



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**Day 28**

**18<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, May 24, 2018**

Pages 3911 - 3938

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, May 24, 2018****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

**Metis Elder Tony Whitford:** Let us bow our heads and open our hearts in the presence of our Creator, our God, and ask for guidance for his chosen people, here today, chosen by their people and sent to speak for, and debate, on the best for everyone.

Creator God, grant us the strength of character to act in the honest interests of our northern peoples. Grant us the ability to hear each other's concerns, to assess honestly and decide wisely, the outcome of our labours for the present, and future of our North and all of us.

May we be respectful to each other's opinion and views and respect the dignity of office entrusted to us, and the method, of our unique form of government.

Bless our hearts and minds to right, and our labours to you and your people. Creator God, grant us this humble wish and request. Amen.

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Please be seated. Members, [English translation not provided]. Minister's statements, Premier [English translation not provided.]

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 69-18(3):  
SESSIONAL STATEMENT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Members back for the continuation of the third session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. We have a brief sitting this spring, but some important matters to consider as we continue to work together to build a better future for our territory and its residents.

The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to work hard to create a future full of opportunity and promise for territorial residents. Strategic engagement with the Government of Canada to help advance northern priorities and interests is one of the ways our government can

achieve that. The Government of Canada continues to have important responsibilities to support economic, social, and political development in the Northwest Territories. We know they take this responsibility seriously, and we have been working hard with them to turn their commitment into practical action and investments in our territory.

Continuing to meet with our federal counterparts to promote Northwest Territories priorities and interests is an important part of our successful strategy for engaging Canada. Most recently, I met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with Nunavut Premier Paul Quassa and Yukon Premier Sandy Silver, as part of the Northern Premiers' Forum in Ottawa at the beginning of this month.

I was pleased that Prime Minister Trudeau personally reaffirmed his government's commitment to the Northwest Territories and to working with our government on shared priorities. It was particularly important to hear from the Prime Minister that Canada agrees that the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development issued by our three territories last August will form the basis for the Arctic Policy Framework. Placing sustainable economic development at the heart of federal policy in the North will be critical to creating a better, more prosperous future for residents. It will be critical for Canada to match its policy commitments to our territory with specific investments and funding commitments, and Premiers were encouraged to learn that Canada will be using the Arctic Policy Framework to guide future funding commitments in its upcoming budgets.

Our government's efforts to directly engage the federal government on behalf of the Northwest Territories are starting to pay off. In recent months we have been successful in securing a number of significant funding agreements and investments from Canada.

In March, Ministers Schumann and Cochrane joined Infrastructure Canada Minister Sohi to announce the signing of a 10-year infrastructure agreement that will see \$570 million invested in the Northwest Territories.

In April, Canada announced it is making just over \$94 million available to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut over five years to make Arctic re-

supply operations faster, safer, and more efficient for remote communities under its Oceans Protection Plan.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is looking forward to applying for funding under this program to improve the Mackenzie River and high Arctic marine transportation corridor. This corridor is a critical piece of our northern transportation system, serving some of Canada's northernmost residents, and the new funding will help support economic development in a region increasingly being recognized as an area of opportunity.

Our government is pleased with this recent commitment from federal Minister of Transport Marc Garneau, and also hopes for positive news regarding our applications for funding under the National Trade Corridor Fund for projects that will help advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway. We also look forward to a second call for applications under this fund as an opportunity to advance the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor.

Also in April, Minister Moses and federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jean-Yves Duclos announced a three-year agreement to invest over \$7 million in early learning and childcare in the Northwest Territories. This funding will support delivery of high-quality early learning and childcare; culturally relevant professional development and training for all staff working within licensed early childhood programs; an increase in the number of qualified early childhood development professionals in licensed programs; and access to early learning and childcare opportunities within all communities in the Northwest Territories.

Advancing, finalizing, and implementing land, resources, and self-government agreements is a priority of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and another area where success will create a better future for Northwest Territories residents.

Settlement of land claims in the southern part of the territory is also a priority for our government and will be a critical factor in affirming the rights of Indigenous people in these regions, creating certainty and helping unlock the economic potential of the Northwest Territories to create benefits and opportunities for all residents. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to achieving success at these tables and has worked hard with all parties to identify a path forward on negotiations with the Dehcho First Nations, Northwest Territories Metis Nation, and Akaitcho Dene First Nation.

Last year, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories made innovative new offers to the NWT Metis and the Akaitcho, based on the work of a ministerial special

representative appointed by Minister Bennett and myself.

I am also pleased to advise Members that Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories made a new offer to the Dehcho First Nations on May 3, 2018, in Fort Simpson. As with the new offers to the Akaitcho and Northwest Territories Metis, the offer to the Dehcho was designed to provide them with the flexibility to choose an approach that best reflects their priorities with respect to matters including land quantum, cash, resource management, and land use planning.

We expect that the new offer will be formally considered by the Dehcho First Nations at their annual assembly in Wrigley in July. Our negotiators have done some innovative and forward work with their counterparts from the Government of Canada on this offer. We are hopeful this work will help us get beyond past disagreements and old ways of thinking and result in the settlement of this claim.

We continue to make progress on the government's legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker. During this sitting we expect to introduce several pieces of proposed legislation, including the Northwest Territories' first Ombudsperson Act, a priority for this House and a commitment in the government's mandate. We also expect to introduce An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act. This bill responds to requests from community governments to have the ability to levy a tourism accommodation tax and to pass bylaws that would permit homeowners to fund energy retrofits and energy saving technology upgrades through a local improvement charge.

During this sitting we will table the 2017-2018 annual report on the implementation of the mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. The annual report indicates that, as of March 31, 2018, our government had fulfilled 60 commitments. Another 160 commitments were in progress by that date, with another 10 in the planning stage. Since March 31<sup>st</sup>, 19 additional commitments have been fulfilled, bringing the total number of fulfilled commitments to 79. While some of the commitments are fulfilled by a specific activity or action, a number of the commitments relate to work that is ongoing. As we pass the halfway point of this Assembly, we are confident in saying that we have taken the steps required to implement many of these commitments and will continue to do so on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, since the mandate was adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly near the beginning of our term, our government has been focused on fulfilling our commitments and advancing the priorities of this Legislative Assembly. Between June and October of last year, at the mid-point of our term, all Members contributed to a

comprehensive review of our priorities and the mandate. We had the opportunity to evaluate our progress, consider new information, and reflect on new developments and major events in the Northwest Territories, Canada, and the world. Through this process, we revised the mandate. It now includes 230 commitments to guide our activities through the remainder of this term.

Two significant additions to the mandate will be the subject of discussions during this sitting: conducting a foundational review of Aurora College; and developing and implementing the policy, program, and legislative regimes necessary to support the legalization of cannabis in the Northwest Territories. Both of these initiatives are of great interest to the people of the Northwest Territories and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Indeed, there has been much discussion of cannabis legalization in the media in the past few weeks, as standing committees have done their important work to hear from residents on Bill 6.

We understand that residents are concerned about the potential impact of legal cannabis on their families and communities, and we respect that concern. Legalization was a federal election promise, and the Government of Canada continues to work towards delivering on that promise in the coming weeks. Many jurisdictions, including our own, are working hard to be ready in time for federal legalization, and while it would be nice to have more time to get ready, it does not look like that will be an option.

Our government made a commitment to having effective measures in place to protect the health and safety of Northwest Territories residents when federal legislation comes into effect. We continue to be committed to that goal and are confident that we will be prepared. We do recognize, however, that this is a new area of responsibility for ourselves and the rest of the country, and we will continue to monitor implementation once cannabis has been legalized so that we can identify any areas where we can make improvements and modifications to our plans.

The future of Aurora College has also been the subject of much discussion in recent months, and we expect that discussion will continue during this sitting. As Members are aware, the government has received the report of the consultants hired to conduct the foundational review of the college.

The consultants have delivered a comprehensive report, with many recommendations about how we can move forward to create a vibrant post-secondary institution in the North that is positioned to train Northerners for northern jobs. It is now our job to consider each of those recommendations and use them to determine a path forward for the

college. This is the beginning of a longer process to plan for the future of the college, and we look forward to working with MLAs as we develop them together. Northwest Territories residents deserve an educational institution that is focused on preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow, and the Aurora College foundational review is an opportunity for us to deliver the kind of post-secondary institution they need as a legacy of our work here.

This is a brief sitting, Mr. Speaker, but I expect it will be an active one. As always, we have an important responsibility to work together to create positive change for the people and communities of the Northwest Territories. Our government remains committed to do that work and looks forward to continuing to work towards that goal during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Member's statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING CORE NEED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about the core housing needs across the Northwest Territories. At this time, over two years into this government, there is no territorial-wide housing plan that addresses the core need reduction plan on a community-by-community basis.

Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House many times urging our government to create a housing development plan that is pertinent to each of our 33 communities and is comprehensive enough to identify the exact types of core needs that are most pertinent within each community. A thorough plan can better inform the government on how to address core housing needs in each community.

Mr. Speaker, a housing development plan is needed to cost out each community's housing needs. For example, Mr. Speaker, a family of six may currently be living in a two-bedroom unit; however, their needs warrant a three- or four-bedroom unit. The housing plan would tell us whether to build a new house or add on to the current unit. Mr. Speaker, one solution would cost in excess of \$300,000, while the other could be under \$100,000.

On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, a family may have enough bedrooms, but may need repairs that could range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. In another case, Mr. Speaker, a core need may be affordability, and

perhaps a family could be provided with a monthly subsidy of \$300 to \$1,000 per month, thereby removing that family from core need for just \$3,600 to \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, the housing development plan, or whatever the government chooses to call it, is a plan that would work actively to address core needs of housing on a community-specific basis. According to the NWT Bureau of Statistics Community Survey, in my riding of Tu Nedhe-Willideh, the core needs of total households range from a low of 24.9 per cent in Fort Resolution to a high of 37.2 per cent in Detah.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation must begin discussions with communities and Indigenous governments to address these issues. I believe that the NWT Housing Corporation must begin to fund these governments directly in order to achieve the best results regarding the reduction of core needs within these communities. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce to this Assembly that the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, hosted by Hay River, Fort Smith, and the K'atloodeeche First Nation, were an overwhelming success.

That's not just my opinion. I have heard it from many other residents of the South Slave, from members of the various national and international delegations that attended the games, and from the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, who have seen their fair share of the games.

I'm sure the other MLAs who were able to spend the entire week in the South Slave would also agree with me. Minister Cochrane spent time in both Hay River and Fort Smith, and I know for a fact that she was impressed with what she saw. The Premier also spent the week in Hay River, and every time I saw him, it sure looked like he was having a good time, especially when he capped his week off presenting the gold ulus to both of Team NWT's male hockey teams, one of which included his very own grandson.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the 2018 games redefined the very notion of who can host these games. Essentially, the South Slave was a testing ground, used to determine whether or not smaller communities could host the games. Guess what? It can be done, and can be done in spectacular fashion. However, there is one caveat: if small

communities want to host the games, they need dedicated volunteers, and lots of them.

According to Greg Rowe, the president of the South Slave Host Society, volunteers are the heart and soul the games. Luckily, the South Slave has a big heart. Between Hay River and Fort Smith, there were 1,500 volunteers. Mr. Speaker, that's over 20 per cent of the combined population of both communities. That's absolutely amazing. Some people were only able to pick up a handful of volunteer shifts, but they did what they could. Some people took leave from their jobs and volunteered full-time. Some people worked all day and then volunteered all evening. It was not uncommon to hear about volunteers putting in 10, 12, or 16 hours a day, every day.

Then, Mr. Speaker, there are the people who put in four years. I'm speaking, of course, of the Host Society board of directors. Without their efforts, the games would have never made their way to the South Slave in the first place. For their efforts, the Host Society was presented with the NWT outstanding volunteer award for a group just earlier today, and rightly so.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask this Assembly to join me in thanking all of the volunteers for making the 2018 Arctic Winter Games such a great success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Cabinet released the Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework. What's still missing for a complete package on climate change is a firm proposal and legislative changes for carbon pricing.

Today, I'm calling out Cabinet on its efforts on climate change. I strongly urge the federal government to reject the climate change plan, as it falls far short of any likelihood of successfully reaching the Pan-Canadian Framework obligation of a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by the year 2030. These are strong words, Mr. Speaker, but backed up by the following facts:

- 44 per cent of the greenhouse gas reductions to meet the Pan-Canadian Framework target are to be met with hydroelectric power from huge expansions of the Taltson facilities. No quantification of the GHG reductions is provided. There's no money to build the dams or power lines that will cost billions, and no



confirmed buyers, either north of the lake or in the provinces. The energy strategy is masquerading as an infrastructure proposal for the federal government, characterized by local media as an ultimatum, rather than a serious effort to address climate change and build energy self-sufficiency.

- Most of the greenhouse gas reductions are back-loaded into the available time. Sixty per cent of the reductions were supposed to take place in the last five years.
- Most of the effort is to be directed at electricity production, which is not the major source of greenhouse gas emissions. The 17 per cent GHG reduction target for industry was removed in the final version.
- Lastly, the Auditor General's finding on our failed climate change leadership has not been addressed, as the framework and audit response make no proposals to change our approach. I've called for a Climate Change Act or Cabinet-approved policy, Financial Management Board consideration of climate change implications, and Infrastructure submissions that prioritize projects that show the greatest greenhouse gas reductions.

The residents of the NWT deserve much better on the issue of climate change, reductions to our cost of living through energy self-reliance, while building a greener economy. The federal government should reject Cabinet's approach on climate change and send us back to the drawing board to develop a real plan. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FERRY SERVICE IN MACKENZIE DELTA

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I bring to your attention the Louis Cardinal and Abraham Francis ferries. The Louis Cardinal operates on the Mackenzie River, connecting Tsiigehtchic to the Dempster highway, and the Abraham Francis operates on the Peel River, closer to Fort McPherson.

Mr. Speaker, my home community of Tsiigehtchic is only accessible by winterized roads five months out of the year and by the ferry services another five months during the summer season.

Fort McPherson is connected to the Dempster highway and, during the summer months, it's only accessible by the Abraham Francis and Louis Cardinal ferries. Mr. Speaker, the Peel River ice moved on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The ice has cleared now for

the past week and water levels are receding. The Mackenzie River ice has started moving on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The ice has thinned, and water levels are also receding.

Mr. Speaker, like many of our communities in the Beaufort Delta, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic, price has increased. The cost of living goes up in the fall when the ferry shuts down, and again in the spring when the ice road closes.

Ferry services also connect our communities to central Inuvik, where we have access to the hospital, dental, and other business opportunities. We depend on the ferry and, to date, we have heard nothing about when they will be launched, and operating services may take up to two weeks. Let's not forget the expectations of tourists to our region and bringing in money, enhancing our economy. The Northwest Territories has so much to offer in terms of scenery and excellent tour guides waiting to show off our country.

Mr. Speaker, people in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson have been asking me questions of when the Louis Cardinal and Abraham Francis ferries will start operating. I will have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COST OF LIVING

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when MLAs sat together and developed the mandate, we needed a tool that we could use to serve the people of the NWT, not a document that would get dusty sitting on a shelf somewhere. My job as a Regular Member, as all of us Regular Members, and Members of the House, is to uphold, promote, and protect that mandate.

Among our mandate commitments, we included cost of living as our second priority item. Specifically, we committed that the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will lower the cost of living.

Since then, here is a sample of what residents have felt impacting their cost of living in the two and a half years of this Assembly:

- Seven consecutive years of power rate increases equating to a near 40 per cent increase during that time;
- New airport taxes which increase the cost of everything through air transport;
- Increased land lease fees by up to 300 per cent;

- Increased medical service fees;
- Increased Decho bridge tolls;
- Coming soon, apparently, a land transfer tax; and
- Also coming soon, an NWT carbon tax, and that's on top of Alberta's carbon tax that we already pay on goods and services from the South.

Mr. Speaker, none of these initiatives was identified in the mandate. I was not elected by the people of Yellowknife North to support and promote those initiatives. I was elected to support the commitment we made to lower the cost of living, but so far that commitment seems a distant reality.

I agree that we have to get our fiscal house in order, but that is achieved by smart and disciplined management on a day-to-day basis, Mr. Speaker, not by spending wildly and going on hiring sprees and maxing out the line of credit on one term and then hacking, slashing, and laying workers off in the next term.

Mr. Speaker, our residents are feeling stymied in trying to move ahead in life and are finding it harder and harder to afford living here. They are continuously being penny pinched. The words "savings" and "investing" are lost. People on fixed incomes are at even higher risk from the impacts of the cost of living. Who suffers? We all do. When a family's disposable income begins to deplete, that's the beginning of a slowing economy, one that results in some saying that our territorial economic outlook appears "grim."

Mr. Speaker, the tone has to change. The trends need to start going in the right direction, and the stats must start reflecting positive outcomes. Northerners want to trust that we have their backs and that we are building a future that they can count on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DESTINATION DELINE TRADE MISSION

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, colleagues. I hope everybody had a pleasant spring.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the upcoming NWT Tourism Week, I share the following. As mentioned during the last session on the invitation to attend a trade mission in China on behalf of the Techiq Ltd company, the business arm of the Deline Gotine government.

Mr. Speaker, more specifically, Destination Deline has launched a specific and determined plan to attract Asian tourists to the community on the shores of Great Bear Lake.

It is pertinent to note that the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of ITI provided resources to help facilitate this trip, including eight days in China. Cities included in this itinerary focused on Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Xianje.

Mr. Speaker, Destination Deline's equity position to this community venture includes \$2 million in upgrading additional hotel cabins. Forthcoming would be client hospitality training.

Mr. Speaker, of significant importance and evidence to the trip's success are the community representatives and tour company, Beijing Best Tour Company Ltd., signing a cooperation agreement in the efforts of tailored packages.

Mr. Speaker, the Beijing Best Tour Company is organizing a trip to Deline later this summer. This contingent will include some 25 travel agents. This is a tremendous opportunity for both groups, and particularly Deline, to contribute additional NWT destinations while sharing the unique community, northern culture, and pristine environment.

Mr. Speaker, overall the trip was deemed an overwhelming success, and new awareness has been garnered. I wish to thank Techiq and the Deline Gotine Government leadership. Later, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions to the Minister of ITI. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF ULUKHAKTOK HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize three high school graduates from Helen Kalvak school in Ulukhaktok.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jacob Klengenber is graduating this year with full academic grade 12 and is accepted into a two-year Social Work Diploma at Nova Scotia Community College.

Mr. Speaker, Jacob is a role model to his peers. While earning an academic education, he still ensured that he maintained his cultural hunting, fishing, and travelling practices. During his years at Helen Kalvak school, he participated in many sports and activities, including judo, boxing, biathlon, and student council. He has been the lead youth volunteer for many years and has been willing to

freely give of himself to help on school fundraisers, activities for younger students, and to help elders around the community.

Mr. Speaker, Matt Chloe Kanayok is graduating this year with full academic grade 12 and is accepted into a four-year Bachelor of Arts, planning on majoring in Psychology at Vancouver Island University. He is also the valedictorian for this year's graduation class.

Mr. Speaker, Matt has been a strong advocate for youth at Helen Kalvak school during his high school career. During his time, he took on the role of the president in the student council, and then immediately took over the planning and implementation of school dances, movie nights, an after-school art club, and the creation of the GSA. Matt is a genuine person, who wants nothing more than to help, and has been one of our most dedicated volunteers over the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, finally, Ms. Nadine Kuneluk is graduating this year with a full academic grade 12 diploma, but has not yet decided on her career path to follow. Mr. Speaker, Nadine is a joy to be around and enjoys nothing more than helping, spreading her optimism, and working with younger students. During her high school years, she was very active in the student council, assisting in the planning and supervising of every program that was offered. Nadine volunteered in almost all school activities and is dedicated to her fellow students.

Mr. Speaker, all three students are shining examples of true volunteerism. They gave up much of their time to ensure that their fellow students had activities and a safe space to spend their time. Without these students, the school's arctic espresso cafe would not have run. The student council would have not grown to where it is, and the GSA would not have been formed.

I cannot not say enough about these students, as they have been an amazing example of selflessness, wonderful role models, and respected by their peers and community members alike. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN WISDOM TO  
ACTION, YOUTH-LED SUICIDE PREVENTION  
PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 students from TSS, accompanied by two chaperones, travelled to Vancouver to attend the Wisdom to Action, Youth-Led Suicide Prevention Programs conference that

was held at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre on East Hastings Street. Conference organizers and contributors included the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Dalhousie University, the Embrace Life Council of Nunavut, and the Canadian Red Cross.

The conference was held over two days, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and many topics relevant to our youth and community were presented and discussed. The organizers recognize that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people in Canada, accounting for 24 per cent of all deaths. Unfortunately, young people living in communities with higher rates of suicide, such as ours, are more vulnerable.

Youth play an important role in suicide prevention in Canada. They know the pathways to wellness and life enhancement. They can lead programs in their communities that support other young people. They can provide important peer support, formal and informal, and they are advocates for themselves and their communities.

Key presenters were elders who spoke, sang, and drummed, and others who presented youth leadership organizations, such as Jack.org and the Canadian Red Cross. The youth were fully engaged, and here are two quotes I would like to share:

"I learned new things and became aware that suicide comes from a lot of different reasons and difficulties. They can be family matters, school, relationships, work, mental health, et cetera, and to avoid and hopefully stop suicide, we talked in the conference about starting working with families. We also talked about activities to keep the youth occupied and make themselves feel their importance. All in all, the solution is making our environment a happy and healthy community, and, going back to our respective towns, I am hoping and looking forward to becoming a better leader and bringing back the wisdom and knowledge that I gained from the whole conference."

The second quote: "The experience of a field trip to actually get out of the community and learn from another culture was awesome, not just how to prevent suicide, but also have people bring other teachings. Elders spoke of circles, saying, 'Our circles bring us balance by understanding the balance between the spiritual and physical worlds,' and talked about meditation and prayer, finding and doing what we like to do to keep our mental state balanced, and finding out about ourselves for mental and emotional steadiness."

Mr. Speaker, moving forward, the students, with the help of the LKFN Wellness team, hope to create a youth leadership group that will provide support for

peers and mentor young people. Attending this conference has helped us inform students that their mental health can be discussed openly and that there are many other organizations, professionals, and caring adults who are equipped to help youth build, sustain, and enhance their mental health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MINISTERIAL MANDATE PRIORITIES

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while we were away from the House, the Premier shuffled Cabinet portfolios. When the music stopped, the honourable Alfred Moses was sitting on the chairs which gave him responsibility for Housing and Homelessness. These are the portfolios of primary interest to my constituents in Yellowknife Centre.

The Premier's mandate letter to the Minister repeats his letter to the previous Minister. It is as if the last two years didn't happen. There is no indication of priorities, just a long list of objectives, and no direction to continue with the changes started by the previous Minister. Since this letter is inadequate, I am now going to provide a summary of the mandate letter I would have written.

First, residents of Yellowknife Centre continue to experience a high level of homelessness. Families are often the invisible homeless, but they are especially hard-hit. I have constituents, a working family of six, who, for the last three years, have been living in a bachelor apartment and who are waiting for suitable housing. The waiting list for transitional housing for families at the YWCA and public housing is both in the hundreds. Federal funding administered by the city for the YWCA Housing First program for families has recently ended.

Mr. Speaker, families are facing a housing crisis, and addressing this crisis must be the Minister's top priority. Where is the mandate requirement to wrestle every possible new dollar from Ottawa's National Housing Strategy?

Second, my riding has a large population of elders. Those who are looking for affordable places to live in their retirement have few choices, and some are deferring retirement while they wait for something to open up. The waiting list for the independent units at Avens is six years long. The situation at Northern United Place is also gridlock. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Housing Corporation is going to build more units for seniors, but I can tell you now it won't be enough to meet these increasing demands.

Third, my riding has a large number of rental units. The cost of rent is unaffordable, meaning it consumes more than 30 per cent of the family's budget. The last community survey revealed that a total of 800 families in Yellowknife are in core need because their housing is unaffordable.

Mr. Speaker, high rents drive people out of Yellowknife and out of the territory at a time when we want more people to live here. The Minister must find effective ways to help working families afford a decent place to live. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CREATION OF A YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We begin our legislative sitting on the heels of the Northwest Territories' 16<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament.

It was a real honour to serve as a Page for our young leaders, and I am more impressed than ever seeing the next generation of Northerners hard at work in this great Chamber. I was particularly impressed with my counterpart, the youth representative for Kam Lake, Aafreen Khan.

Ms. Khan is a young, bilingual Muslim woman and is the embodiment of what a diverse and progressive NWT will look like in the future. Youth Parliaments are great forums that give the leaders of today an opportunity to hear the issues that matter most to the leaders of tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, Youth Parliament comes once every two years. Imagine how much more we could learn from young Northerners if this government creates its own youth advisory council.

It is not a new idea; far from it, as youth councils have been established through the Canada and the world. For example, the Prime Minister's Youth Council was formed in 2016 and is served by a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues important to them and to all Canadians.

Youth Council members meet both online and in person several times a year to discuss issues that matter to their peers, to their communities, and to their country. They work together outside of meetings to discuss ideas, engage with local and national organizations, meet with decision-makers like Cabinet Ministers, and attend public events.

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the kind of engagement that helps lawmakers and governments make good decisions for our people, and the Prime Minister isn't alone in his efforts to open up dialogue with

young people on a regular basis. In Ontario, the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities is a 25-member group of young professionals and leaders, ages 16 to 25, who give advice to the Premier and the Minister of Children and Youth.

During the last budget talks in Ontario, the council weighed in on project proposals, and out of 126 projects reviewed, 33 were recommended by the youth council to Ontario's Minister of Finance. This is a clear example of the positive outcomes of engaging with young people through a youth council.

Mr. Speaker, the governments of Canada, Ontario, and Newfoundland have all implemented youth advisory councils. Northerners know that this government should prioritize engaging all citizens in all of our communities, including and especially young Northerners. We can do so much more to ensure their voices and ideas are brought into our decision-making and into how this government works.

Mr. Speaker, politicians are fond of saying "the children are our future," but I say it is time that we make young people a part of today and give young Northerners the voice they deserve through their own youth advisory council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EDUCATION UPGRADING THROUGH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended a special high school graduation on the Hay River Reserve. Verna Buggins, Clifford Fabian, Chantelle Lafleur, and Ashley Dawn Leblanc graduated with high school equivalencies on May 18, 2018, with their families and local leaders in attendance. I want to once again congratulate them on their achievement.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, graduating rates are very low on the Hay River Reserve. Most students leave the reserve to attend high school in the town of Hay River, making this high school graduation of full graduates a special one.

Mr. Speaker, the students took online learning through Northern Lakes College Alberta, upgrading and transferred their credits to the NWT. The students studied at the Elder Daniel Sonfrere Learning Centre with their teacher, Liz Pope, and worked toward fulfilling their credit requirements to

graduate from high school. Two of them met their high school credits: Clifford Fabian and Ashley Dawn Leblanc. Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also congratulate their teacher, Liz Pope, at the Elder Daniel Sonfrere Community Learning Centre, and to the people of Aurora College Fort Smith who make community learning centres functional and successful. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members, I would like to turn your attention to visitors in the gallery. We have with us the mayor of Yellowknife, His Worship Mark Heyck. Thank you for being here with us.

Colleagues, allow me to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery, as well, of Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford. As many of you know, Mr. Whitford has many roles; former Commissioner, former Speaker, former Minister, former Member, former Sergeant-at-Arms, honorary clerk at the table, and Member of the Order of the Northwest Territories. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Whitford to the House this afternoon. It's always a pleasure having you here in the House. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a couple of people who are incredibly important to me. First, I would like to recognize my parents, J.R. and Loretta Abernethy, who are proud new grandparents. I would also like to recognize my amazing wife, Carolyn Smith. For the first time ever, I am incredibly proud to introduce my baby boy, John Russell Smith Abernethy, who has been with us for 30 days, 14 hours, 3 minutes, and 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 seconds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize and add to the list of accolades and welcome Mr. Tony Whitford as a Yellowknife North resident. I would also like to recognize another Yellowknife North resident, Senior Administrative Officer for the City of Yellowknife Sheila Bassi-Kellett, and, of course, recognize, as I always do, my former city council colleague and the mayor of the City of Yellowknife, Mayor Mark Heyck. Thank you, and welcome.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Mark Heyck is my constituent, and he has served the city with a long and distinguished career as a city councillor and as a mayor. This may be one of his last appearances here in that role, and so I would like to thank him for the length and the integrity of his public service. Mahsi.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Kevin Smith, Deputy Mayor of Fort Smith and recently very active in the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of our Pages today. She is from Range Lake, Ms. Makayla Lane. Welcome. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to recognize Mayor Mark Heyck. I had the pleasure and honour to serve with him on city council on my last term and, I believe, his first, so there was some overlap. I want to thank him for his years of service to people in this community. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to be one of the only Yellowknife Members who does not recognize His Worship, Mayor Mark Heyck. I would like to thank him for his service, as well. He has made an incredible contribution to our community. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Nahendeh.

### Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 3-18(3):  
JOHN AND SHARON HERRING, RECIPIENTS OF  
SENATE SESQUICENTENNIAL MEDAL

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. I would like to inform the house that John and Sharon Herring received the Senate Sesquicentennial Medal on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from former Senator Nick Sibbeston. It is a very proud moment when residents of the NWT are recognized for outstanding work. The medal is awarded to residents actively involved in their communities

who, through generosity, dedication, volunteerism, and hard work, make their community a better place to live. Without a doubt, these two encompass all of those qualities. Their accomplishments are appreciated and are important to the continued growth of Fort Simpson. It is an honour and a privilege to recognize them here today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 280-18(3):  
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure, and it's on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. Mr. Speaker, recently the department closed the road due to soft and rutted areas that could be a risk to the travelling public and to prevent further damage to the highway. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is: why did the Department of Infrastructure open an unfinished road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway was deemed substantially completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November of last year, and over the winter we experienced an average daily traffic count of 60 to 70 vehicles per day throughout the whole season without any issues. The work that is being performed and carried out on the highway this summer and fall is the contract work that has to be completed under the terms and conditions of the contract to correct all deficiencies noted during the final inspection of the highway. That was when we did that, last year, so this work is expected to be completed by the fall of this year.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I understand, you know, construction of a gravel road on permafrost sometimes requires some time to settle before it dries up, and I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, my question is: how many days of additional road access did the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk gain with the opening of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Based on a 20-year average of opening and closing of the Inuvik winter road, we gained 45 days of access to the community of Tuktoyaktuk this year, with the winter road opening in November of last year to May 12<sup>th</sup> of this year. As all Members know, this has been a concern in the media lately, but one thing that people have to know is that this road is still

under construction and we are working on it. The other thing that I always like to make very prevalent about this whole thing is that this highway was constructed in one of the harshest environments in Canada, and our contractors did a heck of a job in building this road, and we believe it will open to the general public here very soon.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, I am just going to get right to it here. My next question for the Minister is: what are we doing to make sure this does not happen next year?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I said, the contractors have some deficiencies and some works to finish up on the terms of their contract going forward. We have some gravel to lay down, some packing to be completed; there are a number of things to be done around bridges, rip-wrap and painting and such, so these things are going to be completed this year, as I said, in the fall of this year.

There are some lessons learned already to be taken from the season that we just had it open. With the different amounts of snow where it has accumulated along the embankments, we have already recognized the fact that we need to put up some snow fencing in certain areas of the highway to help mitigate that. I think one of the other concerns that we want to address in the next coming season is certain sections of the highway where the accumulation is so big that grading is not going to be sufficient, and we have to look at snow-blowing this stuff further away, similar to what we do on the Dempster. We will be looking at different additives, as well, I think, to help with the gravel and how to shed water off the highway, and we will continue to look at improvements to make sure we keep this thing open as long as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good for the general public to know, and I appreciate the work the department is doing. I know how challenging it is, as being an employee of that maybe five years, four years ago.

Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister: what work remains, and will there be further closures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I've said, there is a full layer of gravel and it needs to be laid down on some sections, and compacting that needs to be done this year. Some of this work wasn't done in the fall of last year due to the early cold temperatures, when that type of work can't be performed. There will be additional signage that needs to be installed around there, shaping of

embankments in different places along the highway system, and deficiencies and final inspection, and like I said, some work around the bridges and culverts that needs to be finished up.

People have to realize that this is a new highway. We are working very hard to get this thing open. As the other Member from the BeauDel has mentioned, you know, this is going to be important to tourism going forward, and the department is working very hard along with our contractors to make sure we get this thing in shape and that it's safe to the open public to use. We'll continue to work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 281-18(3):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES YOUTH ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke in my statement earlier about the need for a youth advisory council to give young people in the Northwest Territories a voice in the government decision-making and to advise government of policy issues. I have brought this issue before the House before, but today I would like to ask the Premier, as most of these youth councils are creations of First Ministers, if the Premier has made any progress with his government on developing a youth advisory council for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to redirect the question to the Minister responsible for Youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for Youth.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree that the Youth Parliament is an exciting opportunity for young people to become engaged and involved in politics. I think we had a really good opportunity to see that during the most recent Youth Parliament.

Beyond the Youth Parliament, I don't think that there has been any action taken to establish a year-round youth council in this government or previous governments. As the Minister responsible for Youth, I will be happy to receive any recommendations from the Member, or committee, or any Member of the Legislative Assembly on how we can address getting something like this started up. I do know that, in the past, for youth portfolios, we have provided support for such things as youth conferences, youth events. Through MACA, we

have the Youth Corps program as well as youth ambassador training programs, but currently there is really nothing in terms of work that has been done around a youth council, but I'm more than willing to take recommendations and suggestions from Members of this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** I'll ask this Minister if he recalls when he made a commitment on the floor of the House to look into this issue and work on a proposal or some sort of policy development for establishing a youth council. That is a commitment he made on the floor. Does he recall that and is he working on that?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I do recall making that commitment. Work to date, there hasn't been much work done on it. I will have to bring it to the Committees at Cabinet to look forward, but any other suggestions that the Member or standing committee can provide us in terms of what we should be doing, we would really appreciate that. We are obviously all working together to address some of these issues. I welcome any suggestions from the Members moving forward. I will bring that to Committee of Cabinet to look at how we can move forward on that.

**MR. TESTART:** Can the Minister responsible for Youth advise on why there have been delays in moving this along? He made a commitment in the last sitting of the House, which was several months ago. What are the factors that have contributed to the delay of developing a policy proposal for establishing a youth council in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As the Member notes, we do have a very big mandate to address and work on and we have made that commitment as the government to get those mandate commitments done. I know that the Government of Canada has worked on a youth council, and that's something new that they have addressed this year. We are working on a mandate commitments as well as the general business of government, so it's when we are giving new direction on something like a youth council or policy. I mean, our priorities are making sure that we focus on our mandate commitments that we made at the beginning of this 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister asked for suggestions. I mean, I'm not sure I have much more to suggest other than a youth advisory council. You know, Youth Parliament is a model parliament. It's not an advisory body. Youth Corps, all these volunteer activities, they're about

engagement and getting people involved. Can the Minister commit to directing his staff to working with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, which he is, to direct his staff, now that he's got them, in his department to prioritize this work? Because my understanding is there are three full-time people in his department who work on youth issues. Can they start putting something together? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** First and foremost, I just want to thank my staff within MACA for the work that they do. They do have a very extensive work to do with all of our communities throughout the Northwest Territories, as well as youth and volunteers who we do work with. You know, I don't want to say that we are not fully resourced, but I want to make sure that the work that we set out in our mandate and the work that we do with our community governments and hamlets, that work gets done, because those are essential services that we provide to residents of the Northwest Territories. To take them away from that kind of work around essential services and some of our youth programs and development programs to start focusing on a youth council, I think we need to look at our priorities when it does come to essential services throughout the Northwest Territories. I will be working and chatting with them and continuing to support the youth programs that we currently have in place. As I mentioned, I want to make sure that my staff focus on the work that is needed for the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 282-18(3):  
HOUSING CORE NEED PLAN

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke of the core needs for housing for the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation if there will be a plan to reduce core need presented to the Assembly in the near future. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the NWT Housing Corporation did seek feedback from the residents and our stakeholders through our housing engagement survey. We did hear from our residents on what is needed in all of our communities. Further, specific actions to address core needs were detailed in the Towards Level Ground publication, which also includes costs by initiative. This government is committed to



decreasing core need by 250 households per year, and each initiative developed under the Strategic Renewal of the NWT Housing Corporation is intended to address the core need.

Some of these initiatives do include seniors aging in place retrofits, our rental supplement program that we have with non-government organizations, community housing support initiatives, a housing support worker pilot, developing community plans with all of our 33 communities across the Northwest Territories, as well as new home ownership programs that we are working on. We are working with our Indigenous governments, with partners to address the core housing need in our communities, and I think that is something that has really taken off during this government, and working with our Indigenous governments and community governments to address this. I will be willing to give more of an update to standing committee and Members and some more detailed programs as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I would like to thank the Minister for that response. We are not seeing the actual work on the ground. Unfortunately, that's a lot of good planning, but no action.

Mr. Speaker, when is the NWT Housing Corporation planning to update a comprehensive needs survey? From 2017 to 2018, in the Northwest Territories, there were 1,200 jobs lost, so I'm assuming that that has some impact on the affordability of housing in the Northwest Territories, so I think it's urgent that we do something instead of staying with the 2014 needs survey, that we do something that is current today. So I'd like to ask the Minister when that is going to happen.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I do look forward to working with committee, as well as our stakeholders, on addressing the core housing needs throughout the Northwest Territory. The next NWT community survey will commence in January 2019, and as I mentioned, if the Member does have any specific communities or is saying that work is not being done in some of the communities, if he can let me know a little bit more of the specifics, we can look at addressing it. Like I said, I will give a more detailed presentation to committee, or to Members if they would like, upon their request.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I can provide that information that the Minister is asking for. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister what the target is for core need? Across the country, the core needs levels are at about 12 per cent. We in the Northwest Territories always sit at about 20 per cent, so after years and years of putting \$100 million a year into housing, we're still at 20 per cent across the territory, and we haven't moved from there. I don't know, maybe we've gone up, maybe we've gone down, I don't

know what has happened since 2014; there is no new survey to indicate that. So I'd like to ask the Minister: assuming that we're working off the 2014 numbers, of 19.8 per cent core need across the territory, what is the target for when you reduce core need by 250 units per year? What is the new target number after that work is done?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned earlier, we are committed, this government is committed to decreasing core need by 250 households per year. We have various initiatives that we are doing to address the core needs, whether it's home ownership repairs, new unit constructions, looking at seniors' housing, we're doing a senior housing study as well, but it really takes a really strong partnership with some of our stakeholders, as well as some of our community governments, Indigenous governments, to address this, and also work that we've been doing with the federal government.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear the Minister speak about work with the community governments. I'd like to ask the Minister if there is a plan to directly fund the Aboriginal governments, or community governments, in order to address core need housing in the communities? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, one of the ways we're doing this is through the community housing support initiatives. We do have some really good partnerships with some of our Indigenous governments currently, and we're going to continue to work with them, but we're open to working with community governments as well as Indigenous governments, to see how we can work together to address some of the housing needs that we see in our communities. We are committed, we are willing to meet with our Indigenous governments moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 283-18(3):  
TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON AND LEASE  
RATES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 22<sup>nd</sup> I got a Christmas present, a little early or it might have been a little bit late, from the Department of Lands. This is a press secretary release saying that there was going to be a media announcement about the leases in there, so this has been a gift that's been given to me ever since then, and I keep on getting questions from my leadership and members in the communities. So this is my question to the Minister of Lands: can the

Minister please advise why the media offer was offered to them after our winter session, and not during the winter session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Lands.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new leases' amounts, of course, came into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the media was briefed on the changes we were making the week prior to that. These changes had been discussed in the business plans during the winter session, and the media announcement went forward as part of a formal notification to the residents of the Northwest Territories of the changes. Letters were also sent out to each of the lessees on March 19, 2018. The press, the media had been aware of these changes; I see a story as long ago as February 2017, when these very changes were discussed. So really it was an update to that information. Thank you.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. I understand, you know, he made a commitment and talked about us in standing committee in 2017, but why wasn't this information given to us saying this was going to happen April 1<sup>st</sup>? We didn't hear anything about it, and I attended a number of the meetings. I may have missed the meeting, so why weren't we informed of this happening? Because, again, it's a Christmas gift. Not one I wanted, but it's a Christmas gift from the Minister. So will he please explain why it took him until after we had the session?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** A letter was sent to standing committee in August of 2016, indicating that we were thinking about changing these fees that had been in effect for a very long period of time. The changes were proposed in the 2016-2017 business plans, and discussed with committee, and also discussed during the Lands mains estimates in February 2017, in accordance with our established protocols. In July 2017 we informed SCOPP that the consultation period had closed, and that we were proceeding with amending regulations, and that the pre-gazette period was about to start. The period was for 90 days, and ended on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This was the official period when interested stakeholders could make representations to the Minister to change course. On March 17, 2018, I sent an email to all Members providing information on the fee increases. So these increased should not have come as a surprise to the public, or the Members opposite.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for the long answer, and well-detailed, and I appreciate that. I guess I might have missed that email, but again, I guess I love way we say, well, we sent a letter, and that's consulting people. How did we engage the residents of the Northwest Territories who were

impacted by this decision? Because NWT Lands has a huge impact on, not only in the small communities that I represent, but their cabins. So how did you engage the people of the Northwest Territories?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** As I mentioned earlier, there was a consultation period that closed on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and, of course, this matter was before the public. As I mentioned, it was in the media, it was discussed in the House, so people were certainly aware of these changes that were coming. So I think there was sufficient consultation with the public on this issue. We certainly did hear from Members opposite, and I'm sure Members opposite will recall that we did make amendments to certain of the proposed amendments, in the sense that we lowered from 10 to 5 per cent of the assessed value of certain residential properties, which was a concern of the Members opposite, particularly the Member from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I must apologize to the House because maybe I'm not getting my question across properly. I'm not talking about Commissioner's land. We understand that. I actually proposed a 3 per cent reduction. He came back and, you know, he was actually saying it was good at 10 per cent, and then he came back to 5 per cent. You know, I'm still baffled by this, so will the Minister look at this again and actually consult and engage people properly? Not letters, not using the public, and not using us, but getting out there and talking to the people who are impacted by this decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Lands.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** While I may have said that the 10 per cent rate was good, the 5 per cent was even better. We certainly did listen to the Members opposite as they raised concerns. I think there was an extensive period of consultation. As I say, this issue was certainly before the public in the sense that it had been reported in the House and raised many times, quite properly, by the Members opposite, so I think the proper consultation was done and that the changes we have made were and are reasonable. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 284-18(3):  
COST OF LIVING

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Finance. I spoke earlier today in my Member's

statement sharing some concerns about the cost of living and, Mr. Speaker, some reports are actually suggesting that the NWT's best years are in fact behind us, and that is concerning. Real GDP will fall by 2.9 per cent this year and is projected to fall by a rate of 1.1 per cent for the next 20 years. The Minister of Finance certainly has to be aware of these figures. I would like to ask the Minister: what does the Department of Finance make of these projections, and what kind of plan, if there is a plan, does the Minister and the department have to reverse these trends, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Finance.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our best years are behind us, not the NWT's.

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I would have to disagree with any report that suggests that the best years are behind us. We are aware of these projections and other scenarios. That is why we were working hard to manage our fiscal resources. As Members of this Assembly may recall, right at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we were challenged with a \$34 million decrease in our territorial-formula financing, and then, just last year with our corporate taxes, there was a further decrease, so I think we have done well in trying to manage our fiscal resources to ensure that we meet some of these challenges that are coming before us. We are working on developing a number of opportunities, like commercial fishing and agriculture and the manufacturing sectors, to continue to support economic diversification in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I am happy to hear that the Minister has a degree of optimism and a degree of confidence. That is good to hear. We want to hear that from the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, the number of seniors in the NWT is set to triple by the year 2040. This aging population will lead to rapidly increased healthcare costs. I would like to ask the Minister: if our economy is not on the upward trend and continues to show signs of being flat and we cannot seem to find ways to increase our own-sourced revenues through royalties or otherwise, how will the Minister expect to cover these increased costs as a government?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We were elected by the people of the Northwest Territories to make decisions, and sometimes hard decisions have to be made. We have to remain optimistic in all that we do, even with challenges before us, because, if they see 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly going around saying, "Oh, woe is me," and head for the border, then that does not send a very good message. Our opportunity here is to send a

message that, as the Member said before, or one of the Members said, "let residents of the Northwest Territories know that we have their backs." I am trying to send that message, and we will do anything we can, with the support of this Assembly, to ensure that we are in a position to continue to invest.

We know we are being challenged with an aging population. A lot of our money comes from the territorial formula financing, and so we have to ensure we continue to work with the federal government to make sure our needs are met. At the same time, I have said before, we want to diversify our economy because we do not want to become a welfare state. We want to be able to generate our own revenue.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Minister once again. I appreciate that he is sending a positive message. He knows that, on occasion, I try to do that, but I do not put lipstick on the message. I happen to be a realist and, when people write me, constituents write me to tell me that they are leaving the territory because the cost are increasing, are going up and up, and we the government happen to be one of the major impactors of the costs of living in the territory, that is troubling, so I am just trying to get a better understanding of where our future is.

Mr. Speaker, the government set a goal of attracting a couple of thousand people to the NWT in the last Assembly. New reports are indicating that, with the decline in the GDP, out-migration will cause the labour force to shrink. I would like to ask the Minister: is the original plan for population growth still valid and feasible, or do we require a new strategy?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Some of the early numbers show that our population has actually increased a bit the last couple of years; very small, but it has increased. Yes, there are going to be people who leave. If there are no economic opportunities for them, people will leave and go to where the jobs are, as they should.

Our challenge here is to promote the NWT as a positive place to invest and spend your money, and the rest of it will take care of itself. I do not think we need a strategy to tell us what we already know. I think we just have to ensure that we continue to promote the Northwest Territories as a place to invest and live and prosper. Our ITI Minister and our Premier have been out promoting the Northwest Territories for a number of years, and will continue to do that.

I think, as far as the out-migration goes, if people are going to start making investments in the territories, if it's feasible, then they will come back to

the Northwest Territories. So we continue to work on that, and we promote the Northwest Territories as a place to invest. We have world-class resources here, and we have people trying to mine those resources or take advantage of the resources, and we will continue to promote that and have people move back to the Northwest Territories.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to remain confident that the Minister's words are actually something that we can take as being put to action and be hopeful about, because a number of committee members or a number of Members from this side have spent the last few weeks travelling to a number of communities up and down the Northwest Territories, and there is still a lot of concern about out-migration. I am not just talking about the NWT. I am also talking about small communities that lose people to bigger regions and bigger centres in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has stated that we need to use the first two years of this Assembly to get our fiscal house in order, and I appreciate that, and that we could make investments in the latter two years of this Assembly. We only have 16 months left in this term. Is the Minister confident that this government is in a position to make meaningful investments in the remainder of the life of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It was made clear in the budget we have experienced some unanticipated revenue decline. To the Member's point, though, I am confident. I have to be. If your Finance Minister is not confident in the fiscal future of the Northwest Territories, he may as well fold up his iPad and go home, so I remain confident.

We are challenged. We are in a position, as the Member has said, as I pointed out our declining revenues over the last couple of years, because of the decisions we made in the Legislative Assembly, I think we were able to manage our way through that. Going forward, it was just recently announced a \$570 million investment in infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. That is just the federal government's investment. We have put ourselves in a position where we were able to come up with our 25 cents on the dollar of an initial \$142 million, so that gives us \$712.5 million just in infrastructure investment, not counting all of the other programs that the federal government has invested in in the Northwest Territories.

Again, government should not be the industry. Government should be promoting industry to invest

in the North, not just industry, everyone to invest in the Northwest Territories as a place to work and live, and the rest will take care of itself. I am confident. I have to be, and I think the decisions we have made, as tough as some of them were, I think we will manage to work our way through the challenges that come before us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 285-18(3):  
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure, who also chairs the Cabinet Committee on Energy and Climate Change. In my Member's statement, I noted how Cabinet's approach to meeting our climate change obligations under the Pan-Canadian Framework has little or no hope for success. Can the Minister provide any justification for how the expansion of the Taltson system will lead to the predicted 44 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, when there is no funding for the project and no buyers for that power? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 227-kilotonne reduction anticipated from the Taltson expansion is the premise of hydro generation and transmission lines to displace any diesel power generation in the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories identified this priority as part of our response to the federal government's Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, along with other energy and transportation priorities. Some of the work that we plan to do includes defining the potential market, capital costs, transmission line routing, and finalizing a business case that would connect sufficient anchor customers to absorb the green hydro power from the Taltson project. The electricity generated by this project can be used to support future industrial growth and a renewable energy to offset diesel power generation and emissions. We are looking to the federal government to support this preconstruction work going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I want to thank the Minister for that. I don't feel that much more confident that that is actually going to result in greenhouse gas reductions. In my Member's statement, I also referred to the fact that the specific target of greenhouse gas reductions for the industrial sector of 17 per cent was removed from the final version of the Climate Change Strategic Framework, no explanation, no rationale provided. I have raised in

this House the need for a multi-stakeholder climate change roundtable with Ministerial leadership to secure industry buy-in. Can the Minister explain why there is no target for industrial greenhouse gas emissions and how we can possibly meet the pan-Canadian framework reductions without such a target?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** In terms of industrial targets, the specific emission reduction target of 89 kilotonnes for industry is identified in the graphic shown, actually, on page 32 of the Climate Change Strategic Framework. This target for industry is part of the overall 517-kilotonne reduction target for the NWT to be achieved by 2030 through the strategic objectives and actions outlined in the 2030 Energy Strategy.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working on a Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plan, which they expect to finalize later this year.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I would like to thank the Minister for that and the information about how that figure is hidden in a graphic rather than set out clearly in the strategy itself.

I have raised the issue of poor communications around climate change planning and the surprise addition of the specific and large reductions to greenhouse gas emissions attributed to Taltson expansion. We don't even know what the carbon pricing system is going to be, or how that fits into our climate change initiatives either. Can the Minister tell the public and Regular MLAs whether the Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework, or some compilation of these documents, has been submitted to the federal government for consideration in meeting our Pan-Canadian Framework obligations on greenhouse gas reductions and what the response has been from the federal government?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As all Members are well aware, we announced all three of these together. The 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework, the 2030 Energy Strategy, and the Petroleum Strategy, as they are all linked together, were publicly released here in the Assembly on May 1, 2018.

Various federal officials have already been made aware of it. To date, the GNWT has not received any formal feedback from any federal Ministers at this point, but the response that we have had from federal people so far has been very positive, and they are pleased that we are doing our part to meet the Pan-Canadian Framework targets.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for that, and I look forward if he could share some of that information with this side of the House in the future in a regular update.

The Auditor General noted the failure of our government to provide adequate leadership through appropriate authority and procedures to ensure we meet climate change targets. I have noted the need for a Climate Change Act, Financial Management Board consideration of climate change implications in its decisions, and how infrastructure projects should be prioritized in terms of their greenhouse gas reductions. It is not clear when Cabinet is going to get serious about providing the appropriate authority and procedures to implement our climate change efforts.

I would like to ask the Minister: what specific changes to authorities and procedures is Cabinet going to make to ensure climate change success, and when will this happen? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The government is working on the development of a 2019-2023 Action Plan to guide the implementation of the 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework, and this document will address the Auditor General's recommendations not already incorporated into the framework. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 286-18(3): HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my statement, I was very honoured and proud to attend the special graduation on the Hay River Reserve. This was celebrating a moment with mature students who decided to go back to school and upgrade their education and at least meet requirements to graduate from high school.

It is common that, throughout the NWT, our young people are facing challenges. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment: why are high school graduation rates low in some small communities, and what is the Minister's plan of action to address them? Mahsi.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To actually pinpoint why graduation rates are low is difficult. There can be a lot of extenuating situations that make people leave school. It can be a lack of support. It can be family dynamics. It can be poverty. It could be "I met a new boyfriend, and I just want to hit the road." There are a whole host of

reasons why students leave school, but what we are noticing is that we do need to do something about it. It is not okay. We are looking at things that we can control within education and things that we can actually do to support students to make positive choices.

Currently, we have a Pathways program that actually works with students. We are going to strengthen that. We need to actually look at getting more career counsellors into the schools, to actually working with them from younger grades, from grade 9, and talking about, "What do you want to do? Do you want to be a truck driver? Do you want to be a doctor? Do you want to work at Wal-Mart?" and not limiting their options. Working with the students to define what their options are, what they would need once they choose an option, and what school services and supports and curriculum that they would need to actually be successful in obtaining their goals in life.

Like I say, Mr. Speaker, we can do what we can from an education aspect, but a lot of reasons that children decide to drop out of school are not as simple as the education system itself. There are a lot of reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** In small communities, we are challenged, of course. Most jobs and a lot of the benefits of industrial-type projects go to where the action is and usually to larger centres. Small communities struggle, but we are seeing some trends in terms of out-migration of small communities, with people moving to larger centres.

At the same time, there was a recent study that pointed to an alarming trend that there are gaps between the education levels of larger centres like the City of Yellowknife and smaller communities. If a student from a small community graduated grade 12, compared to a student who graduated grade 12 in Yellowknife, both go down south, they are challenged, and they have to upgrade.

What are some strategies that the Minister is possibly considering to lead her department to address those very challenges?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to remind Members that, with questions and answers, the preambles should be shortened, and answering questions also should be shortened, because we only have 15 minutes and we still have four individual MLAs in line to ask questions. I would just like to remind Members. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the effect of urbanization is affecting not only the Northwest Territories; it's small communities throughout Canada; internationally,

actually. It is happening that people are moving from smaller communities into the regional or larger community centres because there are more opportunities there. So we have to work on it.

Pathways, like I talked about, making people look at their options earlier is one way. One new thing that we're actually doing as well, and I have to thank the MLA who brought it up in the community of Ulukhaktok, having three graduates who did the distance education program with supports, not on their own, it's not like home studies, shows that it's working. That was a pilot. We need to expand on that.

We have the small communities one that we're working with, and actually, we're working closely with MLAs in our small community committee to look at how we can actually put more economy, more opportunities, within the communities to support them. So we will do what we can to make sure we provide as much supports not only to children, but adults within small communities.

We also have a freedom of mobility within a constitutional right that, even though we'll do whatever we can, people have the right to be mobile and to move. It might not be ideal. So we will provide what we can to support and to sustain small communities, but we will not limit people from being able to migrate as they want.

**MR. NADLI:** Community learning centres exist in small communities, and so my question is to the Minister: what role can they continue playing in terms of trying to work with mature students who decide to go back to school to upgrade and qualify for high school equivalencies?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Our community learning centres are critical, especially to the smaller communities that the MLA has spoken about, because they actually are working on the ground with people. They're actually looking at people who perhaps have dropped out and need to have adult education programs. They can provide the access program to give people the prerequisites and support so that they can get into college or university, if that's where they need to go. They can do specialized programs in different areas. The problem is, though, that we need to make sure that community learning centres, that education from junior kindergarten to post-secondary, are providing quality services. So one of the things that I really want to work on is making sure that all of our education supports are accountable, have measurable outcomes, and that we are regularly evaluated.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the life of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly is coming down. Our term is coming up, and similarly, the Minister has a new portfolio. So besides addressing the rates of low graduation levels in small communities, and the NWT for that matter, what are the Minister's priorities in the remaining term of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Mahsi.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** People who know me know I'm a hard worker. Staff who have worked with me in other departments know that I'm a hard Minister. I don't plan on letting either of those go. My priority within this, the remainder of the time, is to actually make sure, as I stated just before, that all of our education supports are based on best practices, that they are accountable, that we have measurable outcomes, that we evaluate them regularly. That is often called accreditation. I'm not asking people to get to the point of accreditation, but I think we need to work towards that. So it's about quality programming is my focus for the remainder of the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 287-18(3):  
PRIORITIES FOR HOUSING

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stated my priorities for housing in Yellowknife Centre, with its long waiting lists for families and senior housing and also unaffordable private market rentals. I'd now like to hear from the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation and Homelessness what his priorities are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in answering some of the core housing needs with a previous Member, we want to continue focusing and supporting those programs, supporting our LHOs, working with our stakeholders, our community governments, our Indigenous governments, to address the core housing needs across not only just here in Yellowknife, but right across the Northwest Territories. We do have high waiting lists for people trying to get into housing. We do have a lot of housing units that need to be retrofitted, upgraded; some of them are ending their years of life. We also need to focus and work with our federal government in making sure that we work on rectifying some of the shortages that we had with the Northern Housing Strategy. So there are a few priorities in there. I'm willing to work with Members, work with our Indigenous governments, our community governments, to address the core housing need. We have about a year and a half left

in this government, and we have to focus on making sure that our residents have safe and affordable housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** It's said that, if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority. What I'm hearing here is that the list is just unmanageable in terms of actually getting anything done, so I'm going to zero in on a couple of specific things. What is the Minister's plan to reduce invisible homelessness among families by extending the territorial government's Housing First funding to them?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned earlier, as well, we do have the Community Housing Support Initiative, as well as the Rent Supplement Program, a lot of work that the Housing Corporation has done over this government to address those needs, and working with the NGOs, and giving them some of the rent supplements so they can help work with us to house and address some of these housing concerns that the Member has mentioned.

**MS. GREEN:** I'm going to repeat my question. The question is about extending the Housing First Program to homeless families in Yellowknife. Will the Minister provide that funding?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** We did see some really good results out of the Housing First Program, and working with the City of Yellowknife, as well as the Yellowknife Women's Society, to address these housing needs, and we will continue to work with them. We have to make sure that we also secure funding from our federal counterparts to address housing needs right across the Northwest Territories, and looking at that model and trying to get that model out into some of our regional centres, where we also see very high housing waiting lists, as well as homelessness in some of our regional centres, taking that model that the Member has mentioned and seeing how we can adjust it to the regional centres and even perhaps some of our small communities. Yes, we will continue to work with our stakeholders on how to address that funding, and also with the federal government to increase our funding.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a family of six living in a bachelor apartment. They've been there for three years. What is the Minister going to be able to do to help them, now? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, we do have the Rent Supplement Program that we help with our families that are in need. We also have programs through ECE in terms of income support. We do know that there are a lot of NGOs that do a

lot of great work, working with us to address some of the core housing needs across the Northwest Territories, and the Member mentions that we do have a family of six. In some of our small communities, where we don't even have housing, those numbers go up, and that's what we need to work on addressing right across the Northwest Territories. We do have high waiting lists for housing, and we need to make sure that priority is given where it's needed, and I want to work with the Members to work on adjusting those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 288-18(3):  
FERRY SERVICE IN MACKENZIE DELTA

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. Can the Minister give us a brief update on the work that was done to both the Abraham Francis and Louis Cardinal ferries this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to make this quick and try to get some more questions in for everybody. The Louis Cardinal, this year we were doing paint and deck repairs, under way all this week. We installed four brand new engines in the Louis Cardinal this season during the winter. The department is working with Transport Canada to complete the vessel inspections on that and inspect the new engines and the hull to be conducted today with the federal government.

On the Abraham Francis, there are the ramps that are going to be replaced. One of them has been completed already, and we are hopefully going to have the other one completed this week. Paint and deck repairs are also being completed this week, and the Peel River is now clear of ice and we are working on the landing as things commence today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Will the work that is being undertaken be completed on time and not hold up the operation of the ferry services?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I have said, this work is commencing as we speak. If Members recall, last year, one of the hold-ups we had was Transport Canada officials who do the inspections got called away off to some other needy thing that they had to look after before they came back to the Member's riding to inspect the ferries, which held things up, but as things are going forward here for this season, it sounds like all the inspections will be

done and the ferry should hopefully be in the water as early as Monday; and hopefully within three days of water testing, the ferries will be in operation.

**MR. BLAKE:** That leads me to my next question, which he answered a part of, but when can my constituents expect to have services resumed for the summer? According to his math, that's May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As soon as we have Transport Canada approval to be in operation, the ferries will start operating. We are hoping, as I said, that probably the Fort McPherson ferry will be the first one in operation, and hopefully by May 28<sup>th</sup> or June 1<sup>st</sup> at the very latest would be the Tsiigehtchic ferry.

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

QUESTION 289-18(3):  
DESTINATION DELINE HOSPITALITY  
WORKSHOP

**MR. MCNEELY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My two questions here are, in the spirit of time, to the Minister of ITI in regards to furthering my Member's statement on Destination Deline. Will the Minister commit to having the regional staff sponsor and facilitate a hospitality workshop in Deline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can certainly look into that. I know Destination Deline and the Member have been working very hard to attract tourism, and they signed a MOU with a number of companies in China on their last trade mission there. We will certainly work with the community. I know the department has spent a lot of money and investment, up to over \$500,000, on helping them get their position as Destination Deline, and we will certainly talk to our department and our regional staff and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thanks to the Minister for their response here. My next and final question is: as mentioned in my Member's statement, there will be a group later coming to the community of Deline, a contingent of approximately 25 agents. Will the Minister check his schedule to see if he can participate in that attendance on that gathering?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** If the Member could share the date with my staff, we'll certainly have a look at it. Anything we can do to promote tourism in the Northwest Territories, especially around Aboriginal tourism and in the small communities to



help bring economic opportunities to them, we will certainly participate.

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

QUESTION 290-18(3):  
HAY RIVER FISH PROCESSING FACILITY

**MR. SIMPSON:** You just snuck in there, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think I was going to get it. Today, I noticed that there has been a lot of negative talk about the economy. There has been a lot of finger pointing and adversarial back and forths. Let's change the conversation. Let's talk about economic growth. Let's talk about investment. Let's talk about Cabinet and Regular Members working together. Let's talk about the Hay River fish processing plant, Mr. Speaker.

When I last brought this up, it was February, and at that time, the Minister of ITI was still trying to secure some federal funding. I would like an update in general on the fish plant, where we are with that federal funding, when we are going to be breaking ground, and anything else you would like to share with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all Members know, the department is fully committed to this process. We believe in revitalizing the fishing strategy. We want to implement this strategy. We have committed significant funds from this government towards this strategy. We have also committed a position to help the fishermen in Hay River in moving this strategy forward.

We are working with other federal departments to secure some funding around this and other funding partners. These initial discussions are still looking very promising and, at the right and appropriate time, I will announce what kind of dollars we have to put towards this fish plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** When we last discussed this, the Minister mentioned there was a \$12 million fish plant, maybe \$9 million depending on the funding. There are some concerns arising with that price tag, namely the O and M associated with running a plant like that. There are some fishermen who are concerned that, you know, the department is going to saddle them essentially with this massive fish plant and they might not be able to afford it in the future if times get bad. So I was wondering: what sort of financial risks are the fishermen, whether it's the Fishermen's Federation or the Tu Cho

Cooperative, going to incur as a result of managing this plant in the government's plans?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** A business plan was developed in partnership with the Tu Cho fishery, which is a business arm of the NWT Fishing Federation. The accounts for utilities were part of the operational expense. The business plan was based on a worst case scenario, and it still shows a profit based on the historic catches of the lake, and especially the latest quotas we are been pulling out of the lake. So, worst case scenario, this thing still makes money.

We want to see this thing succeed. That's why we put so much energy and time and money into this. We are working with the fishermen to make sure that this becomes a profitable business for them. I personally have a vested interest in trying to, you know, I have seen what the Freshwater Marketing Corporation has done to the fishermen in Hay River, and I don't think there was a significant amount of investment from them over the last few years, which has really made that place hard to manage and hard to operate. A brand new fish plant will bring different opportunities to them. We want to find different ways to do secondary processing beyond the business case to help support them to make more money and contribute to higher returns to fishers in the NWT. We will continue to work on that and reduce and mitigate any risk to them, but like with any business opportunity there is risk.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Another issue or another concern that some of the fishermen have is that, because of the issues with freshwater that the Minister has mentioned and because of the price of fish, some fishermen have developed local markets. You know, they have quite robust local markets. They have regular customers and they can make a good living this way. So the concern is that the GNWT's plan to revitalize the fishery might encroach on some of these local markets. Can the Minister guarantee that the plant to revitalize the fishery doesn't include local sales that are going to directly compete with the fishermen currently selling fish?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As part of the Great Slave commercial revitalization policy planning and a two-price system, the wholesale to fisher and retail price was proposed to the Northwest Territories Freshwater Marketing Federation, to consider and was approved several years ago. Like anything, the intent of the strategy is not to compete and displace existing sales channels that fishers have and compete against small businesses, but the system having adequate supply of year-round fulfillment for sales opportunities and develop new ones.

As the Member from Hay River knows, some of the challenges around the way that the fishery is right now, we don't even have a year-round supply. I wanted to get some fish earlier this spring, and it makes a challenge just because of the lack of supply. We believe that this is not going to hurt the local fishing people who are there. It's going to help entice more sales locally and bring better returns for the local fishermen.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the reason that the government is pushing this fish plant is because nobody quite knows what is happening with Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in the near future. Since the Minister has a direct channel to Ottawa, could the Minister please let us know what the GNWT knows about the future plans for freshwater? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The department has been in contact with the DFO and, at present, they still have not indicated what the future plans are regarding the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, but they have expressed to me and the Premier for sure that they want to ensure that the inland fishery survives, and sustainably, moving forward, and we will continue to update this House as we get more information of what DFO's plans are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

### Returns to Written Questions

#### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 9-18(3): SOCIETIES' ELIGIBILITY FOR THE BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 9-18(3) asked by the Member for Nahendeh on March 15, 2018, to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, regarding societies' eligibility for the business incentive policy.

I am pleased to provide the following information to address the questions asked:

1. The Business Incentive Policy does not infringe on any legal rights of incorporated societies. Section 4(2) of the Societies Act does not require the Government of the Northwest Territories to extend the benefits of a policy instrument such as the Business Incentive Policy to incorporated societies, as these benefits are not vested in law but rather set at

the discretion of Cabinet through policy only.

2. A business meeting the requirement of section 6(2)(e) must also meet one of the requirements of section 6(2)(a) to (d) in order to be approved as a Business Incentive Policy Business. If a society applies to be incorporated or owns a business, that business may apply to be registered under the Business Incentive Policy so long as it meets the aforementioned requirements.
3. It is not the intention of the Government of the Northwest Territories to make any amendments to the Business Incentive Policy specific to incorporated societies. It remains the Government of the Northwest Territories position that the Business Incentive Policy scope as a policy instrument continue to apply to only those incorporated enterprises under comparative funding and tax structures. That is not to say other procurement policy instruments and tools cannot be used to encourage incorporated societies to participate in sectors of our economy in the future.

#### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 8-18(3): HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 8-18(3) asked by the Member for Kam Lake on March 14, 2018, to the Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding health information systems.

It is important to clarify that the purpose of the Health Information Act is to balance the collection, use, and disclosure of personal health information for the provision of health and social services, with the safeguarding of individuals' rights as set out in the act. Health information custodians are charged with the responsibility of complying with the act as well as appropriate use of one or more health information systems or applications designated by the Department of Health and Social Services to facilitate such compliance in the course of providing health and social services. There are health and social services information systems used throughout the Northwest Territories. Most of the systems and technology are proprietary, and the extent of modification allowable is limited by the technology. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a list of these health information systems to which health information custodians must provide information under the act. This list includes brief descriptions of the information systems.

Of the information systems used by the Health and Social Services Authorities and the department, 15 have been designated as Electronic Health Information Systems under section 6 of the Health Information Act Regulations.

The department's investment in electronic health information technology includes the assessment and, where required, update, modification or purchase of technology to support the work of health information custodians. Further, the department's training for health information custodians regarding the Health Information Act facilitates the appropriate use of this technology to fulfill responsibilities to their patients or clients and ensure compliance with the act. The department has not identified any existing health information system that currently requires modification, so no cost estimate is available at present.

As old technology is replaced and the department makes new investments in information systems, advances in technological options to support custodians in meeting their obligations to provide safe care and improve client outcomes are carefully considered. The department and the health and social services authorities continue to make investments in technology that enable best care and improvements to health outcomes for our clients.

**RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 7-18(3):  
HOUSING CORE NEED ACTION PLAN**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 7-18(3) asked by the Member for Yellowknife Centre on February 23, 2018, regarding the Housing Core Need Action Plan.

The estimated \$20 million of planned initiatives for 2018-2019 will be resourced from the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's 2018-2019 capital plan, the base funded programs included in the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's 2018-2019 Main Estimates, and available internal cash resources realized from sources such as the sale of housing assets, mortgage collection efforts, and any residual budget surpluses. A current assessment of available internal cash resources was undertaken during the development of the 2018-2019 corporate plan and will continue to be assessed as part of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's annual business planning process.

The planned investments set out in the Towards Level Ground: Addressing Persistent Core Need in the Northwest Territories report were identified, taking into account the feedback received from the Housing Engagement Survey and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's available resources.

Specific areas of core need will be addressed through a variety of Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's initiatives and programs. The following are approximate projected numbers of

households to be assisted by initiative: Emergency Repair - 348, Seniors Aging in Place Retrofits - 150, New Unit Construction - 135, Major Homeownership Repairs - 84, Rent Supplement Programs - 100, Policy Renewal - 40, Lease-to-Own Repairs - 90, Public Housing Portfolio Rebalancing - 30, New Seniors Housing - 40, Housing Support Pilot - 20, New Home Program - 11, Community Housing Support Initiative - 10, Habitat for Humanity - 3, Sahtu Homeless Shelter - 4, and Northern Pathways - 12.

Recognizing that a number of the planned investments set out in this plan involve territory-wide, application-based programs as well as a draft future year capital plan, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is unable to provide an exact regional breakdown of these investments at this time. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is planning to include in its annual Corporate Plan a status report on each of the Plan's initiatives, including actual spending by region.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's 2018-2019 Main Estimates includes a \$600,000 funding allocation to the Rent Supplement Program. Recognizing that the historical utilization rate of this program has been approximately 40 per cent of that amount, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation considers the current base budget adequate at this time. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will continue to assess the results of this new program and explore opportunities to align with upcoming federal programming.

**RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 3-18(3):  
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES' PARTICIPATION  
IN THE ASSOCIATION FOR MINERAL  
EXPLORATION ROUNDUP IN JANUARY 2018**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 3-18(3) asked by the Member for Frame Lake to the Premier on February 7, 2018, regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup in January 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise this House that six Ministers and 28 staff were in Vancouver at the time of the Roundup. While attendance at the Roundup may not have been the sole reason for travelling to Vancouver, all Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and staff attended one or more events at this year's Roundup.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to participating in mining- and exploration-focused events and to support our government's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the NWT's leading approach

to Indigenous partnership and reconciliation, I took the opportunity while in Vancouver to meet with groups of students from Simon Fraser University.

I also had the opportunity to deliver a keynote address at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and to participate in a round table discussion held at the Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue between NWT representatives, provincial and federal public servants, British Columbia Indigenous representatives, and representatives of environmental organizations.

The total cost of air travel for the 34 participants was \$41,730. All travel was economy class, except some southern ministerial travel which was accommodated through business class travel when economy class travel was not available.

Participants' accommodations costs varied by lengths of stay but have been calculated at a total of \$43,550 for the six Ministers and 28 staff. Other expenses for the 34 participants such as meals, incidentals, and taxis totalled \$27,055. No allowances were paid.

The GNWT paid \$6,035 in Roundup registration fees, and exhibition costs charged to the GNWT totalled \$63,186. No consultant fees were paid.

The GNWT supported the participation of 14 individuals representing NWT Indigenous governments in this year's Roundup. The contributions toward these "other NWT representatives" totalled \$63,000.

The hospitality events hosted by the GNWT were a Premier's Luncheon, and Indigenous Partners' Breakfast and an NWT Open House, costing a total \$32,973. Each of these events provided NWT Cabinet Members with opportunities to address and network with large gatherings of industry representatives, including prospectors, geoscientists, investors, suppliers and those interested in the mineral exploration industry.

The GNWT's direct costs and contributions associated with the participation at Roundup in 2016 totalled approximately \$137,000, in 2017 approximately \$196,359, and in 2018 approximately \$277,530. The increase in annual costs to attend Roundup can be attributed to an enhanced GNWT presence at this year's Roundup, indicative of the NWT's commitment to promoting and supporting responsible mineral exploration and development in the NWT.

The GNWT continues to view active participation in the Roundup as an effective means to promote the NWT as a destination for mineral exploration investment and new mining developments. Our investments are beginning to show returns with new exploration companies entering the territory,

increased claim-staking and new activity in regions that haven't seen exploration for some time.

Resource development plays an important role in the NWT economy. The opportunity to engage with stakeholders at this conference allowed us as leaders to advance our objectives on growing a sector of the economy that provides jobs and salaries to thousands of NWT residents.

Promoting awareness of NWT priorities and advocating for its interests on the national and international stage is an ongoing responsibility that Ministers and staff undertake by participating in a range of events, including meetings with other government leaders and dignitaries, representing the NWT at Federal-Provincial-Territorial and other intergovernmental meetings, and attending and presenting at conferences, trade shows, workshops and other events like Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Geosciences Forum, Opportunities North, Meet the North, and later this year the Anti-Poverty Roundtable and the Alternative Energy Conference. While the GNWT does not track specific results for any particular event, this is part of the ongoing work of promoting the interests of the Government and people of the Northwest Territories that is common to all governments.

#### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 10-18(3): SENIORS HOME HEATING FUEL SUBSIDY PROGRAM

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 10-18(3) asked by the Member for Yellowknife North on March 15, 2018, to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, regarding the Seniors Home Heating Fuel Subsidy Program.

The Senior Home Heating Subsidy, or SHHS, is intended to assist low- to modest-income seniors with the cost associated with heating their homes. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, or ECE, undertook a review of the SHHS and has as a result implemented a number of enhancements to the program including:

- Extension of the program to seniors who rent their own self-contained unit that have heating costs in addition to rent;
- Increased eligibility income thresholds;
- Removal of the phase-out income thresholds to ensure eligible seniors receive 100 per cent of the subsidy;
- A monetary-based subsidy moved from a fuel allocation subsidy to ensure seniors receive their full benefit; and

- A modification to how communities are allocated to specific zones to better reflect the cost of living in each community.

The change to a monetary-based system was implemented, based on a sound methodology that determined a consistent and fair subsidy amount for seniors. By ensuring that the subsidy amount is appropriate, seniors will continue to receive support towards the costs of heating their homes. This change also ensures that seniors receive 100 per cent of the subsidy, whereas under the previous program seniors were underutilizing their benefits.

The change to a monetary-based subsidy will continue to enable seniors to choose one or more heating types or suppliers and provide seniors the flexibility to determine how much of their subsidy is paid to each of their suppliers.

As previously noted, the enhancements include a rezoning of communities to better reflect the cost of living in each community. Each zone was determined using the Living Cost Differential; a method used to determine the different cost of living in each community by measuring the cost of a basket of goods and services. The three zones were determined by grouping together communities with comparable costs for goods and services.

The SHHS has been expanded to allow seniors who rent their homes and have a heating cost to access the program. The SHHS is intended to assist seniors with the costs associated with heating their homes. By increasing the income thresholds and eliminating the phase-out income thresholds, extending the program to renters, and ensuring all seniors receive the full subsidy, we believe that over 300 seniors will be positively impacted. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table details of the changes in the zones and eligibilities of the Senior Home Heating Subsidy Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 158-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 121-  
18(3): TERRAX PTARMIGAN MINE

TABLED DOCUMENT 159-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 165-  
18(3): LAND TENURE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 121-18(3): TerraX Ptarmigan Mine," and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 165-18(3): Land Tenure Engagement Sessions." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 160-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 152-  
18(3): HOMECARE SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 161-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 170-  
18(3): PRIVACY BREACHES IN HEALTH CARE  
FACILITIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 162-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 179-  
18(3): MEDICAL TRAVEL

TABLED DOCUMENT 163-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 187-  
18(3): ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION DURING  
PREGNANCY

TABLED DOCUMENT 164-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 196-  
18(3): YOUTH APPREHENSION POLICIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 165-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 199-  
18(3): MEDICAL TRAVEL

TABLED DOCUMENT 166-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 225-  
18(3): HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

TABLED DOCUMENT 167-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 242-  
18(3): DIALYSIS SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 168-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 259-  
18(3): MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN  
NAHENDEH

TABLED DOCUMENT 169-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 273-  
18(3): TRAVEL FOR ELDERS WITH HEALTH  
ISSUES DURING FREEZE-UP AND BREAK-UP

TABLED DOCUMENT 170-18(3):  
HEALTH INFORMATION ACT - DESIGNATED  
ELECTRONIC HEALTH INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following 11 documents entitled "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 152-18(3): Homecare Services," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 170-18(3): Privacy Breaches in Health Care Facilities," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 179-18(3): Medical Travel," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 187-18(3): Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 196-18(3): Youth Apprehension Policies," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 199-18(3): Medical Travel," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 225-18(3): Health Information Act," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 242-18(3): Dialysis Services," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 259-18(3): Mental Health Challenges in Nahendeh," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 273-18(3): Travel for Elders with Health Issues during Freeze-up and Break-up," "Further to Return to Written Question 8-18(3): Health Information Act Designated Electronic Health Information Systems," and, further to my Written Question 8-18(3), I wish to table "Health Information Act - Designated Electronic Health Information Systems." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Infrastructure.

TABLED DOCUMENT 171-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 253-18(3): ICE ROAD OPERATIONS

TABLED DOCUMENT 172-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 263-18(3): DREDGING OF THE PORT OF HAY RIVER

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 253-18(3), Ice Road Operations," and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 263-18(3), Dredging of the Port of Hay River." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 173-18(3):  
ZONES AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE SENIOR  
HOME HEATING SUBSIDY PROGRAM AS AT  
APRIL 1, 2018

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, further to my return to Written Question 10-18(3), I wish to table the following document entitled "Zones and Eligibility of the Seniors Home Heating Subsidy Program as at April 1, 2018." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

TABLED DOCUMENT 174-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTIONS 80-18(3) AND 278-18(3): STATUS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT

TABLED DOCUMENT 175-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 131-18(3): AMENDMENTS TO THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT FOR A HOTEL TAX LEVY

TABLED DOCUMENT 176-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 164-18(3): EMERGENCY PLANNING RESOURCES

TABLED DOCUMENT 177-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTIONS 172-18(3) AND 178-18(3): ARCTIC WINTER GAMES ATHLETE SELECTION AND TRAVEL

TABLED DOCUMENT 178-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 195-18(3): GROUND AMBULANCE AND HIGHWAY RESCUE SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 179-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 205-18(3): PROMOTING TRADITIONAL HAND GAMES

TABLED DOCUMENT 180-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTIONS 234-18(3) AND 238-18(3): NORMAN WELLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following seven documents entitled, "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Questions 80-18(3) and 278-18(3): Status of Amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 131-18(3): Amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act for a Hotel Tax Levy," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 164-18(3): Emergency Planning Resources," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Questions 172-18(3) and 178-18(3): Arctic Winter Games Athlete Selection and Travel," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 195-18(3), Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Question 205-18(3): Promoting Traditional Hand Games," "Follow-Up Letter to Oral Questions 234-18(3) and 238-18(3): Norman Wells Fire Department." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 181-18(3):  
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-18(3): USE LOTTERY MONEY TO FUND THE ARTS

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to petition 1-18(3) provided by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in response to a petition tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North on February 21, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 182-18(3):  
LETTER DATED APRIL 26, 2018 FROM GIANT MINE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING CALLS FOR AN APOLOGY AND COMPENSATION RELATED TO THE OPERATIONS OF GIANT MINE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE REGION

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I wish to table the following document. It's a letter from the Giant Mine oversight board dated April 26, 2018 to the Prime Minister of Canada regarding calls for an apology and compensation related to the operations of Giant Mine and its effects on the Indigenous peoples of the region. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notice of motion. Item 18, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

#### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 13:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE SECURITIES ACT

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

BILL 14:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT 2018

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act 2018, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

BILL 15:  
DOCUMENT FORMALIZATION SERVICE AND NOTICE REFORM STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 15, Document Formalization Service and Notice Reform Statute Law Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

BILL 16:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

BILL 17:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

BILL 18:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. 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: Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundation Review Process, 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. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the chair rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 1-18(3) and Minister's Statement 19-18(3) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Masi, Members. Members, I would like to draw your attention to the present visitors in the gallery. We have with us a former Member, and former Speaker as well, Jeannie Marie-Jewell. Masi for being here with us.

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Legislative Assembly Board of Management at the rise of the House today in Committee Room A, as well as a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room B.

Orders of the day for Friday, May 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.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
  - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
  - Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
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 Friday, May 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:44 p.m.