factors looked at was price."

What I should have said was that Viridi were the highest rated, lowest bidder. I apologize for any misunderstanding this has caused. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 156-18(2):
CO-OPERATION ON 2017-2018 BUDGET

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the progress to approve the 2017-2018 Main Estimates. Since the Budget Address on February 1, 2017, we have seen significant debate on specific elements of our annual budget and an extensive review of the main estimates in Committee of the Whole.

It is fair to say that all Members of the Legislative Assembly are passionate in their desire to address the challenges facing the Northwest Territories. Our reality is that we need to take action in a fiscally responsible manner and we are operating in an environment of limited revenue growth and an uncertain economic future.

Cabinet has listened carefully to Members and to the concerns of our constituents, as this budget has been debated. As a result, we are committing to the following adjustments to the 2017-2018 budget.

- We will increase the budget for homecare by \$2,500,000.
- Funding of \$500,000 will be provided for the Youth in Crisis program.
- The funding available through the Anti-Poverty Fund will be increased by \$500,000.
- There will be an increase in support for freight costs associated with the fishing industry by \$225,000.
- We will increase the funding available through the Mineral Incentive Program by \$600,000.
- We will increase funding for the Community Access Road Program by \$500,000.

Mr. Speaker, we have also heard the concerns about the reductions related to the Teacher Education Program and the social work program at Aurora College. While we believe these were appropriate decisions, given the cost of delivery and program outcomes, we also recognize that a more fundamental review of Aurora College is an important and necessary step to guide our actions. Minister Moses will be speaking about this in greater detail.

We will, however, make the commitment at this time to defer Aurora College reductions related to the Teacher Education Program and the social work program identified for 2017-18 pending completion of the review. There will be no additional intake for the social work program or the Teacher Education Program while the review is taking place.

I will follow through with these commitments in the Supplementary Estimates (Operations

Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018, which will be tabled in this House within the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Members for all their input and discussions around the 2017-2018 budget. Our debate in the House is only the most visible part of a lengthy process of engagement and discussion with Members to establish each year's budget. Throughout the process, beginning with three weeks of business plan reviews last fall and review of the draft main estimates in standing committees, Members have provided feedback and suggestions that have led to the final budget we hope to pass shortly.

Based on what we heard from standing committee in discussions on the business plan, Cabinet agreed to make \$15.4 million in adjustments before the budget was even tabled. Changes included eliminating some of the proposed expenditure reductions and identifying investments in priority areas like fully-funded junior kindergarten, 911 service, more money for small community employment programs and homelessness.

We have added to those early adjustments with the additional changes announced today, Mr. Speaker. We are confident that the final package of investments and ongoing spending we have settled on through our discussions is in the best interests of NWT residents, and look forward to receiving the support of MLAs.

In the sessional statement, we heard that staying true to the spirit and intent of consensus is a challenge that all Members of the Legislative Assembly are responsible for, Mr. Speaker. Meeting that challenge does not always come easily, particularly when we are asked to give and take on issues that we care about personally. We have faced that challenge during this session, and I am convinced that we have found a path forward based on the commitment of all Members on both sides of the House to doing what is best for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 157-18(2):
PROGRESS ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE LEGAL
AID COMMISSION EXPANDS OUTREACH
SERVICES

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government we have committed in our mandate to improve access to justice for the residents of the NWT. Today, I am pleased to announce an initiative that will assist residents involved in civil or family justice matters.

Members are aware of the Legal Aid Commission's initiative to provide free legal advice through its Outreach lawyer. This service has proven to be very successful. It has been piloted for the last several years and has provided on-the-ground services in 19 communities. Residents accessing the service do not have to make an application and there is no means test. Anyone who would benefit from speaking with a lawyer on issues such as housing, landlord and tenant disputes, disability or employment issues, child protection, or elder's wills is eligible. With this success, it has become very clear that there is a greater need for this service than could be addressed in the 15 hours per week available under the pilot project.

Today, the Legal Aid Commission is launching a full-time Outreach Legal Aid Clinic. Staff at this new clinic will continue to offer legal advice, but will also provide duty counsel service in family law matters, and coordinate public legal information on behalf of the Legal Aid Commission. Again, these new services are available without the requirement to make a formal application and are at no cost to those using the service. This expansion was made possible by a careful restructuring of resources and an enhancement of the federal funding provided for the Aboriginal Court Work Program.

Throughout Canada and here in the Northwest Territories, courts have been seeing an increasing number of people who are "self-representing," or appearing without legal representation in the civil and family courts. There is a growing understanding that self-represented litigants face barriers, and many do not receive equitable access to justice. People coming before the courts are often experiencing their first interaction with the justice system, and it is not surprising that they experience difficulties stemming from a lack of understanding of potential remedies or court processes.

By providing expanded hours, separate office space and a dedicated court worker and outreach lawyer, the Legal Aid Commission is helping clients to access summary legal advice and referrals more quickly from the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic. With the introduction of family law duty counsel, residents who attend court for family law matters will receive advice when they need it the most.

Much like the duty counsel provided to those criminally charged, this additional service will allow the Outreach lawyer to attend as duty counsel for appearances on family matters in the Territorial and Supreme Courts. We expect that the number of court appearances required to complete a case will be reduced as a result of these changes. In addition, staff will be utilized more efficiently, and technology will be better leveraged under this new model. Finally, better legal education and

information for residents will lead to better outcomes for all involved.

While the office will be physically located in the Yellowknife Centre East building, the Outreach program will continue its commitment to all regions of the Northwest Territories. Over the next few months a schedule of regional clinics will be developed in partnership with the communities and the court workers of the Legal Aid Commission.

Mr. Speaker, when a pilot project is a resounding success, it only makes sense to incorporate it into best practices. This initiative not only continues to deliver legal outreach services to our residents, but it also represents a significant step in meeting our commitment to improve access to justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMPROMISE ON 2017-2018 BUDGET

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to rise to speak to the Finance Minister's recent statement on cooperation in the 2017-18 budget. It is no secret that we have had a very spirited debate in this House over this very important issue of our fiscal and strategic priorities moving forward into the 2017-18 year.

I am very pleased today to share in the announcement that we have achieved a compromise on the budget and that Regular Members, working together, have found a way to express their concerns both publicly and privately through the established practice of consensus government to make a better budget. That is exactly what we have seen, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to say that I am now able to support this budget and will do so.

I am very pleased to see the additional spending on both our social needs and on our economy. The additional Mineral Incentive Program, community access program, these will create jobs. These will create economic opportunities for our residents. Additional social spending will allow us to offset increased spending in later years.

You have to start with a strong foundation, Mr. Speaker. Our economy needs that boost, our people need that boost, and I am glad that the government has heard our message and has clearly signaled that they are willing to work with us in the spirit of consensus government. I know not everything that we worked for and our joint recommendations were accepted, but I think that,

ultimately, we have a better budget and, ultimately, we have found a way to end this impasse and come together on behalf of our people for the benefit of all of the Northwest Territories.

I will be continuing to support this budget and continuing in my role to hold Cabinet accountability and make the best possible decisions for all the people we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELINER MEN'S HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Deline is the birthplace of hockey. I would like to recognize the community of Deline for their first Deline Men's Hockey Tournament this weekend. Deline is also known for birthplace of hockey and proud to announce that we have Bryan Trottier, who played 1,279 games in the NHL and is a member of seven Stanley Cup teams as well as a player and a coach and was also elected to the National Hockey League Hall of Fame. He played for the New York Islanders and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Tyler Kennedy played 527 games in the NHL with Pittsburgh, New York Islanders, San Jose, and New Jersey. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins' Stanley Cup team in 2009. Aaron Asham, Shaun Van Allen, Ric Nattress, Dan Frawley, Larry Melnyk, John Chabot, and Tom R. Williams will be goalie for the game.

Good luck, participants. This event is open and the invitation is extended to everybody in the House. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I hope they enjoy a festive weekend. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Welcome to our Assembly. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACHO DENE SCHOOL TRIP TO SPAIN

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About two years ago a new teacher arrived in Fort Liard and noticed the youth lived, ate, and breathed soccer. As she got to know the students and the community, she realized one of the students had the opportunity to go to England for a soccer camp and a tour the previous summer. This seemed to be the talk of the community and the school.

Mr. Speaker, this led to the idea of a school trip outside of Canada. After checking with her fellow teachers, the DEA, the DDEC, community members, and the older students, it was decided that this would be a great idea. After a lot of discussion with the students, they decided that they

would go to Spain, and more specifically Barcelona and Madrid. This is where some of the students' idols lived and played soccer.

This meant they had to raise over \$50,000. They started fundraising in September 2015 until just recently. They were able to raise over \$25,000 by doing numerous movie nights, bingos, concessions at community events, special dinners, a haunted house, and other fundraising ideas the community was able to support. On top of this, the Hamlet, Acho Dene Koe Band, MACA, Acho Dene School, Community Justice, and corporate groups chipped in over \$30,000. This is truly a community effort.

Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 2017, the 12 original students who signed up for this adventure and two chaperones will be leaving Fort Liard to Madrid via Edmonton. They will return home on March 31 via Barcelona.

The group has selected tours around Madrid and Barcelona, which will include art galleries, churches, memorials, and other popular attractions of each city. They have added a tour of Real Madrid football stadium and Barcelona FC stadium.

Mr. Speaker, this trip would not be complete without going to a professional soccer game. They will be attending a Tier 2 game on March 26th.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great opportunity for students to see what the world has to offer them. They have worked hard to accomplish this trip and have been pushed and encouraged to make positive choices for their participation. Like all things, there have been bumps along the way, but this trip helped them make better choices when confronted by a negative environment. For the students, this is the first time that they are leaving the country at any time.

Mr. Speaker, these students have surpassed all expectations from the start of the project. They showed incredible dedication to all events related to this project. As the organizing teacher said, "These events have really given them purpose and they can say that they accomplished this amazing goal together." All I can say is job well done, and enjoy your trip. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEW GENERATORS FOR YELLOWKNIFE
POWER PLANT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned through a CBC news report that the NWT Power Corporation has contracted for four generators worth about two and

a half million dollars with an American company. At the time, in mid-2015, Viridi Power of California indicated delivery in six months. According to the Minister, the company received a \$1 million deposit from the NWT Power Corporation.

It is now 18 months later, Mr. Speaker, and only some of the components have been delivered. The Power Corporation can't provide details on which components have been received.

There have been 25 visits to the company by a consultant checking in on behalf of the Power Corporation, including one less than two weeks ago. The report indicates that some of the units are still in the stages of being painted and sheet metal siding installed, but in the areas of major component assembly -- installation of conduit, lights, and receptacles; installing major components; and load testing -- there is no progress.

Viridi Power indicated that a delay was caused by a record storm that flooded the shop. Mr. Speaker, that storm was two weeks ago today. These generators are over a year behind schedule.

Mr. Speaker, as an MLA who has been concerned with the ever-rising increases for power, this situation makes me uneasy in a number of ways.

Why did we go to a company in California when two other bidders on this project, reputable companies in Canada, also submitted bids? When a much smaller, lesser-known company bids significantly, didn't that raise some red flags for the Power Corporation?

These generators were purchased in order to replace aging generators already at the Jackfish Power Plant. The new generators are a year past the delivery date, and the Minister acknowledged that the Power Corporation has had additional expenses for rental generators. One can only wonder if there have been yet more costs to the NWT taxpayer in repairs, upkeep, and maintenance. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, if I ordered a piece of equipment for my business and it was promised in six months but had not shown up for a year and a half later, you can bet that I would be all over that supplier, I would have gotten my money back, and I would never have ordered from that supplier again.

The Power Corporation is working with the company and says it has negotiated compensation

that is fair. Mr. Speaker, one thing is for sure. This circumstance is not inspiring confidence in the ratepayers of the North. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MARCH EVENTS IN HAY RIVER

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, change is in the air. The light is coming back, the days are getting longer, and things are heating up in the Town of Hay River. March is a busy month back home, so I would like to take a minute to feature a few upcoming events.

First, the K'atlodeeche First Nation is hosting the annual K'amba Carnival this weekend on the Hay River Reserve. Festivities kicked off last night with the crowning of this year's K'amba Queen, Michelle Lafferty. Anyone nurturing a hidden talent and a bit of a competitive streak will find something to try with snowmobile and dogsled races, hand games, talent shows, and more all unfolding this weekend.

Next weekend, the polar pond hockey tournament returns for its eighth season.

Who needs an indoor rink, Mr. Speaker? The river in front of the fisherman's wharf will host the biggest hockey tournament in Hay River this year. The organizers have lowered the sign-up age to give as many people as possible a chance to play. Last time I checked, there were 14 teams registered, including seven women's teams and six from out of town. Organizers hope for 40 teams in total. Best of luck to all of the players, and my thanks to the organizers. I look forward to seeing the teams compete and welcoming everyone from out of town.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a party that is always a good time, the Chamber of Commerce Gala. It will be held this March 31st. In past years, the gala has featured a life-sized Hay River-opoly board game, an Elvis impersonator, and of course there are always fantastic meals and great company.

How could the chamber top it this year? Well, Mr. Speaker, they are hosting "NWT's Got Talent." The chamber is encouraging any and all comers to sign up for the talent show and a chance to win a cash prize.

The gala will also see the presentation of three annual awards including Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and the Customer Service Award of Excellence.

So, Mr. Speaker, if you are looking for something to do this month, jump in your truck and head down to Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD RESEARCH FUNDING

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On February 6th, I made a Member's statement about the Giant Mine Oversight Board and its office opening here in Yellowknife. I described the two main functions of the board, sound technical oversight of the Giant Mine Remediation Project and a research program.

This project was sent to an environmental assessment based on public concerns. One of the main issues was the absence of any commitment or funding for ongoing research and development to find a better solution than simply trying to freeze 137,000 tons of toxic arsenic trioxide underground forever. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board recognized this public concern and recommended measures to require ongoing research and development into emerging technologies for a permanent solution at Giant Mine. Those measures were accepted by federal and territorial Ministers and are now legally binding. The details of the active research program were left to the negotiation of the legally binding environmental agreement.

I am proud to say that I was involved in those negotiations that created the Giant Mine Oversight Board, with its role in coordinating a research program into a permanent solution. The funding for the research program comes from the federal government, and work has started to identify opportunities and priorities for the research. A very important part of the negotiations and the ultimate agreement was the need for funding for the research. Every effort will be made to leverage and partner, but there must be money to invest. Everyone agreed that unused funds from the oversight function would be rolled into the research program and that any unused funds would be carried over to build a critical nest egg for the research program. Without knowing what the research might be, but certainly understanding how expensive it will likely be, all the parties, including the federal government agreed the funds should be allowed to accumulate over time to support this work. This is money that will be managed and spent in the NWT to the benefit of all Yellowknifers now and into the future.

The board had a surplus of \$65,000 in 2015-16, largely the result of a late start in getting set up

partway through that year. It looks like the board may have a surplus of about \$100,000 to \$200,000 this year. These funds should be rolled into the research program, but there seems to be a roadblock with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. The rollover is not happening. This is a very serious breach of the spirit, intent, and letter of the Giant Mine Environmental Agreement.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues. I wouldn't raise this issue in the House if it were about a few thousand dollars, but this goes to the very heart of why Yellowknifers lost confidence in how government was attempting to remediate the Giant Mine. I trust that our government is working diligently behind the scenes to ensure that the federal government lives up to the promises it made to invest in a permanent solution for Giant Mine. I will have questions later today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UNDRIP, was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007 by a majority of 144 nations voting in favour. There were 11 abstentions and four votes against this historic declaration, and I am sorry to say that Canada, along with the United States, New Zealand, and Australia, was one of the "no" votes.

The declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as our rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education, and other issues. It recognizes that, as Indigenous peoples, we have been deprived of our means of subsistence and development and that we are entitled to just and fair redress.

It also emphasizes the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen our own institutions, cultures, and traditions, and to pursue development that is in keeping with our own needs and aspirations. It prohibits discrimination against Indigenous peoples and promotes our full and effective participation in all matters that concern us. It also promotes our right to remain distinct and to

pursue our own visions of economic and social development.

Mr. Speaker, why would Canada, a leading first-world country with a significant Aboriginal population, refuse to endorse the UN declaration? The Canadian government said that, while it supported the "spirit" of the declaration, it contained elements that were "fundamentally incompatible with Canada's constitutional framework, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, which enshrines Aboriginal and treaty rights."

Mr. Speaker, Canada's rejection of the UN declaration was seen by its Aboriginal peoples as evidence of this country's continued failure to meaningfully recognize the rights, culture, needs, and aspirations of its Indigenous peoples. This perception was captured by Canada Research Chair and faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan Research Chair Ken Coates, who argued that "UNDRIP resonates powerfully with Indigenous peoples, while national governments have not yet fully understood its full impact."

Perhaps Canada is slowly beginning to realize that impact. In November 2010, Canada officially endorsed the declaration but without changing its position that it was "aspirational." In 2016, Canada officially adopted and promised to implement the declaration fully. Speaking at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett announced, "We are now a full supporter of the declaration."

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking at the UN Permanent forum on Indigenous Issues, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett announced, "We are now a full supporter of the declaration, without qualification. We intend nothing less than to adopt and implement the declaration in accordance with the Canadian Constitution." Bennett described the Declaration as "breathing life into Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution and recognizing it as a full box of rights for Indigenous Peoples in Canada."

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the words of Minister Bennett. I believe that this development may positively impact on the process of settling outstanding rights for the Deh Cho and Akaitcho. I will speak further on how this might happen. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ARCTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I share with you some of the excellent work being led by our colleagues at the Arctic Council and Permanent Participant Gwich'in Council International on the issue of renewable energy, an area that this government is active in through such initiatives at the Solar Energy Strategy and the Alternative Energy Technology Program.

Later this month, the Arctic Renewable Energy Networks Academy -- abbreviated to ARENA -- will kick off here in Yellowknife. It is a nine-month program for 20 individuals from the Circumpolar Arctic to participate in classroom and laboratory learning and visits to communities operating on renewable energy resources to gain first-hand insights. ARENA also features a webinar series which introduces remote energy network/microgrid concepts.

I am pleased to see that the Government of the Northwest Territories is partnering on this initiative alongside several federal departments and agencies. The GNWT investment in ARENA is important for three reasons, Mr. Speaker:

- it gives the NWT residents access to top-notch professional development programs;
- it advances our interests in switching our communities from diesel-power generation to renewable sources; and
- it shows our commitment towards supporting the Indigenous peoples from our region in the leadership role that they are taking on circumpolar policy challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this support continues as Gwich'in Council International is proposing for the first time to lead a project at the Arctic Council. The Arctic Sustainable Energy Futures Toolkit will be a print and web-based guide for communities to follow when developing and exercising community energy planning processes.

The toolkit will draw upon best practices to help communities create and implement their energy visions, as well as increase energy literacy and capacity for community members and help build bridges between communities and agency officials and subject matter experts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support for this project and hope that the GNWT will continue to be an active and supportive partner on renewable energy projects at the Arctic Council across the Northwest Territories. Quyanainni Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
WALK TO TUK FITNESS CHALLENGE

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate everyone who just finished the Walk to Tuk this winter, along with the organizers of the event, the NWT Recreation and Parks Association.

The Walk to Tuk, as you probably know, is the largest, longest, and most effective physical activity event undertaken each year in the NWT. Teams of course do not literally walk to Tuktoyaktuk, but rather walk to work, walk the dog, jog, ski, snowshoe, or walk on a track. Teams left Fort Providence on January 3rd, setting out on the 1,658 kilometre journey to the Arctic Coast and together 3,600 people walked almost 200,000 kilometres.

---Applause

I know, amazing. As I mentioned, the Walk to Tuk is managed by the NWT Recreation and Parks and organizers reported that there were 257 teams this year from 29 communities. The total participation rate, at just over 3,600 people, is up by a thousand participants from last year and represents almost 10 per cent of the NWT population. On average, each Walk to Tuk participant put in 320 minutes of weekly exercise, more than doubling the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines.

Members of the Legislative Assembly took part again this year. Our team was 14 Members strong, and included both Regular Members and Cabinet Ministers. We started slowly but built up quickly, together walking almost 25,000 minutes and we got to Tuktoyaktuk on time. Thanks to the Honourable Member for Nahendeh who once again outwalked us all, accounting for 15 per cent of our total.

The Walk to Tuk is a brilliant way to encourage all of us to stay active in these cold months. To equal such an outstanding rate of participation in other parts of Canada, Ontario would need to get 1.4 million of its citizens signed up, or 900,000 people in Quebec.

So let us celebrate. Participants in Yellowknife are invited to pick up their T-shirts and enjoy some refreshments today from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Greenstone Building. Lastly, I want to congratulate all the teams who participated in the program this year, and encourage them to keep on walking. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
AKLAVIK MARKET RENTAL UNITS**

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the extended deadline for the NWT Housing Corporation's housing survey passed last week. I hope that every Northerner who wanted to was able to access that survey. It was definitely a hot topic at my constituency meetings.

In fact, my constituents have a lot to say about housing, and no wonder! In each of the three communities of the Mackenzie Delta riding, roughly one in four houses is in core need.

Think about the toll that takes on daily life in a small community.

We cannot lose sight of that, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about surveys, policies, or capital planning, we cannot lose sight of just how hard it really is when you do not have a home of your own.

The Social Development Committee made housing a top priority for just that reason. Housing is the issue that changes everything else.

In my riding, families are staying with families, Mr. Speaker. Houses are overcrowded. Young people are putting off starting families of their own, or else they and their families have to board with friends or relatives. Frustration sets in when you have to live with other people in such close quarters, but residents have to choose between a three-year waiting list or sky-high market rents. Let us be realistic: that is no choice at all.

Homeownership or market rentals are just not feasible for many in our small communities. It just does not make sense.

Take the community of Aklavik. The Housing Corporation recently brought in modular buildings to create four new units. You will remember that Regular Members had a lot of questions on that project at the time. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Despite the fanfare, two of those units are now sitting empty. They are empty because rents of \$1,400 or more per month is just not possible for the people that actually need housing.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that setting those units aside as market rentals is not working out. My constituents know how many Northerners are stuck on the housing waiting list and they have a solution: make those units part of the public housing program. Get more people into homes now. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions later today.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Returns to Oral Questions

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Ms. Green on February 15, 2017, regarding the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. More specifically, Mr. Speaker, about the government's role in pharmacy errors.

The department does not have a direct oversight role when a pharmacist makes a dispensing error in a retail pharmacy. The pharmacist's professional ethics and standards of practice will guide how the event is handled.

However, the department does have a role in ensuring that a complaints officer is appointed under the Pharmacy Act to ensure that any person may file a complaint if they feel that a pharmacist's conduct is unprofessional or that they show a lack of the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to practice as a pharmacist.

I would also like to note that if a dispensing error happens within the Health and Social Services system and cause harm to a patient, the authorities would investigate the incident to determine exactly what happened in order to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two members of the NHL Alumni team who are with us here today, and proceeding on to Deline, birthplace of hockey, to play a couple of games this weekend. I would like to welcome Bryan Trottier and Tyler Kennedy to our beautiful Northwest Territories. Also, recognize Mr. Tom R. Williams accompanying the Group of Seven, I believe it is, president of the Inuvik Housing Corporation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to recognize two pages from Inuvik. We have Gabrielle Nogasak and Shenise Vittrekwa. I

want to thank them and all of the pages. We have had some long nights here and they have been pretty patient with us. I am not sure if they want to come back, but we appreciate the job they have done. I also want to recognize an old hockey teammate of mine from the 1970s, and no, it is not the NHLers. Tom Williams and I played minor hockey together way back in Inuvik a long time ago. I would like to recognize Tom and his wife, Pam Williams, who is originally from Aklavik. They are celebrating their anniversary today. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Happy anniversary to both of you, and many more years to come. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, also want to wish Mr. and Mrs. Williams a happy anniversary, and also former NHLers, Hall of Famers, and Stanley Cup champions Bryan Trottier and Tyler Kennedy. I know Mr. Trottier has done a lot of work up in Nunakput region and, every time we get NHLers or individuals who can influence people through television and in person, it means a lot for our territory. Welcome and thank you for all of your dedication and hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Tom and Pam Williams, who are constituents of Range Lake now. Happy anniversary to both of you. On behalf of MACA, Municipal and Community Affairs, our sports and recreation division, I also want to recognize Bryan Trottier and Tyler Kennedy, who are true role models to the youth who are coming up in society. It is really important that we have people like that, and it is an honour to have them here. I want to put a shout out to Tom Williams, who is our deputy minister of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, who will be going with them to play for goalie. Just to let you both know, we have told him to take it easy on you guys so you come back again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we are missing anyone in the gallery, welcome to our proceedings. It is always great to have an audience. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 677-18(2): CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORK AND ENERGY STRATEGY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on, I spoke about the Arctic Renewable Energy Networks Academy. My questions are for the Minister of ITI. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is: what progress is the department making on climate change, framework, and the energy strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: --- through our public engagement sessions that we have talked about quite a bit this week in the House. To date, we have held public engagement sessions in Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Fort Simpson. Next week, we are going to be in my home community of Hay River and we are going to be doing a workshop with the community of Behchoko moving forward. We will be collecting this information and we will be using this to develop our energy strategy moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: That answered my second question. Mr. Speaker, my final question for the Minister is: how is the Government of the Northwest Territories supporting the Arctic Renewable Energy Networks Academy's ARENA initiative?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I am happy to say in the House today that we will join this week-long event, and we will be sending Government of the Northwest Territories representatives to attend ARENA. I will welcome delegates on March 24 to Yellowknife. Our Public Works and Services Energy Division will make a presentation later that day to provide an update on our efforts to develop our 10-year energy strategy moving forward as well. To add to that, the Power Corporation has arranged for tours for the hybrid solar and diesel battery storage project in Cobalt Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 678-18(2): NEW GENERATORS FOR YELLOWKNIFE POWER PLANT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I provided a line of questions to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. I would like to continue along that line of questioning today. I would like to start by asking the Minister: at the time that it became clear that the company Verdi was getting behind schedule on delivering

these generators, what steps did the Power Corporation take to hold the company accountable, if certain benchmarks and certain milestones weren't being met? Is there some form of penalty that was built into the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it became evident that this contract was going to be delayed, the Power Corporation looked at its various options. As I mentioned yesterday, to compensate for the lack of delivery, it was agreed with the vendor that they would cover any additional costs, including the cost of modular rental units that were brought into Jackfish in the winter of 2017 to ensure reliability. Because this bid was the lowest bidder, it was thought best to stick with this bid as that would be the best, in the long term, for the ratepayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate that the Minister has indicated that the company would essentially have to cover any costs incurred. It has been 24 hours since I asked this question yesterday, something along the lines of: what costs have been incurred since the delay of receiving these generators? The Minister indicated yesterday that there have been some rental costs for some backup generators of some sort. I am expecting that there are others costs. If this company is expected to pay those costs, has the Minister yet determined what those incurred costs are?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: In the brief time since yesterday afternoon, no, I have not ascertained what those costs will be, but I am looking into it.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I would like to ask the Minister: what kind of "validating" does the Power Corporation do? What kind of assessment does it take when it is trying to evaluate suppliers or manufacturers that they use? I ask this question because, clearly, there were two other bidders in this proposal that are on this project that are well-known, larger, reputable Canadian companies. Their bids were very close to each other. I would like to ask the Minister: what kind of criteria do they use to determine what manufacturers they are going to choose to use?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As mentioned previously, Mr. Speaker, the vendor chosen, Viridi, had the lowest bid. It was significantly lower than the next bidder, and it was the best overall score in the evaluations. There was a careful evaluation made of the three admittedly competent bidders. We went with the best bidders. We went with the best bid.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes "significantly lower" will raise a red flag. It has in the past, and that should have been a red flag, quite frankly. Something, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to ask the Minister is: given that there is an obvious delay in getting these generators, given that there appear to be some incurred costs and given that, since there has been significant time that has passed and the Canadian dollar has devalued in that time. Does the Minister believe that it is possible that the all-in cost, once we get these in-house and turnkey, that they will actually end up costing than the next bidder's cost would have been? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, obviously, that is to be determined, but I am not expecting that that would be the case. As mentioned earlier, Viridi, the bidder, the successful bidder, will compensate for the additional costs that I mentioned earlier, so we are still expecting this contract to be well under the other bids.

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

QUESTION 679-18(2):
INUVIALUIT REGIONAL HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a week ago, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation signed an agreement with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation leadership about social housing. I am not questioning the need for the housing dollars, but I have some questions around the details of this arrangement.

I am aware that about a third of the new money will replace units destroyed by fire. Will the rest of the money add to the housing stock in the ISR so that there are more units in total than there are now? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The partnership that we have developed with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is a partnership in that the Housing Corporation provides the land and will take over the ownership of the units for rental purposes, but the IRC is responsible for building the units and determining where they want to go. The current funding, the \$5 million, will be used to replace a six-plex in Inuvik and a four-plex in Tuktoyaktuk that were burned from fire. The \$10 million that is coming next, we

have not negotiated on. Again, it is not the Housing Corporation's prerogative to be able to tell the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation what to do. It will be up to them to decide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister. The Minister and the Housing Corporation have been very diligent about not allowing for an increase in the number of units within the Housing Corporation stock because of the increased operations and maintenance costs that come with extra units, so will the Minister accept extra units if that is what the IRC decides to do with its money?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Member is correct in that, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, we do get funded for 2,400 public housing units. The CMHC funding is going to dissolve in 2038. We are trying to develop a plan to deal with the lack of funding that we will have for operating and maintenance for 2,400 units. So, at this point, we are not looking at increasing our public housing stock, but we are looking at and we're hoping that, with the program renewal, we will be able to transfer some of the current units into more home ownership. That way we can actually increase our public housing availability at the same time. No, this will not be all on the shoulders of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

MS. GREEN: This money provides for IRC beneficiaries, but I am wondering how the Housing Corporation is planning to meet the needs of the other residents of the Beaufort Delta who are waiting for housing, that is, other beneficiaries and other non-Indigenous people?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The deal with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to provide them \$15 million was not a Government of the Northwest Territories decision. It was a federal decision. We had no input into that. The Government of the Northwest Territories was not consulted in that process, so we can't determine what the federal government did with that or where they are going to move in the future.

However, what I can say is that, for the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, we take care of the needs of all residents within the Northwest Territories. So just because the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation struck a special deal with the federal government, that does not mean that we neglected all of the other communities. We are still providing housing support in all communities, to meet all people's needs.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response. My final question is about quality control. Since one entity is doing the building and another is providing for the O and M, what kind of quality control will be exercised over this project and by whom? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to stress that the agreement for the \$15 million is not in consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories. It was done directly with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. They could determine what they wanted to do with the whole funding. We have developed a partnership. Within that partnership, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has agreed to make sure that the buildings are done to code. We have agreement that we will be confirming that, as well. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation does have the capacity. This corporation does have economic development within their organization, and they have been doing buildings. This is not their first project, so I am assuming that their quality of work will remain as it always has been.

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

QUESTION 680-18(2):

GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD RESEARCH FUNDING

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I mentioned in my statement earlier today that the federal government is not living up to the spirit, intent, and letter of the Giant Mine Environmental Agreement by allowing the carryover of unspent funds to build up a research program into a permanent solution to the arsenic. Is the Minister aware of this issue, and what is he doing to address this problem? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of this, and I don't think there is any ill intent on behalf of Canada, I believe, once they realize that they would be contravening a section of the Treasury Board rules to rollover the money. My understanding is they are taking steps to find a solution for this. As we know more, I will share that with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Yes, I am aware that there is provision in the agreement for the federal government to go to the Treasury Board to resolve this on a permanent basis, but there is a way for them to address the issue right now, and that is just simply to increase the contribution agreement for

the next year by the amount that was unspent in the previous year. That would allow for, essentially, a carryover. I guess I would like to know from the Minister what he believes are the next steps that he and his staff will take to get implementation of this key feature of the agreement back on track?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The federal government are the funding contributors to this, and, as such, they make the decision. They try to live within the rules. I take the Member's point, and, at the earliest opportunity, I will convey our concerns to the federal government and see if there are ways, solutions, that they can find to allow the carryover of this money.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the commitment of the Minister. Our government did sign this agreement, as well, so we do have some obligations, and this is certainly in the best interest of Yellowknifers now and into the future. There is some urgency to getting this issue sorted out. April 1st is coming up quickly, so I am just wondering how confident the Minister is that we can get the federal government to live up to this agreement and to ensure that all the appropriate funds are available to invest in the Northwest Territories.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I am confident that I can reach out to the federal government. At the end of the day, the decision is theirs. I could try to see if I can secure a timeline for them, but I can't speak on their behalf. I can only commit to what we can do as a government, is to reach out to them. I commit to the Member that I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the commitment from the Minister on that. We know April 1st is coming up quickly. There is a provision in the agreement for dispute resolution. I am wondering, would the Minister be prepared to recommend that the Giant Mine Oversight Board invoke the dispute resolution process under the environmental agreement if we can't resolve this quickly? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will follow up on that and see what tools we have at our disposal to help find a solution for the funding. I will commit to following up on that.

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

QUESTION 681-18(2):
PROPOSED YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT
IMPROVEMENT FEES

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my colleague the honourable Member for Kam Lake was talking about the user fees and landing fees being proposed by infrastructure, the new potential infrastructure department. They talk about between \$8 and \$10 million going to be potential new revenue. In regards to the \$10 million or this money being proposed to be collected by the new airport fees, how much is this going to be coming from the GNWT's medical travel and GNWT businesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can get back to the Member with the exact details on it, but I can tell him right off the top between medical travel and business and relocation tickets that were out of Yellowknife, it comes to 3.7 per cent of total travel out of Yellowknife. It is roughly over 10,000 flights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his commitment to get back. We are hearing different numbers out there, so it would be really nice to see what the percentage of this is. Mr. Speaker, with a percentage of this money going to the airlines, which we have heard in the news, how long did the department know about this, and why wasn't this part of the information package out to the public as they were promoting this new initiative?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We have known about this all along, that there was a fee charged by the airlines to implement this and a cost associated with them. It is customary right across Canada, as the article said in the newspaper yesterday. I don't believe we have presented it to standing committee or to the public in our presentations, just believing we were focusing on the costs of the airport improvement fee, which was important to get that out there so people know the cost of the southbound and northbound ticket. It was probably our oversight that this part wasn't included in it. That is my explanation on it.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I understand what they were trying to do. I just didn't know this fee existed, and I don't know a lot of people probably did know that. Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member for Kam Lake spoke about the airline collecting these fees and charging administration fees, has the department agreed to a percentage that the government is going to accept the airlines to do it, or is this something that the

airlines actually impose on the government for collecting these fees?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As we move forward, I believe this is something, like I said in the House yesterday, it is something we are keeping a close eye on across the country. If this bill passes in the House, we will definitely get back to committee on what is going on and keep everyone informed on where this process is going.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess I am just a little concerned that we are not being proactive in looking at this at the very beginning. I understand that the department is trying to get these fees implemented, but there are these hidden costs that people are not aware of and that should be looked at. Is the department willing to look at capping this administration fee at 4 per cent, which is a standard administration fee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we were moving forward with this and learning more about the whole process, the airlines have argued that there is a financial burden put upon them by collecting this fee. It has been negotiated across the country to remit the airline improvement fee to them and give them a commission on this moving forward. We are well aware of the situation. It is a balancing act, just like anything, if we are going to impose this on the airlines, that they are reimbursed something that is sustainable for them as well moving forward. I wouldn't say it is a hidden fee. It is part of the \$20 or the \$10 moving south, but that is a fee that is included within that amount, so it is not an additional fee that goes to the customer. We will keep committee informed on that as this moves forward and where we end up on a commission.

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

QUESTION 682-18(2):
UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE
RIGHTS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke on the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People. My questions are to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. In the past the GNWT has played the key role in terms of the national and international levels. I wanted to ask the Minister what ways, in his view, is the GNWT going to continue working to uphold the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to previous questions, I indicated that we were waiting for the Government of Canada to determine how they would approach their endorsement of UNDRIP. As the Member stated, in the United Nations, Minister Bennett indicated that Canada was going to unequivocally endorse the UNDRIP provisions. Subsequent to that, the federal Minister of Justice qualified that statement because we all wondered exactly what the Government of Canada meant. The federal Minister of Justice qualified that to indicate that they endorse the UNDRIP, subject to the Constitution of Canada. That allows us to proceed on that basis. Certainly we will recognize and conduct ourselves accordingly when we work with UNDRIP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: In light of the negotiations that are currently going on, or in terms of some of the outstanding regions that still have to get to the table, the observations from parties has been the land claim policy, which could be perhaps problematic from the parties' perspectives, it depends on what side of the table you are on, but basically the land claims model that the federal Government of Canada is upholding is based on the United States' model, which basically was following the first achievement of a land claim agreement with First Nation people in Alaska then. My question is, in the eyes of the international states, how does the GNWT view a fair and just settlement of land and resource rights for the people in the NWT?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As we have indicated, we have a ministerial special representative that is working on behalf of the federal government and our government to have in-depth review of the process that we have been using to negotiate the land claims. Some of these land claims, negotiations, have been long-standing, as long as 25 years. Our expectation is that the ministerial special representatives will identify or have been tasked with looking at what the major roadblocks and issues are that are preventing us from moving forward and to make some recommendations that will allow us to move forward.

MR. NADLI: Thank you to the Minister for answering the few questions that I had. It is true that the ministerial special reporter has met with all parties and will be more likely tabling the report to the parties, including the GNWT and the federal government. Could the Minister explain just the key steps of the go-forward work plan that he anticipates will follow once the reports have been received by the parties?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The way I see it is both the federal government and ourselves will receive the report from the ministerial special representatives. We expect to have it, we said, by the end of February. I expect that within the next couple of weeks we will have it. I will be meeting with Minister Bennett to determine a path forward, and once we determine the path forward we will take action. My expectation is that at some point we will work with our joint Cabinet and special committee. We will also work with the Aboriginal governments that are involved in the negotiations.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is that it seems that, you know, there is a waiting game at this point in terms of when the reports will be received and then there is a contemplation of the next steps, and it seems very clear that, of course, within the framework of the federal government, including the GNWT or the Northwest Territories, it is almost that we have to wait for the lead of the federal government. One of the points that have been made by the parties is that there has to be a new mandate from the federal government including the GNWT. Is that the case, Mr. Speaker?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our expectation that the Ministerial Special Representatives Report will look at all of the challenges and issues that have prevented us from getting an agreement by now. So if that is part of the problem, I expect the ministerial special representatives will identify it and make some recommendations. Certainly before we went with the ministerial representative, we certainly felt or indicated that perhaps part of the problem was the mandates that we were working with.

So I am looking forward to receiving the report of ministerial special representatives, and I fully expect that they will make some reference to the mandate issues as well.

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

QUESTION 683-18(2):
AKLAVIK MARKET RENTAL UNITS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's statement. I have a few questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister: will the Housing Corporation reclassify the modular units in Aklavik to add to the community's public housing stock and get more people into homes of their own? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the program renewal that we are actually right in the process of doing now, all available housing units within every community are going to be looked at, and if they are not being utilized for the purpose that they were put there, they will be repurposed into a new use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: That is good to hear. The housing survey closed on February 27th. What are the Minister's next steps to take action on what they have learned?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am really excited that the housing survey is now finished, in all honesty. It means that we can get down to work. The department right at this moment, the corporation is compiling all the results and putting them into categories. For example, some are around home ownership, some are around homelessness, et cetera. They are also categorizing it by community. After that process, we will be going through them one by one and looking at, like I say, every program and every policy that we provide and revitalizing them to meet the needs of the community, to meet the needs of residents within the Northwest Territories.

MR. BLAKE: Can the Minister provide a status update on the project that is introducing a singles four-plex into Aklavik?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am sorry. At this moment, I do not know the answer of what the status is on the four-plex. I will have to get back to the MLA on that.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it safe to say that the project is on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As stated before, I do not know exactly what the status is today, so I will have to get back to the MLA on what the status is today.

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

QUESTION 684-18(2):
AGING-IN-PLACE HOUSING PROGRAMS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions today for the Minister of NWT Housing Corporation pertaining to the aging-in-place initiative that is in our mandate. I

would like to ask the Minister if there has been any form of evaluation to determine what the cost savings of aging-in-place would be for the GNWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, no, to my knowledge we have not done an evaluation of exactly what the cost savings are to do aging-in-place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister tell me if there have been any discussions with the possible impacts on the need for a long-term care as a result of the upcoming work that would be anticipated by the Housing Corporation on the aging-in-place project?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is working in close partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services. The goal is to help people to be able to age in place within their communities as long as possible; however, we do recognize that at some point some people do need additional support that they may have to leave their communities and at that point they may have to go into long-term care.

MR. BEAULIEU: Is the Minister of the Housing Corporation able to advise the House if there have been any standards developed for the renovation of the units where we hope the elders would age in place?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation abides by all the standards, building codes, et cetera within Canada. In fact, our standards are actually higher than some provinces and territories. The reality is, though, that each individual is different and so what determines what one person who is aging in their own home needs will not be the same right across the board. So we look at each case on an individual basis to determine what supports they need in there.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if there has been any sort of evaluation on where the first projects will be rolling out on the aging-in-place. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has been working for many years, actually providing supports to seniors, to people so that they can stay in their communities. So the additional \$500,000 that we put into the budget for

this coming year is not a new program. It is new monies that we allocated to it, but we have been working for many years to provide supports to seniors so that they can age in place, putting mobility supports in. We have not done a formal evaluation, but there are a lot of evaluations out there that show that supports for seniors, rails, ramps, et cetera, are good, are really actually quite beneficial to keeping seniors in their homes.

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

QUESTION 685-18(2):
REINSTATEMENT OF AURORA COLLEGE
PROGRAM FUNDING

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Finance Minister's address, he committed to restoring funding to Aurora College to deliver the social work and teacher education programs but made note that there will be no additional intake for these two programs, so I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he can explain how this process is going to work and what the students who were previously impacted by this change can expect now that this financial commitment has come forward from this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As previously noted throughout the course of the dialogue in session, we are going to continue to support the students who are currently in the program, support them through to completion for the years moving ahead. As I mentioned, as the Member mentioned and the Finance Minister, there will be no intakes for the upcoming year until these programs are reviewed and the college is reviewed, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: What of the access program students who were planning on taking this program? Will they still be able to fulfill those goals? We will start with that.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We have two students in the access program for TEP and five who were going into the social work program. The staff at Aurora College has been working with these students to help them look for programs in other institutions, so they have all had a plan in place for their career goals as well as their academic path moving forward.

MR. TESTART: I spoke to some of these students, potentially before that happened, and they were quite upset about not being able to do this education here in the North, or at least start this

education here in the North. Is there any possibility that exceptions can be made for these students to continue on the educational path that they had originally planned to do before this announcement was made?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As we have had this dialogue, Members said that nothing should be done until the strategic view has been in place as well as looking at a foundational review, so we have put everything on hold. We are not going to continue with the intakes. With the decisions that were made, we believe that it was appropriate, working with Aurora College with the reductions in the TEP program and social work program, so we are going to wait until the review is complete before we continue to make any further decisions.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister thought that this was a good idea, but, clearly, there has been a reversal decision there, which I appreciate. Perhaps the Minister can just remind this House and the public: when will the strategic plan be available for review, and can we get a concrete timeline, please, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moving forward with Aurora College, we did send a letter off to standing committee, and we will be giving standing committee more of an update early next week.

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

QUESTION 686-18(2):
PROGRAMS FLOWING FROM HOUSING
SURVEY

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up with my other colleagues here on Housing, my question to the Minister of Housing is on programs or additional programs. Cataloguing the survey is under way, and I suspect it will be followed by a review. On the idea of preservation of capital, is the Minister's office willing to entertain or have a loan guarantee program to high-credit applicants so that they can be eligible to own their own home, considering the life of the CMHC program is one-mortgage term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a bit early to define what exactly the program renewal will look like, because the

survey just closed over a week ago. I do know, however, that we have done mortgage programs in the past and there were some issues with them, so I would have to review what the problems were with the mortgage programs that we provided, to do an analysis. I know that we also will be working towards more of a lease-to-own kind of a model, as well. So, in regard to whether we start to do a guaranteed loan, that would be something I would have to explore to find out why it didn't work in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: I am glad to hear that the Minister is open to suggestions on how to better package and tailor programs offered to the communities. In this case, on the issue of capital preservation, I think it will be an entertaining suggestion to look at loan guarantees to be ironed out in the new strategy.

MR. SPEAKER: That was more of a comment, but I will allow the Minister, if she wishes, to respond.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is looking forward to all of the ideas. We will be reviewing all suggestions that are provided with the survey, in the House, and any other way that we have gotten input, so everything will be reviewed.

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

QUESTION 687-18(2):
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HOMECARE
SERVICES

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today the Finance Minister provided some information to the public and to us in the House about increases to the budget. In one of the lines, it says that we will increase the budget for homecare for \$2.5 million. Through the whole process, we started at \$1.5 million, so can the Minister of Health and Social Services please advise this House what this extra \$1 million amount is going to be allocated for in homecare? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the budget stands today, there is \$7.954 million in the budget for homecare as part of our core services. This \$2.5 million is going to increase that \$7.954 million to \$10.454 million. Mr. Speaker, there is also \$5.358 million that comes from the federal government to provide home and community supports to Indigenous people throughout the Northwest

Territories. It's our understanding that the federal government is considering modifying their formula on how those dollars are distributed throughout the Northwest Territories, not decreasing the amount but modifying their formula, which could result in some of our regions receiving less money for homecare than they currently do as the federal money changes.

We want to make sure that we are working with our communities so that we do not go backwards in services, so some of those dollars are intended to help us make sure that some of our regions do not have reduced homecare services as a result of the potential change in the federal formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. That was good to hear. With this new money, will this money be put out April 1st, and are we ready to go?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: During our decisions with Committee of the Whole, I was very clear that we have a significant amount of work to still do. In fact, we talked about the continuing care plan, which is basically going to include our homecare services. I committed to moving that work along as quickly as I could, and, should we reach a point where we are actually ahead of schedule, I indicated that I would be happy to move forward for a supplementary to start rolling out some of these changes. This addition means, basically, I wouldn't have to come forward for a supplementary.

I do believe there are things we can do right away. One of the things we are doing right away is looking at what baseline home support services are needed by every community in the Northwest Territories. Once that work is done, we can start moving forward. So, there is still some planning to do, but I am confident we will be able to use this money to benefit residents of the Northwest Territories.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate the Minister's answer and look forward to hopefully implementing this. However, as we are talking about the plans, it can be a long process. What will happen if this government does not utilize all of this money? Where does this money go?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As with all program lines, if the dollars are not fully expended, they go back to general revenues.

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

QUESTION 688-18(2):
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HOMECARE
SERVICES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health Minister just talked about what they had to do to roll out the homecare money. It doesn't seem that complicated if you look at the number of homecare workers in the different regions. Can't you throw a couple of hundred thousand or a few hundred thousand to Hay River, and they can hire a couple of homecare workers and continue doing what they are doing? It doesn't seem like there needs to be a plan necessarily. As for a study, they know how many homecare workers are in the region. We can see which regions are understaffed. Is that a possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish it was that simple. The bottom line is there is no consistent application of home support workers across the Northwest Territories. We know what numbers exist today, but there has been no standard set as to what every community should have. That is the work we are doing today. Once we know what a standard is, or a baseline is, then we can fix that by putting physicians in.

As I said in Committee of the Whole, it is not just home support care workers, Mr. Chair. We are looking at a different array of programs, family supports, that could be money that we could float to families to help them support. There are community supports we could put in, which require a new design of position, designing a new position, writing job descriptions, getting those evaluated, and putting them in place.

I am confident that we can move forward and start closing these gaps with these dollars, but it is not something we can do tomorrow. When the continuing care plan is done, I will meet with committee and we can work together to set our priorities for the remainder of this fiscal year and moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I have a general idea of how many homecare workers are in each region. What is the issue with seeing that this region has significantly less per capita than other regions and putting the money in that region and putting out two jobs, let's say, with the job descriptions that have already been created, and hiring two homecare workers? What is wrong with that plan? Is it too simple? Is it not related to an action plan or a framework? What is the problem here?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As we look forward and we determine what the baseline is, what if Hay

River is the baseline? What if that is the appropriate number of physicians? We don't have that answer. Until we have that answer, we don't know that putting physicians in one community over another is actually going to help us meet our needs.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the current plan is about home support workers. That is the way we have provided those services. Maybe it is not. Maybe we should have more homecare nurses. Maybe we should have community support workers. Maybe we should have family support workers. These are questions we don't have answered. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results, we have talked about this, it is like banging your head on a wall. It hurts after a while. It is time to do things right. It is time to do things better. That is what we are prepared to do.

MR. SIMPSON: If Hay River is the baseline, I think you are going to have to fire a bunch of home support workers in the other regions. I am pretty sure that we are understaffed. I will just leave it at this. I know the answer that I am going to get. Will the Minister commit to adding a couple of more home support workers in Hay River with this money?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Moving forward, I commit to providing and ensuring that all communities in the Northwest Territories have adequate homecare supports based on a formula, based on numbers that actually make sense.

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

QUESTION 689-18(2):
BASELINE FOR HOMECARE WORKERS

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question, maybe only one question, for the Minister of Health and Social Services in line with what we are talking about in homecare. I would like to ask the Minister if the Minister knows how many people receive a seniors' fuel subsidy across the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that number in front of me. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: The Minister talks about baseline data. I think that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has done a lot of baseline data in order to determine who is eligible for senior's fuel. Those are homeowners who are seniors who are under a certain income. I think that would be a quick way to determine the baseline. I

would like to ask the Minister if the Minister is prepared to work with the Minister of Education to get that information as a start to developing a baseline of the communities?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Absolutely. We are working closely with our partner departments, both housing and education. There is a lot of data out there. It is a matter of compiling it and putting it together in a useful format so that when we come to committee and say, "this is the baseline," we can defend it and understand it. If it needs to be changed, we are happy to do so. We do need to do the work so that we can make informed, evidence-based decisions in this Assembly.

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

QUESTION 690-18(2):
REINSTATEMENT OF AURORA COLLEGE
PROGRAM FUNDING

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education some questions about the reinstatement of funding for the Teacher Education Program and social work program through Aurora College. I am just trying to figure out how this is actually going to work. Are these complete and total reinstatements of the funding for those programs? I will start with that one, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the funding was always going to be there as we were looking at phasing out the programs over the next two fiscal years, and three fiscal years for the TEP program. That is going to obviously be put on hold until we sit down with committee as well as sit down with our stakeholders at Aurora College to look, as we move forward, at refocusing Aurora College and making sure that they are effective and efficient and meeting the labour market demands as well as the students' needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you to the Minister for that response. We won't actually see a change in the line items in the main estimates in terms of the contribution to be made to Aurora College. Is that what I am hearing?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It will be looked at during the supplementaries that we are going to be bringing in later. That is how it is going to be effected.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. Come September, when students come back for

their program, there will be a whole cohort missing of new students in these two programs. All the teachers will be there ready to go, but they won't have any students. Is that what I am hearing? Why would we reinstate all the funding for the program if we are not taking in new students? Can the Minister explain this?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I have mentioned before, the staff complement is going to be still in place to support the students that are currently in the program. We want to continue to support these students so that they can complete their studies and we can get them graduated as well as become part of teaching in small communities as well as getting our social workers out and working for government as well. We are going to continue to support the students that are currently in the program right now.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. We all want the students who are in the program to be supported. There is going to be a lot less work to do because we are not taking in a new cohort. Is this really a prelude to cutting the programs completely? I just don't understand why we would make this reinstatement and how it is any different than what the Minister had already committed to do. Can the Minister provide some clarification of what is going to happen with the teachers for the program? There are going to be fewer students for them to be working with because we are not taking them in. What will those teachers be doing? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard time and time again about these two programs: rather than cut them, why don't we fix them? I think, moving forward in the direction that we are taking as a government, we are going to sit down with Aurora College and look at the two programs that were in question. We are going to see how we can fix them. We will work with our staff to make sure that we do provide quality education that is efficient and effective for our students, but that is going to come with the review as we move forward. We are going to be working with committee to get their input on the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written question. 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 Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 314-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AGRICULTURAL
STRATEGY - THE BUSINESS OF FOOD: A FOOD
PRODUCTION PLAN 2017-2022

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Northwest Territories Agricultural Strategy - The Business of Food: A Food Production Plan 2017-2022." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

TABLED DOCUMENT 315-18(2):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 316-18(2):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 317-18(2):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2017-2018

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017," "Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017," and "Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2017-2018." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 318-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
577-18(2): PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING
PROGRAM.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 577-18(2): Prescription Drug Monitoring Program." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 319-18(2):
TEXT OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER AND
PREMIERS FROM SMART PROSPERITY
CANADA

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document, a November 23, 2016 letter from participants in the Smart Prosperity Canada Initiative, in which corporate officers of 16 major Canadian firms and organizations called upon the Prime Minister to introduce carbon pricing. Thank you.

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; Committee Report 7-18(2), Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines; Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I 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 continue considering Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018 with the Speaker for the Legislative Assembly. Also, Mr. Chairman, the committee wishes to return to all of the departments that were deferred during our main estimates review. 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 recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 261-18(2): Main Estimates 2017-2018, the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly begins on page 1 of the main estimates document. As always,

I will turn to Mr. Speaker for any opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. These are 2017-2018 Estimates for the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly is seeking out operating expenditures for corporations of \$19,336,000 for 2017-18. This represents a zero per cent change from 2016-2017 Main Estimates. There was a 4.8 per cent decrease from actual expenditures in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Although we are proposing no change in the level of funding for our 2017-18 budget, there are a number of significant initiatives that our Legislative Assembly is planning to undertake.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the Legislative Assembly will establish an independent commission. This is a very important undertaking, as this commission will review Members' benefits and allowances to determine the adequacy and appropriateness of how Members are compensated. It also supports our objectives of transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. We will also be providing funding to some independent offices, such as the Human Rights Commission, so they can continue their important work of representing and advocating for the rights of our citizens.

Additionally, we are injecting high, much-needed funding into improving our communications. It is critical that this Legislative Assembly keep pace with technology in order to effectively reach all peoples of the Northwest Territories, regardless of where they reside or how they connect with the Legislative Assembly. This will require having in-house technical expertise to oversee and manage the various systems that we rely on to communicate, and upgrading or replacing these systems as needed.

In order to go forward with these initiatives in the upcoming fiscal year, we are proposing \$44,000 in reductions, and sunsets of \$550,000 to offset these costs. As I did in the last budget, I can once again assure Members that these estimates support our Legislative Assembly's goals of achieving operational efficiency and limiting expenditures' growth in order to support the fiscal objectives of our government.

In closing, I want to thank all the Members, my colleagues on the Board of Management, and the Assembly staff for the contributions, efforts, and working towards these main estimates, and to continue efficient operations and delivery of quality services for the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chair, this concludes my opening remarks. I am pleased to respond to any questions the Members may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring into the Chamber? Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Mr. Speaker, if would you please introduce your witnesses to the committee.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Masi. To my right, I have Tim Mercer, clerk of the Legislative Assembly. To my left, Darrin Ouellette, director of corporate services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will begin with opening comments. Do we have any general comments from committee? Seeing none, we will proceed to consider the activities before the full department. The first activity can be found on page 9, expenditures on behalf of Members. Do you have comments or questions on this activity found on pages 8 and 9? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Legislative Assembly, expenditures on behalf of Members, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$8,379,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to activity 2 of 5, office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$641,000. This is found on pages 10 to 12. Do you have comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Legislative Assembly, office of the Chief Electoral Officer, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$641,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to office of the clerk, activity 3 of 5. This is on pages 13 to 15. Do you have comments or questions on the office of the clerk? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Legislative Assembly, office of the clerk, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$7,906,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on. Activity 4 of 5. Office of the speaker, found on pages 16 to 18. Does committee have comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Legislative Assembly, office of the speaker, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$350,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Continuing on to the final activity, statutory offices, found on pages 19 to 22. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In her appearance before the Standing Committee on Government Operations, the Information and Privacy Commissioner had requested that her office receive additional funding to fund a deputy commissioner who would eventually take over part of the functions of that office as it is split over two jurisdictions. I am just wondering if that request was seen by the Legislative Assembly and whether it was approved? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this obviously was brought to our attention and, as we were going through our budgeting process, the requests came in and, at this point, we are deferring until probably the next budget process. It is not working, at this point, with the budget. At the same time, we will seriously consider for the next budgeting process. Masi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Testart. Nothing further from Mr. Testart. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this activity: Legislative Assembly, statutory offices, operations expenditures summary, \$2,060,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. If you will turn back to page 5, the departmental total. The Legislative Assembly, total department, \$19,336,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We have concluded consideration of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank the Speaker and his witnesses for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, as we agreed, we will now return to the main estimates and consider the departments that have been deferred. I will turn to the Minister of Finance. Minister McLeod, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber?

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witness to the committee?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me a Mr. David Stewart, who is the deputy minister of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister and welcome to Mr. Stewart. We will now return to the departments that were previously deferred, starting with the Department of Health and Social Services. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. The Department of Health and Social Services begins on page 151. However, we will begin with the community health programs activity before returning to the departmental total. Committee, please turn to page 167. I will call the activity. Department of Health and Social Services, community health programs, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$158,460,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now turn to the departmental total. Please turn to page 155. Department of Health and Social Services, total department, \$423,457,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment beginning of page 189. However, we will begin with the economic diversification and business support activity. Please turn to page 201. I will call the activity. Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, economic diversification and business support, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$17,984,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the minerals and petroleum resources activity on page 206. I will call the activity. Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, minerals and petroleum resources, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$14,712,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now return to the departmental total. Committee, please turn to page 193. Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment,

total department, \$55,511,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now consider the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The department begins on page 23. However, we will begin with the education and culture activity. Please turn to page 34. I will call this activity. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$203,195,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the labour development and standards activity. Please turn to page 44. I will call the activity. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and standards, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$50,247,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now turn to the departmental total on page 27. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, total department, \$314,879,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will proceed the Department of Infrastructure. The department beginning on page 217. However, we will begin with corporate management on page 229. I will call this activity. Department of Infrastructure, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$10,023,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the programs

and services activity. Please turn to page 233. I will call this activity. Department of Infrastructure, programs and services, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$28,420,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the regional operations activity. Please turn to page 239. Department of Infrastructure, regional operations, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$126,995,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will now return to the departmental total. Committee, please turn to page 221. Department of Infrastructure, total department, \$240,419,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the Department of Infrastructure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now turn to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation beginning on page 345. We will begin with finance and infrastructure services activity beginning on page 358. Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, finance and infrastructure services, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$19,432,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. I apologize to the translators for talking a little fast. There is a lot to get through though. We will now continue to the programs and district operations activity on page 361. I will call this activity. Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, programs and districts operations, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$31,707,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now return to the corporation total on page 350, which I will call. Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, total corporation, \$108,586,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will proceed to the Department of Lands on page 285. However, we will begin with the operations activity on page 299, which I will call. Department of Lands, operations, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$9,995,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now return to the departmental total on page 289. Department of Lands, total department, \$26,291,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the Department of Lands?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the Department of Justice. The department begins on page 214. However, we will begin with community justice and policing on page 257. Department of Justice and community policing, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$5,238,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will turn to the departmental total on page 253. Department of Justice, total department, \$123,417,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes the consideration of the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The department begins on page 307. We will begin with the regional operations activity on page 330. I will call this activity. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations, operations

expenditure summary, activity total, \$86,755,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Now, the recreation and youth activity on page 339. I will call this activity. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, sport recreation and youth, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$7,092,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now return to the departmental total on page 311. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, total department, \$106 million. I apologize. I will start over. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, total department, \$106,760,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. On to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources beginning on page 55. We will begin with corporate management activity on page 67. I will call this activity. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$13,829,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the environment activity on page 71. I will call this activity. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, environment, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$3,999,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. On to the water resources activity on page 79. I will call this activity. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$11,802,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will now return to the departmental total on page 59. I will call the department. Department of

Environment and Natural Resources, total department, \$91,517,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will now proceed to the Department of Finance beginning on page 123. However, we will begin with the activity of directorate on page 132. I will call this activity. Department of Finance, directorate, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$84,047,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now return to the departmental total on page 127. I will call this total. Department of Finance, total department, \$235,743,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the Department of Finance?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will now move to the second blue tab in the tabled document. It is titled "Borrowing Plan for the Government Reporting Entity and Established Borrowing Limits for the Government of the Northwest Territories." Total government borrowing, \$660,625,000. Any comments or questions on this? I see none. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of the proposed borrowing plan of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 261-18(2), Main Estimates 2017-2018?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 76-18(2):
CONCURRENCE OF Tabled DOCUMENT 261-
18(2): MAIN ESTIMATES, 2017-2018,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 261-18(2), Main Estimates 2017-2018 now be concluded and that Tabled Document 261-18(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Mr. Chairman, I am requesting a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member has requested a recorded vote. There is a motion on the floor, being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Beaulieu; Ms. Green; Mr. Nadli; Mr. Nakimayak; Mr. Moses; Ms. Cochrane; Mr. Abernethy; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. Schumann; Mr. Sebert; Mr. Blake; Mr. McNeely; Mr. Vanthuyne; and Mr. Testart.

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

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The result of the recorded vote is 15 in favour, two opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

What is the wish of committee now, Mr. Beaulieu?

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair rise and report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. First, I will excuse our witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness from the Chamber. I will rise and report progress.

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

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 261-18(2), Main Estimates 2017-2018. I would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and the consideration of Tabled Document 261-18(2) is concluded, and that the House concur on those estimates, and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have a seconder? Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Thank you.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Monday, March 6, 2017, 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
 - Committee Report 7-18(2), Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines
 - Committee Report 8-18(2), Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
 - Tabled Document 315-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2016-2017
 - Tabled Document 316-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017
 - Tabled Document 317-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 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 Monday, March 6, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:47 p.m.