

HANSARD
UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019
YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, February 11, 2019****MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 137-18(3):
LAND BASED MOBILE ADDICTIONS TREATMENT AND AFTERCARE**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we know that mental health and addictions issues are top of mind for many NWT residents, and they are also a priority area in the mandate of this Legislative Assembly. To guide our work to address these important issues affecting our communities, the Department of Health and Social Services developed a Strategic Framework for Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the fall of 2016. One of the important focus areas of the framework was to ensure that mental health and addiction services are delivered locally, with culturally appropriate methods. I am pleased to provide Members with an update on our work to support on-the-land healing initiatives as part of our overall approach to addressing mental health and addictions issues in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, collectively we have become much more aware of the devastating and prolonged effects of residential schools and other forms of systemic abuse, which continue to affect Indigenous peoples and communities in the NWT. We know that many survivors of residential school continue to live with the effects of this abuse, along with the impacts of racism and marginalization, and some have turned to alcohol and drugs in order to cope.

While there is no one solution to address the intergenerational impacts and legacy of

residential schools on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, families, and communities, our health system needs to be able to support our residents on their healing journeys. To do this, our health and social services system must respect traditional healing approaches and support Indigenous residents so that they may choose for themselves the paths to wellness that will be most relevant and meaningful, including on-the-land options.

We have heard from residents and Indigenous leaders through community engagement that on-the-land support is a necessary and foundational part of their healing journey.

A few years ago, we established the On-the-Land Healing Fund for mental health and addictions. This supports Indigenous governments in developing and delivering culturally relevant and safe land-based healing programs specific to the regions, cultures, and peoples. The department allocates \$1.23 million annually to the fund, accessible to regional Indigenous governments and community-based Indigenous governments. In 2018-2019, a total of eight contribution agreements have been signed. During this time, we have also taken steps to ensure that land-based and culturally-based programs are supported as part of our overall mental health and addictions system.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking another significant step towards supporting land-based healing options for our residents. We are proposing new land-based programming with specific focus on mobile addictions treatment and family-based treatment. For many years, our residents have told us that there is a need for mobile treatment options and person- and family-centered approaches to mental wellness and addiction recovery support, and we are taking the steps and actions to bring those options to them.

Mobile treatment refers to treatment that takes place in a community setting, by coming to the community instead of having people travel outside of their communities to get the help and support they need. This approach puts strong emphasis on community involvement, and before an actual treatment program is implemented, the community must acknowledge that a substance-abuse problem exists and be committed and involved in addressing the problem. Part of how we work to ensure that mobile treatment is providing meaningful and lasting benefits to residents is by making sure that community resources and stakeholders are involved in the preparation and in coordinating after-care and recovery supports.

The importance of after-care and recovery supports as part of our mobile treatment approach was echoed by the Standing Committee on Social Development, who provided recommendations around addiction programming following their tours of addiction-treatment facilities in December 2017. These recommendations include improving approaches to after-care for individuals returning from addictions treatment, enhancing peer support, and providing family-support programs for addictions.

Mr. Speaker, our proposed land-based mobile addictions treatment approach addresses these recommendations in several ways:

- land-based, mobile addiction treatment activities can serve as an important support for individuals returning from addictions treatment and who need support to solidify their recovery;
- participation in land-based activities connects participants with other individuals also working towards recovery from addictions, which enhances their social network and connections with peers who can provide support; and
- Indigenous governments can use funding to provide land-based mobile treatment and after-care activities to individuals and families.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of work still needs to happen to improve health and social outcomes of Indigenous people. The mobile-treatment option is an important step taken in addressing what we heard from residents and aligns with this government's mandate commitment towards supporting individuals in their recovery journey from addictions. Recognizing the uniqueness of each person's journey and that there are many pathways to wellness, the department provides a variety of support services, including the Community Counselling Program, child and youth care counsellors located within the school system, and southern treatment options just to name a few. This work represents the beginning of a system-wide transformation focused on creating safer spaces, increasing accessibility, and enhancing approaches to care across the spectrum of mental health and addictions recovery in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF SENATOR DAWN ANDERSON

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Senator Margaret Dawn Anderson is an Inuvialuk who was raised in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories. She is the daughter of Ms. Sarah Anderson. She holds a bachelor's degree in child and youth care with distinction from the University of Victoria, where she is currently completing her master's in Indigenous governance. Senator Anderson worked with the Government of Northwest Territories for 22 years with the Department of Health & Social Services and the Department of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, before returning to school, Ms. Anderson served in various roles with the Government of Northwest Territories. Notably, she was the director of community justice and policing, where she implemented positive changes to the territorial justice system. She also helped develop and implement the territory's Wellness Court Program, a therapeutic program that attempts to reduce recidivism by treating underlying issues like mental health, addictions, and cognitive challenges.

Senator Anderson's dedication to the Northwest Territories and to improving the lives of others is best displayed through her work as an active member of the Domestic

Violence Treatment Options Court and the development and implementation of the Planning Action Responsibly Toward Non-Violent Empowered Relationships (PARTNER) Program, a northern-based program for low- to medium-risk domestic violence offenders. She also conducted a review of the Northwest Territories Community Justice Program through consultations which resulted in a report with several recommendations to improve community-based restorative justice programming. Senator Anderson was also engaged in the development, implementation, and roll-out of the Integrated Case Management Program (ICM) pilot project, which aims to create, foster, and deliver a coordinated, collaborative, multi-departmental, client-centered approach that removes system barriers and service gaps for individuals with complex needs. ICM is led by the Department of Justice, and it is in partnership with Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, most recently, Senator Anderson worked for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in Inuvik as she prepared for her defence on her community governance project. In this role, she participated in Inuvialuit self-government negotiations between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories and also the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Anderson is a two-time recipient of the territorial Premier's Award for Excellence in her leadership and commitment to improving the lives of Northerners in both the individual and team category. She is a strong leader with a great passion for helping others. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that Dawn has been appointed as the Senator for the Northwest Territories on December 12, 2018, and she is also the first-time female Senator to represent the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend Ms. Anderson on her achievements and also the role model that she is, not for just Inuvialuit but Indigenous women across the territory. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ANTI-POVERTY ROUNDTABLE AND ACTION PLAN

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, today, I am reflecting on the fifth annual Anti-Poverty Roundtable, held in Hay River in November. I appreciate the Minister's invitation to attend and being able to hear from colleagues taking action on poverty throughout the territory as well as the opportunity to see what local organizations are doing and to meet their dedicated staff.

There is no question that anti-poverty efforts have come a long way since the GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan was introduced. The anti-poverty fund for grass-roots projects is now \$1 million. There is more support for homelessness and communities outside of

Yellowknife and for youth. Income-assistance clients receive more transfers from government than ever before.

While government is doing more, I am sad to say it is not doing enough. One in four children in the NWT live in poverty. The No Place for Poverty Coalition made 21 recommendations to the Minister to strengthen the next Anti-Poverty Action Plan, and we look forward to hearing they have been adopted.

Mr. Speaker, the action plan needs to include well-defined goals for which there is required funding for implementation and robust evaluation. It needs to focus on long-term solutions. Let's take hunger as an example. Statistics Canada says one-third of NWT children live in homes where having enough to eat is an issue. In addition to funding initiatives that respond to people who are hungry today, government needs to develop and pilot programs that improve food availability and affordability over the long term.

I also recommend both short- and long-term goals that relate to increasing the benefits paid by income assistance. Almost 5 percent of the territory's population is supported by income assistance, a number that has been growing, especially in Yellowknife and the Beaufort-Delta. While the department hasn't been able to provide analysis of how long families stay on income assistance, my sense is that some families rely on it from one generation to the next, to their detriment.

Mr. Speaker, an investment in poverty reduction pays off by requiring government to spend less on the negative effects of poverty, including poor health, poor educational outcomes, and poor employment prospects, to name a few. I will have questions about the action plan for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF NORTHERN JOURNALISM

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that this week we are all breathing a little easier. For many Northerners, labour disruptions bring up painful memories of deep divisions in our community. Thankfully, we have avoided a recurrence and we hope we can achieve a final resolution that respects our dedicated, professional public service members and the services they provide.

Mr. Speaker, as elected MLAs, it is important that we remember who put us here. The value of the work we do in this building must always be measured by its impact on our constituents. They are the people who gave us their trust.

In turn, it is important to recognize the work of members of the media who help people understand complex public issues. We live in a time when the media has a huge impact in our lives, so it is increasingly important that we can trust what we see and hear.

In context of recent weeks, I would especially like to compliment the work of Ollie Williams at Cabin Radio. His reports about the negotiations were frank and open and offered in-depth explanation of difficult and potentially divisive issues. In a situation

where emotions can run high and conflict is too easily reached, his balanced, fair reporting was crucial to serving the public interest.

Another example of the northern media providing important understanding was at the AME Roundup in Vancouver. Northern media, including CBC's Hilary Bird, were covering roundup for the first time this year and were able to better convey the importance of the work that happens there. I know that not everybody agrees that our government should invest as much as we do in going to roundup, but fair and balanced coverage of issues and events like these are crucial to our residents' knowledge and understanding of the issues, to enable them to reach their own informed opinions.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, we live in days of "fake news," when even known facts are argued, debated, and disputed. In such times, honest, balanced, and fair journalism is crucial in providing people with real understanding of public issues. In the small, close-knit community of the North, we are fortunate to be well-served by a principled and impartial journalistic community. I am pleased to take this opportunity to acknowledge their important contribution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COORDINATION OF PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFITS WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On October 11 of last year, I made a Member's statement on the issue of coordination of parental leave benefits with the changes to federal legislation that will improve these benefits.

These changes to the Canada Labour Code will provide a minimum of five weeks' paid leave for each parent. The changes were originally to come into effect on June 1, 2019, but the federal government recently moved up that effective date to March 17 of this year.

Amendments are required of our Employment Standards Act that will require employers to honour extended leave requests from their employees. I commend the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for fast-tracking our public consultations on amendments to the Employment Standard Act, that closed on January 14, and the expanded scope of leave for domestic violence for caregivers and others as proposed by the department. Clearly, though, we will not be ready for the effective date of the federal legislation on March 17, 2019.

It is not clear how long it will take us to catch up to the federal government and ensure that our families are entitled to the same parental leave benefits as other Canadians. Such benefits clearly lead to stronger families, and I am disappointed that we did not coordinate our efforts more closely with what the federal government has been doing.

Although this is obviously a sensitive area, yet another method to ensure parents receive the best possible benefits would be for our government to unilaterally offer to amend collective agreements to ensure that our employees would have their jobs

protected while away on the improved federal parental leave.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment later today to make sure that our families receive the best possible parental leave. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MINERAL RESOURCES REGULATORY REGIME

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point, we have roughly six months left until our time as MLAs for this Assembly warps up, and I am happy to hear that the long-awaited Mineral Resources Act will finally be made public. Today, I would like to address the Minister's comments rather than the particulars of the legislation itself.

The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment has spoken at length, in public and in this House, about the benefits of the new act. It will bring:

- improved regulatory certainty, while respecting treaty rights;
- more benefits to communities from mining activity;
- superior consultation with stakeholders;
- predictable dispute resolutions;
- a clear, competitive regulatory framework for the 21st century.

The list goes on.

Many in the mineral resources industry and Indigenous organizations and governments continue to express their dissatisfaction that one of the most significant pieces of regulatory legislation, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, remains firmly in the hands of Ottawa and out of reach of this Assembly and arguably out of touch with the realities on the ground. I have not yet heard any Member of the Executive Council make devolution of this crucial and foundational piece of regulatory authority a priority of this government. Until the MVRMA is brought home for Northerners to shape, our regulatory regime will sorely be lacking in predictability and will continue to be difficult to navigate, at best.

I do wonder, though, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the years of public engagement and collaboration have really resulted in a government who understands the concerns, needs, and wants of the peoples it is here to represent in regards to this new legislation, further, the perspectives of industry and Indigenous partners, for that matter.

The Minister has made some mutually exclusive comments on the MRA which have left me and many members of the public understandably confused. On January 30th, published in the Yellowknifer, the Minister is quoted discussing the Mineral Resources Act: "I'm not happy with it. Indigenous governments won't be happy with it. Industry isn't going to be happy with it."

Then, Mr. Speaker, on February 8th in this House, according to Hansard, the Minister stated, "It is the culmination of years of research, public engagement, collaboration with Indigenous governments and organizations, and constant engagement with the industry." So why do we have a clear mutually exclusive definition of the bill based on the Minister's comments? I would like him to clarify this for the record, so we can truly understand if this legislation is meeting the needs of Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLORATION IN THE SAHTU**

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Promising gold find in the Sahtu region: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to highlight for my colleagues a new exploration discovery coming from the Sahtu Region.

It comes from Evrim Resources Corporation, a precious and base metals project generator who in January announced surface sampling results from their Astra gold project.

This project is joint between Evrim and Newmont Mining Corporation, one of the world's largest gold producers. It has led to the acquisition of a 23,250 square-kilometre prospective land package along the border of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Of note is the discovery of a 9.5-kilometre-long gold trend that includes samples returning up to 11.6 grams per tonne of gold over significant widths. Evrim's discovery is the result of two years of boots-on-the-ground exploration from their exploration teams.

The Astro Gold Project is located six kilometres north of the mile 222 airstrip and 195 kilometres northeast of Ross River, along the Canol Road, which is providing seasonal road access to the southern boundary of the property. Evrim and Newmont are now acquiring the necessary permits for a drill program for this coming summer.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MCNEELY: Evrim's CEO recognized in the news release that the Astro project is located within the traditional territory of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim and stated that both Evrim and Newmont are committed to developing a positive and mutually beneficial relationship based on respect and transparency.

Mr. Speaker, the results reported by Evrim are encouraging, especially in a region that is known for its oil and gas. There are very few surface showings found anywhere in the world reporting this grade and width of gold. It speaks to the NWT's mineral potential in the Sahtu.

We are looking forward to the future of the project and the prosperity it will bring to the Sahtu residents and the people of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DENE WELLNESS CENTRE

MR. NADLI: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that addiction issues are a serious problem in the Northwest Territories. I am on the Standing Committee on Social Development. Last year, we tabled a report on adult residential addictions treatment facilities. What we found out will not come as a surprise. The NWT faces an uphill battle when it comes to dealing with addictions. For example, our research told us that, in 2015-2016, the NWT had the second-highest per-capita level of alcohol consumption in Canada, not counting bootlegging sales, and our residents were hospitalized due to alcohol consumption at a rate of 1,315 people per 100,000. On top of that, residents of our small communities were likely to experience harm from someone's drinking. News headlines regularly tell us that illegal drugs are coming to the NWT and harming vulnerable people.

Northerners have often called on their MLAs and on this government to offer addictions treatment options in the NWT. Currently, residents have the choice of four facilities in Alberta and BC.

Mr. Speaker, after standing empty for five years, the Dene Wellness Centre opened Wednesday, January 9, 2019, on the Hay River reserve. With room for 64 people overnight, the centre plans for wellness programming deeply rooted in Dene values and laws. Executive Director Heidi Yardley has worked across the North, and is a psychologist and therapist.

The centre will have ceremonial and traditional practices as an important component of healing.

Two K'atlodeeche First Nation elders, Pat Martel and Raymond Sonfrere, will guide and help oversee the work of the centre.

Mr. Speaker, Yardley also has her staff sign a policy agreeing to follow the Dene laws: "We don't have a formal code of conduct because that's not the Dene way. We follow the Dene laws and the Dene values."

Yardley would also like to create a traditional-knowledge-holder position; however, it is dependent on funding.

Indigenous groups from across the NWT are involved in the centre, and an advisory council is being established, with invitations going out to groups from every treaty settlement region in the territory.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, an advisory council has been established with invites out to groups from every treaty settlement region in the NWT. The Northwest Territories Metis Nation, the GNWT, and the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation are also involved. The centre will be running a recovery, trauma, and depression groups over the next few months.

The building had sat vacant since 2013, when the Territorial government shut the territory's last treatment centre down. The K'atlodeeche First Nation had been actively negotiating with the NWT government to access the building since 2016. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF TALTSON HYDRO DEVELOPMENT

MR. BEAULIEAU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I'd like to talk a little bit about the Taltson River and the Taltson hydro dam development.

[English translation not provided.]

[Translation] The school burned in the late '50's before the people were there and kids were going to school there. There are a lot of people living on the other side. People used to live very well there. People were trapping.

After the school burned down, the people were moved. A lot of people moved to Yellowknife. They had no jobs. None of them went to school. They couldn't trap anymore once they got here. Once they couldn't hunt here, that's where they ended up in the streets, and they died here.

Some of the people who moved to Fort Resolution, who lived there, it was a little better there. They didn't have very much to work with. The government then helped them much. They will not be building the school back in Rocher River, they were told. In the case the kids wanted to go to school, they had to move to Fort Resolution. People were still trapping around the area. There were still a few people living there. The people who were living around the Taltson River were well-provided-for. There were a lot of beavers. There were a lot of furs. My mother told me that, in 1957, my dad killed so many beavers there, my mom, my dad, and another lady who used to help us had to all work together to prepare the fur. Some days, there were so many furs, you couldn't hunt.

After 1964, in the springtime, we went back to where we trapped. We went back in 1964. There was nothing there. There was absolutely no game, nothing to hunt. During the wintertime, when the flooding was happening in the winter, all the beaver dams and muskrat lodges were all flooded out, and they were all killed. There was no more game. That dam is the cause of it, and the government is going to be working on that again this week here. The Taltson River that is being talked on, I'm going to be reading all the documents that are pertaining to the dam development, and then I will be asking the government. Thank you. [Translation ends.]

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TSIIGEHTCHIC ICE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I have a concern from Tsiigehtchic on how the department is micro-managing the ice bridge construction in

Tsiigehtchic.

In the past, the contract with the community was to supply all labour and equipment needed to complete the work. We have seen a huge shift in how this work is done since a decision was made to extend the ferry service during the winter months. The department at that time even brought a number of their staff and equipment from the South Slave region to work with the community.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, the department now uses their own heavy equipment, Sno-Cats, backhoes, Bombardiers, sprayer, and auger. This is taking revenue away from the community of Tsiigehtchic and other small business owners in our region.

The department will probably say they are trying to recover overspending, but, in fact, this overspending is due to operating their own equipment and not how our community is managing the contract.

Mr. Speaker, while the department believes they are saving money by using their equipment, what they are actually doing is taking employment away from my constituents, many of which look forward to this seasonal work, especially just before Christmas. This year, we had 14 people working at the beginning, but that only lasted for 16 days. Then, in December, we only had four people employed, and three in January. You can imagine how disappointed the workers were. Usually, they get six weeks' worth of work during this time before Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR DANNY ALLAIRE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Danny Allaire was born in Fort Simpson on January 26, 1975, to Phoebe and Daniel Allaire. He was raised and lived his whole life in Fort Simpson. He passed away on January 12, 2019.

After graduating high school, Danny worked as a seasonal crew leader, fighting fires with the GNWT and later with the Nogha fire crew.

During the winter months, Danny spent his time on the land that he loved so much. He would trap and hunt at Notana Lake with his grandparents, Gabe and Mary Cazon, and other family members.

In 2000, Danny left for Fort Smith to attend Aurora College, along with his father, Daniel. They both enrolled in the Environment and Natural Resources Program. In 2002, Danny and his dad graduated with honours.

After graduating in the spring of 2002, Danny's career as a wildlife technician began at ENR. Being a wildlife technician for Danny was immensely rewarding, enabling him to travel and study wildlife across the North.

A large part of Danny's work was surveying caribou, bison, sheep, and moose. He was quite proud of his many co-written scientific research papers with his supervisor, Nic

Larter, and having them published.

Being the hunter that he was, when somebody asked where all the moose are, Danny's reply was, "In the bush."

He was taught how to hunt, fish, and trap in an ever-revolving traditional atmosphere with teachings from his parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. He caught his first martin at the age of four and shot his first moose at 14.

He was very close to his family, especially his sister, Danita. He was always willing to share his knowledge and pass on traditional ways to his younger cousins.

Danny was an artist. He understood beauty in words and saw beauty in expressions. He loved music, dancing, and laughing with his many friends. He carved, painted, drew pictures, wrote poetry, sang, and listened to music. He was a photographer, always wanting to share the moments he captured.

Danny appreciated relationships, whether it was with the land, family, or friends. There were many weekends when you could have walked up to his house and heard his roaring laughter. If he wasn't laughing, he was singing along to one of his many favourite bands, sometimes off-beat, but that never mattered.

In times of trial and tears, let's remember him saying, "Can't we all just along?" and maybe smile in memory.

The Allaire and the Cazon families would like to thank everybody for all of their love and support in this difficult time. We have all been blessed to know him and share his life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family, as well, and to the community. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to a presence in the gallery. I would like to welcome the new NWT Senator to our proceedings, Senator Dawn Anderson. Masi for being here with us.

Also present before us is Mr. David Jones, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, who has joined us in the gallery today. Later on this afternoon, I will table the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's 2018 Annual Report. Masi for joining us.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I made my Member's statement on Dawn Anderson, our newest Senator, and I would like to welcome Dawn to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, Dawn has probably sat in here with the Department of Justice and other departments, and I would like to commend her for the hard work that she does across the territory and across Canada now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 536-18(3): MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour are ideal locations to monitor winter storms in the High Arctic. Another roof blew apart during this last storm in Paulatuk as the winds reached 140 kilometres.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is: how often are community emergency plans exercised and updated across the territory, mainly those in the Barren Lands? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I just want to thank the leadership and the people of the community of Paulatuk who stepped up to the plate during this past weekend, when we had winds that reached up to about 140 kilometres per hour, to take care of our elders, our youth, and those most vulnerable in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the new territorial Emergency Management Act does require communities to update their emergency plans annually. Our staff also do a great job in coordinating and working with our leadership to make sure that these plans are updated on a regular basis and that they actually go through tabletop exercises at the community level.

We will continue to do this, not only with the coastal communities in the Beaufort Delta region, but all of our communities across the Northwest Territories as well as those on the Mackenzie River. We want to make sure that we can prevent anything from happening in terms of emergencies, such as what happened this past weekend in Paulatuk, as well as the other communities in the Member's riding.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that we, as an Assembly, should be seeking disaster mitigation funding to help homeowners and the hamlets across the territory to prepare, as weather storms are becoming more extreme across the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, which impacts day-to-day operations and our infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: how do you plan on building resiliency in communities that face such climate change effects as the number of winter storms increase in the High Arctic?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will continue to work closely with community governments to update the NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment. We will also continue to lobby our federal counterparts to look at increasing funding or continuing some of the funding that we have used in the past years to mitigate any type of emergency situations. We will obviously continue

working with our leadership and working with our community members. That will address some of these emergency issues moving forward.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. It seems like MACA is doing a good job in including the communities. Mr. Speaker, leading after that question, my question to the Minister is: how will MACA incorporate Indigenous knowledge into their local, regional, and territorial emergency planning?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned in a previous response, we will look at working with our leadership and our local membership in the communities to address any kind of emergency-management situations and how we deal with those.

Also, with planning community plans, we are going to be working with our community leadership to develop them so that it does mitigate any kind of emergency risks right across the Northwest Territories. Obviously, we have seen over the last few years situations up in our coastal communities that do have an impact. I have brought it up to our federal Minister. I have also brought it up to our national and Indigenous leaders, about such things as permafrost degradation. I talked about coastal erosion, as well as the opening of the Northwest Passage and seeing more vessels coming through, that we need to be prepared for any kind of situation that happens, especially in the Member's riding. I have invited, like I said, our federal Minister to come up and see what we are doing to try to mitigate that risk. I have also invited some of our national Indigenous organization leaders to come see the unique situation of the Northwest Territories, the North, and how we need support on a bigger front. We will, as I mentioned, continue with the membership of the communities, as well as the leadership, who are the experts in this region, in bringing that traditional knowledge into consideration.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That almost answered my last question here. Mr. Speaker, we sometimes see climate change only in the spring and the summer months, during the melt and the thaw, and sometimes when the water levels rise along the Mackenzie River or the Arctic Ocean or other lakes across the territory, but we need to think about the winter, as well, and the large storms that are coming.

I will ask this question anyways, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister consider Nunakput communities that face extreme winds during the winter months to access disaster mitigation funding to protect housing infrastructure and also the municipal infrastructure that is in effect during the winter months?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Currently, the Government of the Northwest Territories does have some applications in place here for the disaster mitigation funding, which are being looked at. We are hoping to get a positive answer on that. I have also, most previously at our federal-provincial-territorial meetings, brought up the concern that we need to continue looking at other sources of funding that will impact our northern communities. I will continue to work with the leadership, our federal leadership, to make sure that they know what kind of funds they can access and work on developing those applications and ensuring that we do have support from our other jurisdictions to

support this type of funding moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 537-18(3):
MINERAL RESOURCES ACT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment's public comments on the proposed Mineral Resource Act, I have to ask: has this act been written with the collaboration of all stakeholders, or is the Minister rushing to check off a mandate commitment for the piece of legislation that nobody is happy with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That might be his approach, but not mine. From the Government of the Northwest Territories' approach, we have done our due diligence on this act.

As we know, this is probably one of the most important pieces of act coming forward in the 18th Legislative Assembly. We have involved the intergovernmental council right from day one on this thing, along with their technical advisory panel, which is the North Slave Metis Alliance and the Dehcho First Nations, who also attend this meeting. We have met with special interest groups, environmental and non-government organizations, and the Chamber of Mines. We have had public consultation in many communities, with lots of feedback. We had Aboriginal consultation. For the most part, the reason we are bringing this bill forward is that it is part of the devolution process to bring this thing forward, but with all of this consultation that has taken place and in-person public meetings that we have had there is a lot of support for this bill coming forward.

MR. TESTART: I would expect that that response would be what the Minister would say publicly whenever asked, and yet he gave very different comments in the January 30th edition of the Yellowknifer. Can the Minister explain why he made those comments?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I make a lot of comments, just like the Member across the hall here. I have actually used this comment a number of times. This is a very large piece of legislation, that is going to affect a large number of people in the Northwest Territories, from industry to Aboriginal governments, to the person on the street, to the businessperson down the road. When you have that many people involved in a bill that is this important and this big, not everybody is going to agree on the piece of legislation. There might be things in there that we will all agree. No different than this House, this is built on consensus and collaboration with stakeholders in the Northwest Territories. With that being said, not everybody is going to agree on everything at all times, and this bill that is going to be brought forward in the life of this Assembly is going to not be supported by everybody. It is no different than everything else and what we did in this House last week.

We will continue to push this thing forward for the best interests of the residents of the

Northwest Territories. I think the department has done a great amount of work that will be represented in this bill when committee takes it on the road.

MR. TESTART: Surely, the Minister is happy with the quality of the consultations and is happy with what the bill is going out there. I acknowledge that differences are what makes this House so strong and what makes our society so strong, but to hear that from the Minister makes me question whether he is satisfied with the quality of the legislation. Can the Minister clarify that?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have said in my previous comments, not everybody will be happy with everything in this bill, including me. This bill is built on the collaboration and consensus of the people of the Northwest Territories. I support the bill that we are bringing forward. I believe it is the bill at the right time, for the right industry, that we are doing this through the devolution process. This is a bill that people of the Northwest Territories are clearly interested in. As I have said, this is probably one of the biggest and most important ones in this Legislative Assembly. If the Member does not like the comments that I make in public, that's up to him. I support this bill. We have done our due diligence. We have worked with all of the residents of the Northwest Territories, as I have said, and we will be bringing this forward in this sitting.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not that I don't like the comments but that the comments are confusing, and I think a reasonable person would assume differently from the logical contrast of the two comments made. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just said that he is not happy with all of the sections of the legislation. If he could speak globally, what would he like to see come forward that wasn't included? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: That is getting into the content of the bill, and the bill has not reached the floor of the House. If the Member wants to ask me that question when I am sitting in the Committee of the Whole, have at her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 538-18(3):
ASTRO GOLD PROJECT

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up to my statement earlier, my questions today are to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Is the Minister or his department aware of the Astro gold property that I referred to earlier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am well aware of the Astro gold project in the Sahtu. They have been doing some work out there. They actually accessed our geodatabase that we have housed in the Northwest Territories geoscience department. In discussions with them, when I was talking to them at roundup, this actually came from a presentation when the Premier and I were at PDAC,

and the department laid out a water-till sample that they did in the Sahtu region, and that is where these guys got some actual information to start having a look at that district. Evrim also used our Mining Incentive Program last year. They got \$160,000 to go towards their work, and they are also engaging our community and client service unit regarding our activities in the Member's riding.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for that reply and information here. It seems that there is some dialogue going back and forth, which sounds encouraging. My next question: what are Evrim's plans to keep the project moving forward?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: This is early in the ball game with these guys, but, the exciting news release that they put out, that was right when we were all down at the mineral roundup. It was very timely because we actually had a meeting set up with them, with Evrim and Newmont, and had some discussions about what they are planning on doing and, as I said in my earlier comments, how they got to where they are. They are going to do a drill-test program. I think it was in their news release, but, if it wasn't, they are going to do one this summer, which is hopefully going to take place earlier on in the summer. The one thing that I want to state is that this is an early discovery.

It is a new gold discovery, an entirely new type of gold deposit in the Northwest Territories that hasn't been seen before. If we are lucky, maybe we are going to be witnessing something that is very similar to what just took place in the Yukon with the new White Gold District that is happening there. They are very bullish on this piece of property, and we look forward to working with them going forward.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for that reply. It seems that the cost of going to Vancouver is bearing some fruit. My third question to the Minister of ITI is: will the GNWT be signing a SEA with Evrim to ensure that the Sahtu residents and businesses benefit from the work in their region?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I think that might be a little premature, about doing a SEA. These guys haven't even put a drill in the ground yet, but they are very bullish, as I said, on their project. The department has demonstrated time and time again that we want to focus on getting benefits to residents in the Northwest Territories, to the people working, to small businesses, and getting all benefits we can out of resources from these types of projects. We will be following these guys closely.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister: are there any plans for these two companies, Newmont and Evrim, to come into our capital in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I am not aware of them coming here anytime soon. They will probably get a hold of me if they are going to come here and have a discussion. The last thing that I left on the conversation on the table with them when we were meeting with them was about the community engagement. I strongly suggested that they involve the residents of the Sahtu in their project, to keep them updated, not on a day-by-day basis but on a very regular basis, so they get an idea of what is going on out there.

I continually stress that, particularly in Sahtu, because that has been an oil-driven and gas-driven resource area of the Northwest Territories, and mining history goes a long way back there. There has not been any mining activity in that region for a long time, so I want them to engage early and often. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 539-18(3):
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT
PAYMENT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been approached by a number of leaders to explain how the Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement worked. From what I have been able to find, prior to implementation of devolution 2014, the GNWT and Aboriginal groups signed the NWT Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement with 25 percent of the net profit going to Aboriginal groups according to our formula. It is my understanding that allocation is made each year of the signatories of the development devolution agreement. In that, the formula says: "Aboriginal population not yet party to the agreement shall be retained by the GNWT." My questions are for the Premier. Can the Premier please explain what is meant by "retained by the GNWT"? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The retained portion is an estimated calculation for those Indigenous governments who have not signed on to devolution. Each year, once annual net fiscal benefit figures are available, these retained amounts are distributed according to intergovernmental council negotiations that are guided by the provisions of the Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement. These negotiations occur after intergovernmental council members receive their respective allocations of the net fiscal benefit under their Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate the Premier providing that answer. Mr. Speaker, does the government hold the shares for Aboriginal organization populations that have not signed on to the agreement?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: No. The Government of the Northwest Territories identifies for the other parties to the agreement that there are retained revenues available and begins discussions on how they are to be allocated. The other parties are the Indigenous governments that have signed on to devolution, and they see this as Indigenous government money.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Premier for clarifying that answer. Mr. Speaker, does the government allocate funding from the retained part of this part of the money to the Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies Conference and Tradeshow in Inuvik? If not, how does the GNWT help support this conference and trade show?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: No. Once again, retained amounts have not been used to support Indigenous governments to attend the Arctic Energy and Emerging

Technologies Conference and Tradeshow in Inuvik. The Government of the Northwest Territories' infrastructure department has not provided funds for Indigenous governments' delegates to participate in the Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies Conference and Tradeshow and does not anticipate doing so in the future. Indigenous governments, however, are free to allocate the funds however they see fit.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, thanks to the Premier. This is probably a redundant question, but I'm going to ask it to the Premier anyway: does the government allocate funding from the retained part of the pot to be set to send to Aboriginal group government delegates to the Association for Mineral Exploration in Vancouver?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: No. Retained amounts have not been used to support Indigenous government delegates to attend AME. For AME Roundup, the GNWT ITI department uses funds allocated under the Mineral Development Strategy to client services and community relations for Aboriginal capacity funding. From those funds, a certain amount is used to support Indigenous government delegations to attend AME. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 540-18(3):
COORDINATION OF PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFITS WITH THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. First off, I would like to commend the Minister for fast-tracking public consultation on changes to the Employment Standards Act and to indicate my strong support for including domestic violence leave. The public consultation on this process ended January the 14th. Can the Minister tell us what the next steps are? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the compliment from the MLA. I appreciate that. Not only is it parental and family caregiver leave within this Act. We are looking at domestic violence that was brought up, but also domestic workers, for example, nannies, to make sure that they are covered as well. We did the stakeholders' consultation that was brought. We will be bringing forward the What We Heard document in March here, coming in, and then, right now, we are finalizing the legislative proposal at this moment.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. I have expressed my disappointment that we won't be able to meet the federal implementation date of the employment insurance changes on March the 17th for improved parental benefits in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister tell us when we can expect to see amendments to our employment standards that come forward to this House?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated earlier, we are just in the finalization of doing a What We Heard document and drafting up a legislative proposal. We are going to be introducing and bringing it forward in the next session of May to June, and then of course Members have the 120 days to take it out.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. Well, if I have anything to do with it, that bill is going to fly straight through here. Wow, I actually got an applause from the other side of the House for a change. One of the easiest ways we can extend and improve federal parental leave benefits to our employees is to mend relative collective agreements. I know that is a sensitive area right now, but can the Minister tell us whether our government has made an offer to the relevant unions to mend collective agreements to allow our employees to take full advantage of the improved parental leave benefits?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The MLA actually answered his own question. At this moment, I cannot speak on anything happening with the union.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Well, thanks to the Minister for that. Look, I just want my colleagues in the House and the public to understand that there are some more steps that we have to do to make sure that our families and parents enjoy the best possible benefits. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, as our government is obviously going to lag behind the improved parental benefits offered by the federal government nationwide, I would like to ask the Minister what lessons we have learned from this experience to make sure that our families receive the best possible benefits in the future.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I guess there are many lessons that come. One of the lessons is that life changes constantly. Don't get used to status quo because it changes all the time. That is something I have realized, and that is something we need to be conscious of within this House because that is what we are here for, to be abreast of it and to make changes. Another lesson I learned is, not only through this, work together. Work with your cross-jurisdictional, work with your partners in other jurisdictions and the federal government because it is important. A third lesson that I have learned is, even though I really want to work closely with the federal government, sometimes the federal government doesn't work on our schedule. I am not sure how to fix that because, of course, all jurisdictions have different sitting times, they have different voting times. It is an issue. I am glad our Senator is in the House. It could probably be brought forward. It would be wonderful to have more partnerships, more working together, whenever federal bills come out or acts come out that affect the jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 541-18(3):
TSIIGEHTCHIC ICE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. As I stated in my statement, Mr. Speaker, we are taking a lot of employment away from the community of

Tsiigehtchic, not to mention Fort McPherson. At times, we even hired a number of people from the community there when we didn't have enough. I would like to ask the Minister: why did the department decide to bring in their equipment to be used at the Mackenzie River crossing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get back to the Member on what exact piece of equipment, why we brought it in, and why we brought it there. I do know that we have a labour and equipment contract, one with Tsiigehtchic with Arctic Red River Development Corporation. I can look into that matter, what specific piece of equipment the Member is talking about.

MR. BLAKE: I can just answer that right now because I have come from Tsiigehtchic. I know what is there. We have a Sno-Cat, Bombardiers, which I think they brought out of the museum. They are so old, you know, this equipment, that they are barely running. I think that is where all the cost is coming from, is because to find these parts, you know, price must double or triple or something. What cost savings is the department making by using their own equipment compared to past years?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I am going to look into this as the Member has stated. The one thing that people know in this House is we have escalated our time of putting in the snow crossing. The big controversy in this Assembly two years ago was us shutting down the winter road ferry program. When we did that, the department made the commitment that we would put in the crossing as fast as possible, which we have. It is from freeze-up to actually having 5,000 kg capability has been very minimal days now, I believe, less than two weeks for both crossings.

We have involved new technologies and lighter pieces of equipment, which might influence which pieces of equipment that we are actually trying to rent from the Red River Development Corporation. I will work with the Member and get the answers that he wants on these specific questions.

MR. BLAKE: Bringing in this equipment actually didn't save us any time. We actually just finished the ice bridge, like, two weeks ago. If I didn't say anything, they would probably still be working on it now. You know, I know the department is trying to do the best they could, but will the Minister ensure that next year the community is given support to providing employment for their workforce?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I said, we are putting this thing in as efficiently and as fast as we can. The workforce is contracted out with Little Red River. I will have to see how long that contract is good for and work with the Member to be able to maximize the most employment I can for his particular riding. We have not reduced the capital cost or the budgetary process for putting this road in. We realize the pressure that is on these communities the longer it takes to put in these ice crossings across the Northwest Territories. The Member continually raises it in this Assembly, and we will continually try to work with him and his communities to put it in as fast as possible and work with his communities where they can benefit from these projects that are right in their back door. I will continue to work with the Member.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it sounds promising. You know, in the past, I have even worked on that ice road when I first started working. You know, the workforce they have set up in the community, they work pretty hard all through November until mid-December. Usually, by the 20th, they have everything opened to 50,000 kilograms, which is required, and then they let Mother Nature do her part.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the department doesn't seem to support providing labour employment but would rather bring in equipment that actually took longer and at a higher cost. I would like to ask the Minister if this is the case.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: No, that is not the case. As I said, we are trying to put this thing as efficiently and as fast as we can for the residents, particularly in his home community. We have made the unprecedented step where we put the Arctic Red River in first now so the community can actually get out of there sooner and cross over to go to McPherson. We can actually pull that, maybe, and put that money towards the main crossing if the Member wants us to spend in his community. That is going to mean that they are going to have to wait a lot longer to get out of there. I have committed in this House that I will work with the Member closely to try to maximize the benefits for his residents and what we can do in next year's winter season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 542-18(3):
TALTSON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I talked about, I guess, perhaps a redevelopment of the Taltson hydro dam. I would like to ask the Minister of ITI, I suppose, questions on the Taltson hydro dam. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware that there is an organized community on the Taltson River larger than some of the current communities that we have. Thank you.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite clear on the question. What I said in the House last week here, when we talked about the Taltson project, was we are involving the three Indigenous governments that are affected in the region, the Northwest Territories Metis Nation, the Salt River First Nation, and the Akaitcho. I have met with all three of them from their leadership point of view and given them the heads-up about the announcement on this funding. As I have said in the House last week, there seems to be a willingness to work towards supporting this project. That is what this Aboriginal engagement money is going to be for. It will clearly lay out what needs to be done with the work going forward. There are a number of things that have to be done, but one of the best things I think about this project is the far-reaching reconciliation around economic development with Indigenous governments on a project like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, my question was if the Minister was aware that there was an organized community on the Taltson River, but I will move on. I would like to ask

the Minister, if he is aware that there was a community called Rocher River, an organized community, complete with surveyed lots, if the Minister would find a way to consult with the people that actually lived in Rocher River prior to construction of the dam?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: At this point, right now, as I've said, I've clearly laid out the three Indigenous governments that the government is willing to engage with. I am willing to go into the communities to have a discussion with the local communities of Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, and Lutselk'e, in particular. At that point, maybe that's when there will be an opportunity for some questions from the Regular Members.

MR. BEAULIEU: It appears as though the Minister is not fully aware of who was impacted, and that's what I'm trying to get at here. The greatest impact of the Taltson dam was upon the people that lived in a place called Rocher River. I am a person that is from Rocher River. What happened there was the school burned down a few years before the Taltson dam was constructed. Many people felt that that was deliberate, but the bottom line is, there was a group of people living there in an organized community. It had stores, two stores. They had a school, and they were a regular functioning community, and suddenly, after the school burned down, the people started moving. The people moved to the river to trap, trap on the rivers, continued to use Taltson as basically a lifeline for all the people there, and then, the dam was ---

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, what's your line of questioning?

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the GNWT start working now with the elders, the remaining elders, that were from Rocher River to start developing a list of the families that were impacted as a result of the Taltson dam?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I've said, I'm willing to have a discussion with all impacted residents on this project. If we're going to sit down and have a discussion about the Taltson back when it was built, in the '60's, I think, if that's a discussion that some of the Member's riding wants to take place, we're going to have to have all parties at the table for that discussion. That's something that took place prior to devolution. That was under the federal government's watch, and that's probably a discussion that should be taking place with the federal government or maybe even at the Akaitcho main table. I'm willing to sit down with all residents in the South Slave who are impacted by us, who want to move this project forward and have those discussions.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when people are relocated, they are scattered all over the place because they don't have a home. They ended up, yes, in Fort Resolution, yes, in Yellowknife, some in Sambaa K'e, some in Edmonton, Hay River. They're all over the place. There is no home. They are scattered around. These were the people that were greatly affected. I'm asking the Minister: I agree that Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Lutselk'e, that will capture the majority of the people; however, there is a group that is going to be missed unless we pull that list together, so I'd like to ask the Minister again if he is prepared to work with, if it's the Aboriginal government that he needs to work with, then if he would develop a list of see who was

originally impacted and include them in the discussions moving forward for the redevelopment of the Taltson dam?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I've said, I'm willing to have a conversation with anybody, but this is a conversation that has to include more than just me. As I said, this is something that happened, not under our watch, under the federal government's watch. There are other opportunities for those people to have those discussions at different venues, as I've said. I'm willing to have those discussions, and I suspect through more consultation with Indigenous governments and their leadership on moving this project forward, I can raise this question of around the impacted residents, and we'll see what the leadership wants to do in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 543-18(3):
RECREATIONAL LEASING MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND LAND USE
PLANNING

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Lands. Some time ago, the Department of Lands started some really good work and some consultation with regard to the Yellowknife area recreational land use framework, I suppose. It went great guns for the first couple of years, and now, it seems as though it's been put on pause. It might have gone back into the archives or onto the shelf. I would like to ask the Minister if he can let us know what is underway with regard to the recreational land use planning and maybe even explain for folks what a recreational land use plan consists of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, several years ago, we looked into this matter and have our recreational leasing management framework to guide us in this area. With respect to the Yellowknife periphery area, much of the work has been done. It is of course a commitment of this government to advance this process. We did recognize in the framework that there would be certain areas that are of priority, and, clearly, the Yellowknife area is a priority because of the heavy recreational use. I can advise that we are continuing to attempt to engage with our Aboriginal partners in that matter.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Can the Minister maybe elaborate a little bit more on what is the reasoning for a recreational land use plan? My understanding is that they're not very well-used throughout the territory, if at all, that this version might be a pilot to some degree. Why a recreational land use plan? Why can't we just have recreational land use included in the comprehensive land use plans?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Of course, we are attempting to make progress in land use planning generally, but, if looked at from another point of view, recreational land use planning is kind of a subset of the larger issue of dealing with land management. We thought that, because of the heavy pressure in the Yellowknife area in particular, we would attempt to move forward on that project, which is a mandate commitment.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate the Minister's answer. It seems to be a little bit lacking in some detail, but he did refer earlier to the recreational lease management framework, which, I guess, supports the recreational land use plan. I would like to ask the Minister: can the Minister provide maybe a little bit more insight on what the recreational lease management framework consists of?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The framework deals with many issues, such as application of the framework, the development of the framework, and also identifying priority areas. As I mentioned earlier, a priority area is clearly that area around Yellowknife. The point of the framework was to encourage compliance, strengthen, enforcement and to give residents of the Northwest Territories certainty, or as much certainty as we could, in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's reply, and, yes, definitely as it relates to those who have leases, in particular on the Ingraham Trail around Yellowknife, I would like to ask the Minister, under the forthcoming recreational lease management framework, will there be an opportunity at some point in time where leaseholders will actually have the opportunity to have ownership of this land, fee simple title?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: That is an interesting question, and I can see I can get some help from my fellow Cabinet Ministers on this issue. However, Members will recall the difficulties that we have been facing with the issue of equity leases, which is a much smaller issue than this. I certainly will take the question seriously, and it seems to me that we are not yet ready to make the kind of commitment requested by the Member opposite. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 544-18(3):
DENE WELLNESS CENTRE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased, when I attended the opening of the Dene Wellness Centre on the K'atlodeeche First Nations Reserve in January, in the old building of the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre, with people being very familiar with it. The centre then was a treatment centre for the whole NWT. Now things have changed. The Minister of Health and Social Services stated its ongoing initiatives on land-based mobile addiction treatment and also aftercare for patients who are seeking to sober up in the NWT. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The last agreement that the Dene Wellness Centre was operating on is from 2017. Then, the purpose and use of the wellness centre were being discussed. Now that the wellness centre is operating and serving its purpose, does the Minister see a need in terms of updating the contribution agreement that it has with KFN? Mahsi.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Nats'ejee K'eh facility, we have had a lot of discussion with KFN on that building. Currently the Department of Health and Social Services is covering the lease costs on that building for KFN, which equates to about \$6,000 a month. The owner of the building is currently working with KFN to see about transferring actual ownership of that building over to them. I know that there are some issues that they still need to work on, on that.

With respect to the programming that KFN had intended and delivering those services, they talked about wellness programs and other types of things. We are happy to work with them on those programs, and we are happy to help utilize that facility on a case-by-case basis.

As far as the wellness money that they get, that is a set allocated amount based on population and other things that all Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories get. That is federal money that flows through us to them, so we don't have the ability to increase those funds at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: The Minister, obviously, and his department are engaging with the K'atlodeeche First Nations. I am trying to determine the whole role of the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre. What are the key steps that the Minister has undertaken to ensure that, eventually, the transfer of the building is given to the K'atlodeeche First Nations?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In the last government, we made a commitment to K'atlodeeche that we would work with them so that they could obtain ownership of that building. The building is not a Health and Social Services asset. Once the facility ceased being an addictions treatment centre, the ownership of that building was transferred back to infrastructure, and they are working closely with K'atlodeeche to work out the issues around turning that building over to them. In the last government, we committed to providing the O and M funds necessary to keep that building in operation -- not programs, but the building itself -- and we still live by that commitment.

MR. NADLI: Addictions, of course, is a big concern in the NWT. As people contemplate taking steps in terms of bettering their lives and getting away from the whole cycle of addiction abuse, you sometimes come across the fact that it is deep-rooted, and this government needs to be in a position of supporting communities and giving back control to communities.

My question is: have the K'atlodeeche asked GNWT Health and Social Services if they would work with the wellness centre on developing an NWT trauma treatment centre on the reserve?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We have been trying work closely with K'atlodeeche. In 2015, we gave them \$44,000 so that they could hold a roundtable to help come up with some ideas and plans for how that building would be utilized. The report that I saw from them was about turning it into more of a wellness centre to provide a wide range of programs and not be dedicated to just one type of program. At that time, we indicated that we would like to keep working with them. If there was some opportunity for us to deliver some workshops or other things, wellness programs, out of that facility on a one-off basis, we were hoping to have the opportunity to have those discussions with them

so that we could do that.

As far as any other specific purpose that for building, our commitment to provide the O and M funds to keep that building operational were consistent with them continuing to run that building as a wellness centre, providing programs focused on healing and wellness, not necessarily on addictions, but it would be a great facility that we could certainly have some discussions on about using it for mobile treatment options in partnership with K'atlodeeche.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just from my observations, this department and the GNWT and the community of K'atlodeeche First Nations are taking great, positive steps, and it was the sense of optimism back in the beginning of a new year, 2019, that the building was reopened.

My last question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. What, in his mind, is the key critical next step to ensuring that the Dene Wellness Centre is fully supported by this government and fully operational? Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are many things, and I think we obviously need to keep working together on this, but I think one of the key things is working with K'atlodeeche to actually get ownership of the building figured out and solidified. There are some issues, I think, on both sides that we are trying to address. We want to make sure that the building is in good shape when it is turned over to them and that we understood the magnitude of O and M costs for keeping that building running. I think that is one thing that we need to continue to work with them to get on. From Health and Social Services, on the program side, we want to keep having a relationship with them and focus on the opportunities to do things like wellness programming and other things that we could partner on on a one-off application-based kind of approach. I think there are lots of opportunities here. It is a great building. The community wants to do proactive things, and we would like to keep having that relationship with them. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 545-18(3):
ANTI-POVERTY ROUNDTABLE AND ACTION PLAN

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I mentioned in my statement, my hope and expectation is that the next Anti-Poverty Action Plan will include well-defined goals for which there is required funding for implementation, along with robust evaluation. Can the Minister tell me whether this is a realistic expectation? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we heard clearly from the participants of the roundtable and also from individuals who submitted a number of written submissions afterwards, often encouraged by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. There

is a lot of input. A lot of suggestions have come in. We are trying to incorporate those. We can't accept them all just on face value. Some of them, we need to do a little bit more digging to see if they can be incorporated.

Our plan right now, Mr. Speaker, is to finalize the drafting here in the next couple of weeks and take it through Cabinet to get their endorsement to send it to committee. Committee, I hope that we have some good to-and-fro on that document to make sure that we are getting it as strong as can be, incorporating the types of discussions that the Member has identified here, so that we can release the document in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the detail that the Minister provided in his answer.

I want to go into the specifics a little bit. Food security was a high-profile issue at the most recent anti-poverty roundtable. In addition to funding food banks and soup kitchens, does the Minister have a plan to develop a long-term systemic solution to help the one in three children who experience hunger in the NWT?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I know that the Member is aware of this, because she has been involved in this file for a very long time, and I appreciate the work that she has brought to this particular issue, but this isn't just a Health and Social Services issue; this is a territorial issue. This is the responsibility of all people in the Northwest Territories, and there are multiple partners on that.

ITI is doing work around community gardens. Education, Culture and Employment is doing work around food programs for school-aged children. There is money through the anti-poverty fund. We are trying to make as much progress in this area as we can. The money might flow from different initiatives, but it is all addressing poverty here in the Northwest Territories.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go at that question in a different way. Food security is just the example, but the real point I am trying to get to is funding short-term solutions and funding long-term solutions and whether there is any intention by the government to look at a set of long-term solutions to issues like food security, which would provide solutions that don't have to be constantly updated but would be in place for all residents of the GNWT over the long term.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to food security, I think ITI is doing an awful lot of work for getting community gardens and other mechanisms in our communities. I think the commercial fish work that we are doing goes a long way to food security. One of the things that Health and Social Services do, and it is building upon the work that is being done by ITI, is we are modifying legislation to allow people to sell produce that they are growing in their own gardens. The next step will be finding ways through regulation policy to allow people to sell more complicated food like meats and other things. These are things that will last for extended periods of time, but we have to do it right. We have to make sure that we are doing it, to ensure that people are eating safe foods if it is being sold. Those are the types of things. Those aren't the only things. This is certainly an area that we need to keep having more and more discussion as better technology and more information comes to the table, but we are trying to make

improvements in this area. We will be working with our partners, including federal governments, territorial governments, communities, and NGOs.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Finally, my last question is: at the workshop, the Minister talked about securing business and charitable partners to leverage additional funding for anti-poverty initiatives; I am wondering if the Minister can tell us what progress he has made and what the plan is for that?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we have reached out, but at this point in time we haven't managed to increase a level of funding through partners, but you don't stop after asking once. You ask multiple times. We will keep pushing some of these organizations to see if they are willing to step up to the plate. Some may, some may not, but we will keep trying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address (day 4 of 7). Member for Frame Lake.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. O'REILLY'S REPLY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. This will be my last reply to the budget addressed for the 18th Assembly, and I look forward to thunderous applause from my colleagues across the way. I have organized my reply in the following manner, with some general comments that review the process revenues and departmental highlights. I conclude with some advice to future assemblies.

General Comments

Cabinet's cuts to programs and services appear to have come to an end except for one department, and that's Environment and Natural Resources, and I will have more to say on that issue a little later. We continue to run up a debt as a result of large infrastructure projects. The debt is now \$1.1 billion, only \$200 million away from the debt wall. A large infrastructure project for 2019-2020 will be the Tlicho All-Season Road at \$46.6 million.

We have a cabinet that is adrift in a maze of mandate commitments that it cannot possibly hope to complete. A lot of funding is finally flowing from the federal government, but this is now shaping our direction and investments. This is not necessarily a bad thing. This Cabinet is stuck in the roads-to-resources paradigm, and the federal funding has at least forced us to look beyond this approach. It is a sad comment that we have to look to the federal government for improved action on housing for our citizens or applying carbon pricing to combat climate change.

Process

For the fourth year in a row, no public consultation was carried out with regard to the budget. I contrast this with the last several finance ministers who would carry out pre and post budget meetings. In addition to the lack of public consultation and despite my

previous recommendations, there was no consultation with Regular MLAs to help set priorities and develop the business plans. Again, the quality and inconsistency of the departmental budgets or business plans varied widely. Some contained very little detail on activities for 2019-2020. We are using output-based performance indicators rather than tracking outcomes, and there are questionable risk profiles. As I said last year, Cabinet Ministers need to pay much more close attention to their business plans, appropriate to the investment of \$1.9 million in public funds. We are still waiting for responses from Cabinet on the very modest budget requests from Regular MLAs, which will come to light as the process rolls out through the House.

Cabinet dropped in very significant changes from the business plans to the Main Estimates, in the order of more than \$20 million, with no explanation. We had to ferret out these changes and seek information. Some of the responses are yet to arrive.

Revenues

We will raise almost as much money from tobacco taxes, \$15 million, and liquor revenues, \$25 million, as we get from resource royalties, at \$47 million. Very little, if anything, has been accomplished in terms of increasing or even stabilizing own-source revenues. Reviews of resource royalties have been pushed off to the 19th Assembly with no guarantee this will be public, while literally tens of millions of dollars of potential revenues flow out of the Northwest Territories, as shown by ITI's own consultants. Changes to the territorial formula arrangement would also be helpful in ensuring that we get to keep more of our own-source revenues, but little progress, if any, has been made by our Cabinet on this matter.

One Member in this House referred to the consultation process underway on the sugar-sweetened beverage tax as a cynical effort to check off a box. I would liken it to a lead zeppelin that was never intended to get off the ground.

I have already described in this House how the carbon pricing system developed by Cabinet is not fair and that it is doubtful whether it will really help us achieve our climate-change commitments. While \$16.2 million will be raised, large emitters will get all of the money back that they pay, and only \$3.7 million will be re-invested. It will be individuals, families, and small businesses that are subsidizing the limited re-investment in renewables, not industry. There has been no income tax reform during this Assembly. Cabinet refuses to add a high-earner tax bracket, unlike the federal government and other jurisdictions.

Lastly, despite my continuing to raise these issues year after year, there does not appear to be any progress on indexing the northern resident tax deduction or setting a publicly available rate for travel to southern locations to avoid the plethora of audits that plague Northerners.

Departmental Highlights

There has been no visible progress on reviewing the Heritage Fund Act as laid out in the mandate. The fund continues to lose money against inflation, has no defined revenue stream, and no role for the public in its management. A very large information systems shared services unit of 71 staff is being created with many transfers from other

departments. From what I can tell, the purpose is not to deliver improved service to the public but to centralize power within the Department of Finance. We can expect to hear more about the unfair carbon tax developed by Cabinet, but I will say that the federal backstop is looking a lot better.

Health and Social Services

There are definitely some good initiatives here from one of the few departments and Ministers who is not afraid to go and get additional resources. I want to commend the Minister for that. This includes over \$3.3 million for child and family services, a territorial midwifery program, I am still waiting to see the plan, and increased resources for autism. Some of the money for the new initiatives are being taken from some other programs, and we have yet to get an adequate explanation. Most troubling is the \$600,000 cut to homecare services to fund child and family services improvements.

Co-payments of medical travel are set to increase by \$240,000, but the process and way of increasing revenues has not been explained. I have asked the Minister several times for a clear plan with timeline for the old Stanton Hospital services, and I am still waiting.

Audiology wait times are clearly unacceptable, and it is not clear whether this budget will improve this situation. Benchmarking and public reporting of wait times is needed for a variety of medical and allied health services. It is hard to tell whether we are making any progress on pharmacare, recovering Metis benefits payments from the federal government, and improving the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Lastly, there is no overall plan for dealing with family violence, from our government. Health and Social Services can and should play a central role in this initiative, but it is not clear what is happening.

Industry, Tourism and Investment

Macro-economic analysis does not appear to play any role in how funding is invested. Diversification takes a back seat to the department's promotion of non-renewable resource development. It is good to see some limited new funding for development of a knowledge economy strategy and development of wind power in Inuvik.

There is a need for an agricultural pathfinder, just as there is such a function for the mining sector within ITI.

No reasonable rationale has been provided for an additional deputy mining recorder, as the workload is steady or even declining.

Lastly, there does not appear to be any additional funds for new investments in the Yellowknife tourism sector that is still without a proper visitor centre.

NWT Housing Corporation

Expenditures at the corporation will be over \$100 million for 2019-2020, which includes some new federal funding. The corporation should report on how this spending will work towards reducing core need and how it will work with other agencies, such as the co-investment fund in the National Housing Strategy. Client-centred performance

measures would also help.

I have encouraged improvements to the corporation's website for some time, to make its programs and services more accessible, especially in light of the refocused initiatives within the corporation.

The corporation also needs to get very creative and get more of the federal infrastructure funding that requires Cabinet to let it get to the table. For example, Nunavut is using \$12 million for housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund where we are only using \$4 million from that fund for housing improvements.

Environment and Natural Resources

This is the only department that is continuing to take cuts in 2019-2020 by another \$1.675 million. During the term of this Assembly, funding for the department has been slashed by about 10 percent. If there was ever any doubt that the environment is not a priority with Cabinet or the Minister, this is the evidence.

Very significant delays have been experienced in getting mandate and other commitments completed. This is not because of a lack of dedication by the hard-working staff, but a lack of resources and leadership. While responsibilities have increased (for example, the climate change audit, Pan-Canadian Framework tracking and reporting, the caribou crisis, new legislation developed without additional resources), funds continue to shrink for this department. The ENR Minister has not been able to protect this department or secure additional resources, despite his twin, the Minister of Finance.

I was very disappointed to see that there is no new funding to address the caribou crisis. There are legal requirements for recovery strategies for both boreal and barren-ground caribou, as these are now classified as species at risk. There is also no new funding for the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan with its specific habitat protection recommendations.

Justice

Earlier I mentioned the lack of a government-wide approach or initiatives on family violence. Justice needs to play a central role with Health and Social Services in these efforts.

I am thankful for a commitment by the Minister to review Victims Services. I look forward to the release of that report as soon as possible and to additional resources to serve this important function.

Municipal and Community Services

There has been some small progress on increasing community government funding by \$1.8 million in 2019-2020, but we still need the plan to close the gap in the 2015 Municipal Funding Review. Back then, it was a \$33-million shortfall so this needs to be updated based on our current needs. 911 is still proceeding, and that is a good thing. However, there is a need for much better communications if implementation to be achieved by July 1, 2019.

Regular MLAs have urged increased investment in the NGO Stabilization Fund, so it is good to see that it is going to be doubled in 2019-2020. The fund should still be moved over to the Executive.

The department still has a very large legislative backlog, including consumer protection, municipal government, and more. It would be helpful to have a sense of priorities and to pass this on to the next Assembly.

Infrastructure

The department has huge carryovers, sometimes almost 50 percent of its capital projects. The cause is not clear, and it is not being tracked. It may be related to the lack of capacity to get contracts out due to staff cuts in previous budgets, contractor capacity, federal funding delays, or because of payment schedules and cutoffs. At the same time, projects contracted through the department by other government agencies should not be penalized as a result of delays that are within the control of the Department of Infrastructure. Tracking and reporting on carryovers is required.

There does not appear to be any systematic way of evaluating projects for submission to federal infrastructure programs or criteria for doing so, such as the number of jobs created, contribution towards greenhouse gas reductions, and so on. This analysis needs to take place, and in consultation with Regular MLAs.

Given the large infrastructure projects managed by this department, poor planning often causes forced growth or actions in other departments. For example, another \$381,000 is required in 2019-2020 for ENR for additional monitoring of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. Reporting and proactive disclosure of Marine Transportation Services is needed in light of the failure to ship goods to coastal communities.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

There is still no plan for having government service officers in all of our communities. The Minister has resisted calls for such services in regional centres and Yellowknife despite collaborative opportunities with Service Canada.

Good work has been done to achieve gender balance with GNWT board appointments, and I want to commend the Minister for that.

There is a significant increase in Ministerial travel in the Executive, of \$153,000 or about 30 percent.

A Northwest Territories Economic Development Summit has been established. Unfortunately, it appears to be a parallel system of priority setting with Regular MLAs kept on the outside. Even its agendas are confidential.

Little to no progress on land rights negotiations has taken place during the 18th Assembly. The only completion has been the Agreement-in-Principle for Norman Wells Self-Government. I will be watching closely to see whether Cabinet has implemented the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the forthcoming resource management legislation. The recent NICO Socio-Economic Agreement is clearly at odds with the stated approach from the Executive.

It is not clear whether any additional resources are needed or have been secured for offshore petroleum negotiations. The role for Regular MLAs has not been clarified.

NWT Power Corporation

Regular MLAs have traditionally had very little oversight of this body. With this Assembly, we have started to include the corporation as part of our budget process, but it is on a different fiscal year. We still need to watch it very carefully, especially with Cabinet going down a billion-dollar road of Taltson expansion. The corporation's renewable energy projects appear to be funded through the federal government and by individuals, families and small businesses once the carbon tax is put in place.

Education, Culture and Employment

Large changes in staffing levels in the district education authorities are due to declines in enrollment. I am disappointed that it looks like there is no new funding for post-secondary education renewal. I am pleased to note the increased funding to family violence shelters.

Further staffing cuts at the NWT Archives appear in this budget.

Income support and income assistance changes are good, but we need to find a way to index these programs against inflation. The same applies for childcare supports. We cannot continue to assume the lowest income families can get by on the same amount of funding despite higher cost of living.

Lands

Land use planning is what brought me to the Northwest Territories in 1985, and I continue to support it. However, MLAs are being asked to approve \$753,000 for land use planning in the Wek'eezhii management area without any details or overall strategy, which should include federal funding. We have been asking for this information for months.

As important as land use planning is, the Minister has decided to cut land use planning contribution funding to make up for the department's share of its transfers to Finance for the ISSS. This cut of \$60,000 should simply be absorbed by Finance, or Lands should find somewhere else to cut.

Little to no progress on contaminated sites management and prevention of public liabilities has occurred, and that was a mandate requirement. Most of that work should be done by Lands. Some sort of tracking system has yet to be completed, and a manual on contaminated sites management has been in preparation for what seems like years. There are no policy changes, regulations, or legislative change to ensure that we reduce the risk of taking on new public liabilities.

I look forward to the lessons learned from the Tlicho All-Season Road environmental assessment, where the Project Assessment Policy was applied. It seems to have failed. Lands did not do very well with its coordination of GNWT participation as a result of that Policy. Departments were not allowed to freely participate in that environmental assessment.

Conclusions

I have offered some thoughts on how to improve the budget process, including early and meaningful consultation with Regular MLAs and the public. I have also recommended a more balanced approach that includes more revenues and a stronger focus on diversifying our economy.

The federal government has new and different priorities for infrastructure to build a cleaner economy, a more inclusive society, a low-carbon economy, and transformative change. Our government has finally started to get on board but keeps the old blinders of infrastructure to facilitate more non-renewable resource development rather than building sustainable, energy self-sufficient communities. Transformative change can come through the emerging knowledge economy and opportunities such as the conservation economy with Thaidene Nene.

As I said last year, we need plans and strategies for adequate housing and universal childcare so our residents can engage in the economy. We need to get our housing out of core need while creating local jobs, provide stronger support for the arts, tourism, agriculture and the fishing industry, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower the cost of living, and develop a real post-secondary education system. These sectors also create more local jobs than non-renewable resource development per dollar of investment. This is the kind of leadership I still hope for in our budgets.

There are some exciting initiatives in this budget and I sincerely thank my Cabinet colleagues and their staff and my Committee colleagues for much hard work in getting us to this point. I look forward to the debate as we move forward in our review of the 2019-2020 budget. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to budget address (day 4 of 7). Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON'S REPLY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, my reply to the budget will be a bit different than the one I did last year. We are still working behind the scenes to get us closer to a final agreement on the budget. It has been a long process, from closely reviewing the business plans to finding common ground, and finally getting closer to a budget that we can agree to pass. Unfortunately, since we started the process, a number of issues have come to my attention and need to be addressed. I realize some of these concerns are not in the budget, but, if we work together, they can be added via supplementary appropriation later in this session. This being the last O and M budget of the 18th Assembly, I think we are getting better at listening to one another. For a \$1.87-billion budget, I believe we are only a few million dollars apart. Don't get me wrong, we still have work to do.

Even so, Mr. Speaker, this year's business plans were a bit challenging, especially when you consider we will spend more than \$1.873 billion in public funds. Some departments' plans still lacked details. There were some inconsistencies, typographical errors, and wholesale repetition of sections from previous business plans. I would like to have the departments provide more detailed descriptions of all planned activities, as identified by Members from this side. We need to be better informed so we can make

better decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the finance Minister said the 2019-2020 budget proposes operating expenditures of about \$1.8713 billion. As we worked through the business plans, we came up with small additional requests. Some were increases in funding, others were reinstatement of planned cuts, and others were re-investments. I have to say we are getting closer each year.

As the Minister said in his budget address, the projected operating surplus of \$60 million is going directly to the 2019-2020 infrastructure budget. However, we still need a realistic plan for how the GNWT intends to proceed with major projects within its existing borrowing capacity, and what circumstances might trigger the GNWT to seek an increase to its current federally imposed borrowing limit.

I am happy to see the government is investing \$70 million for new initiatives and \$17 million to enhance or maintain existing programs. However, some of these new allocations may not get spent, and this saddens me. As a government, we have to do better to deliver the services we promise and budget for.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that most of the regions face hardships, and I empathize with them. In the Nahendeh riding, we have been experiencing this for a long period of time. All you need to do is visit the six communities, especially the small ones, to realize the hardships residents face. We have communities that have to do job sharing so people can survive. This is hugely disappointing.

Mr. Speaker, like I said last year, we need to continue to diversify our economy. I believe tourism can play an important role in our economy, especially in the Nahendeh riding. We see a number of tourists coming into our region during the summer months, but few or none during the winter. In our ridings, we can see the investments that the government is making and hope to increase the number of visitors coming to our region. This will lead to future employment and business opportunities.

Finance

Ombud

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the budget sets aside for the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson, but I want to remind the Finance Minister that he or she is now called the "Ombud," not the Ombudsman.

The Ombud is like a "commissioner for fairness." He or she will be available to take complaints and to help people who feel that they have been unfairly treated by the government. I think this is a very good thing.

I think it will also be good for government because sometimes the Ombud will investigate a complaint and find out the government did do the right thing. In that case, the Ombud will be able to help explain to the public how the government properly follows the process.

I know that some MLAs have said that the Northwest Territories does not need an Ombud because that is what we are here for, but the Ombud will have powers to

investigate matters in a way that the MLAs cannot. I look forward to hearing the update in this House about when we can expect the Office of the Ombud to be open.

Summer Students

Mr. Speaker, I am again asking the government to work on setting up a budget line for summer student jobs. I firmly believe that these positions are very important in all our regions and particularly in Nahendeh. I would like to see a concrete plan for hiring summer students, and to see a budget for it.

Carbon Tax

Mr. Speaker, I realize that the government didn't have any choice about implementing a carbon tax. If the GNWT didn't come up with its own, it would have been stuck with the federal backstop.

With that said, however, I don't think the GNWT is going about it the right way. In this case, I don't feel that the Department of Finance is doing a very good job listening to input from the Regular Members. I understand that the government intends to implement the carbon tax by making changes to the Petroleum Products Tax Act and the Income Tax Act. I look forward to the introduction of that legislation and its debate in this House.

Executive - Government Service Officers

One of the good things the government has done is to hire government service officers, or GSOs, in many communities to help residents in their dealings with the government. This program is working, and Regular Members have pushed hard to expand the GSO network. I am pleased to point out that this coming year there are four GSO positions in Nahendeh, plus one in Fort Providence. On the other hand, there are still communities left out.

Again and again, Regular Members have urged the government to complete the GSO network and expand it to all communities. The government has resisted, especially to creating positions in the larger centres. I will not rest until all Nahendeh communities have a GSO and the territorial network is complete.

Health - Child and Family Services Program

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to see the additional \$3.3 million to add 21 new positions. I agree with the GNWT that this investment will improve our services to children and family. However, I still see a number of vacancies in my riding. This makes me worry that we will not see the boots hit the ground with this new investment. I hope that we can find ways to get these positions filled.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see the Department of Health and Social Services provide a \$1.9 million to continue the implementation of the Child and Youth Care Counsellors program in Beaufort Delta and Sahtu. Unfortunately, I still see vacancies in Fort Liard and the regional office. Now we may not see those positions filled for a long time. Again, this is a big loss for our youth and adds more stress on the staff that have to cover. We need to do a better job in getting these positions filled.

I am happy to see the Department of Health and Social Services provide \$400,000 for the land-based mobile addictions treatment and aftercare, increased contribution funding, an investment of \$1 million to continue implementation of the Mental Health Act. This is a very positive step forward in these two areas.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2018-2019 Business Plan, \$653,000 was invested in new positions for the Beaufort Delta rehabilitation team as follows. One occupational therapist, one speech and language pathologist, one audiologist, and one program assistant were added to meet the need for audiology services so that children and adults will have access to the services closer to home.

In 2019-2020, the business plan proposes \$485,000 for additional positions to the Stanton Rehabilitation Team: one occupational therapist, one speech and language pathologist, one speech and language pathologist program assistant, and one administrative support position.

Unfortunately, this does not help the Nahendeh or Deh Cho communities. I have heard from many parents and leaders that we need our own speech and language pathologist and occupational therapist in the Deh Cho. It is my understanding that, in Nahendeh alone, there are over 70 people waiting service from the speech and language pathologist and over 50 waiting for the occupational therapist. The frustrating thing is that this has to be done in 11 service days. If there is one day of bad weather, the assessment gets cancelled for another six months. This tells me that the services are lacking for our youth in the Nahendeh and Deh Cho region. This also explains why some of our Early Child Development (EDI) scores are bad. I will be adding this issue further during this session.

Municipal and Community Affairs

Non-Governmental Stabilization Fund

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is responsible for administering an application-based program known as the Non-Governmental Organization or "NGO" Stabilization Fund. This fund provides special funding to help NGOs stabilize to develop their capacity to manage programs and services.

According to the government's own policy, NGOs deliver critical programs or service funded by the GNWT. The policy recognizes that if the NGO wasn't available to deliver these programs or services, the government would either have to do the work itself or hire a third party to do it.

The NGOs are often staffed or assisted by hard-working, dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy, putting in long hours to help others in the communities. They do everything from providing services and support to the most vulnerable members of our communities to advocate for literacy, sober driving, sports and recreation activities, and countless other activities that enhance the lives of our people.

In the first year, 2009-2010, \$247,000 was allocated for NGO Stabilization Fund. It was increased to \$350,000 the following year and has not been increased since, despite the fact that there are always far more requests than there is funding available.

This year, in his budget address, the finance Minister announced the government's intent to double the funding made available through the NGO Stabilization Fund. I know that every penny of this money will be put to good use, and I want to thank my Cabinet colleagues for this important contribution.

Games

Mr. Speaker, this year we are seeing a third year of cuts to funding for multi-sport games. This is totally unacceptable. Two years ago, the government cut \$150,000. Last year, they cut \$250,000, and like I said last year, they were going to cut another \$250,000 from the budget. True to form, this happened. It is very frustrating because these games are government responsibility. It has either Sport North or the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the NWT looking after them.

Presently, the shortfall is coming from within the department, which really means it is being taken from other programs that may lapse funding. This is not a reliable source of funding, and it is not transparent budgeting. We have heard worst-case scenarios. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs could use the lotteries to fund multi-sport games. In my opinion, these games belong to the government, and they need to be a budget line within the department's budget. To see cuts in this area is very sad, to say the least.

911 Emergency Services

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the budget identified funding for the implementation of 911 emergency services in the Northwest Territories, which is supposed to go live this summer. I believe that the 911 to the North is a positive thing. 911 is a simple number, so easy to remember that even a small child could dial it and potentially save someone's life.

911 will help those of us who travel frequently in the North and who may see an emergency unfolding in another community without immediately knowing which prefix to use for the current, seven-digit emergency number in that community. It will also help visitors to the North to quickly access emergency dispatch if they need it.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance pointed out the budget proposes a \$1.3-million investment for the rollout of 911 in the upcoming year. What he neglected to point out, however, is that the government intends to implement a user fee for 911, meaning that the \$1.3 million is intended to be paid by every phone subscriber in the Northwest Territories.

Some of my Regular Member colleagues are currently reviewing Bill 31, which is the legislation the government needs to put in place in order to change the 911 user fee. I will have more to say about this when the legislation is debated in the House. For now, I just want to point out that the funding for 911 will be paid by the people of the Northwest Territories, not the GNWT.

I would urge the GNWT, as part of the 911 implementation, to match the funding raised through user fees and use the funding to ensure that the NWT has 100-percent cellular coverage. As the government works harder to bring more roads and highways to the

Northwest Territories, ensuring full cellular coverage will undoubtedly save lives of countless motor vehicle drivers who drive those new highways in the future.

Municipal Gap Funding

Mr. Speaker, for me, one of the biggest oversights in the budget is the lack of new funding to close the municipal gap.

In 2014-2015, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs knew that it had problems with the way it was providing funding to the municipal governments, so the department undertook a review of their funding approach. This review found that the funding formulas were overly complicated and based on outdated information. It also found that they didn't respond to needs and didn't result in fair distribution of funding.

Governments providing municipal services in the Northwest Territories rely on funding from the GNWT to pay for capital investments, operations, maintenance, and environmental services, including water and service functions. Failure to provide funding to community governments appropriately can have serious consequences for all communities in the Northwest Territories. It can result in premature failure of community infrastructure and the need for earlier replacement. As conditions worsen over time, it can result in loss of program functionality. This, in turn, can lead to public health-and-safety risks and environmental liabilities.

When the study was done, MACA indicated an operation and maintenance funding shortfall of \$7.7 million, a water and sewer funding shortfall of \$8.3 million, and a capital shortfall of \$23.4 million, for a total shortfall of \$39.4 million. In 2017-2018, the department reported in its annual MACA update that the gap had been reduced to \$32.5 million: \$5 million in operation and maintenance, \$4.8 million in water and sewer, and \$22.4 million in capital funding. This represents a reduction in the funding gap of \$6.5 million since 2014. This year, I understand that MACA proposes to increase operation and maintenance funding by \$750,000 and water and sewer funding by \$650,000. While this is good news, there remains a great deal of work to be done. MACA appears to be making progress on O and M and water and sewer funding but not so much on capital.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has promised a strategy to close this funding gap, and we have yet to see it. In response to an oral question I posed in this House at the end of October 2018, the Minister advised that MACA will be in a position to table the municipal funding strategy by the end of this sitting. I look forward to this work with a great deal of anticipation. I question why it has taken so long to put this strategy in place. As well, I have concerns about how funding needs may have grown since the initial data was collected in 2014-2015, and I am worried that failure to account for the growth may mean that the actual funding gap is greater than what is being reported. I will have questions for the Minister when we review the department's budget. I would urge the Minister to be doing his best to table the municipal funding strategy early in the sitting so that we can consider it at the same time that we consider the department's budget.

Education, Culture and Employment

Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment proposes \$104,000 to increase the Student Financial Assistance course reimbursement rates from \$500 to \$800 and a lifetime limit on course reimbursements from \$5,000 to \$8,800. This will help to ensure NWT students have more opportunities to meet the demands of our territorial labour market. This increased reimbursement will promote continued learning and support NWT residents in getting the education they need to get good jobs.

With the rising cost of post-secondary education, an increase to course reimbursement will make programs more accessible and affordable for NWT students, thus encouraging NWT students to advance their education.

Small Community Employment Program

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the changes to the Small Community Employment Program last year. The Government of the Northwest Territories, especially the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and ordinary MLAs, was able to make some positive changes to it. However, we still need to do more in this area.

As I stated last year, the small communities of Nahendeh need more employment opportunities. People want to work, and unfortunately, the lack of jobs in our smallest communities is a persistent, high-impact problem. The changes last year to this program resulted in a bit more work in the communities. However, I believe the government needs to increase the funds available to small communities by \$1.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the continuation and enhancement of this fund and its policies are necessary to support its mandate for job creation in small communities. This funding should be specifically for direct use in small communities and not regional centres.

Funding for Divisional Education Board Office

Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the Divisional Education Board Office has two fewer staff supporting the schools than in the Sahtu region. In the Deh Cho proper, eight communities, we have two support staff for nine schools, whereas the Sahtu has four support staff for five schools. It is also my understanding that the Sahtu board has two information technology support staff, while the Deh Cho has one. This doesn't seem right. We need to address this, or we are going to see more vulnerable children and ongoing decline in the developmental test results for the Deh Cho.

This supports my position that funding based strictly on the number of students does not work. I would like to suggest a new basic formula that guarantees a minimum staffing, regardless of the number of students. This would be based on the understanding that it does not matter how many students you have in a school; you still need a part-time custodian, principal, secretary, program support teacher, and teachers. Later on in this session, I will be speaking about this issue further, and I hope to see much needed changes.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have to say that we still have some challenges facing us, and we only have a six months left in our term to address them. Let's do it right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to budget address (day 4 of 7). Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 329-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TOURISM PURSUING SPECTACULAR POTENTIAL
2019/20 MARKETING PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 330-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT
CORPORATION 2019-20 CORPORATE PLAN

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Northwest Territories Tourism Pursuing Spectacular Potential 2019/20 Marketing Plan," and "Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation 2019-20 Corporate Plan." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 331-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP TO ORAL QUESTION 480-18(3):
AIRPLANE CRASH MEDEVAC

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up to Oral Question 480-18(3): Airplane Crash Medevac." Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 332-18(3):
MARKETPLACE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS - ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRY
SENSITIVITY TO MINERAL REGULATORY CHANGES ACROSS CANADA, JUNE 21,
2018

TABLED DOCUMENT 333-18(3):
SURVEY OF EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 334-18(3):
SURVEY OF IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 335-18(3):
DRAFT MEMO DATED MAY 25, 2018 REGARDING BENEFITS AGREEMENTS IN
LEGISLATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 336-18(3):
SASKATCHEWAN'S MSLA / HRDA REGIME REVIEW

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to table the following five documents: "Marketplace Sensitivity Analysis," dated June 21, 2018; "Survey of Exploration Agreements," undated; "Survey of Impact Benefit Agreements," undated; "Benefits Agreements in Legislation," May 25, 2018; and lastly, "Saskatchewan's Mine Surface Lease Agreement and Human Resources Development Agreement Regime Review," undated. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 337-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR 2018

MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 99 of the Legislative Assembly Executive Council Act, I hereby table the "Northwest Territories Conflict of Interest Commissioner Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly for 2018."

Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Infrastructure.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 35:
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION ACT

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, I will move that Bill 35, Supply Chain Management Professional Designation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 34: MINERAL RESOURCES ACT

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 34, Mineral Resources Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There is a motion. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 34 has had its first reading.

First reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement; and Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement; and Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020, and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

---Carried

Masi. Item 23, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgments
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Replies to Budget Address (Day 5 of 7)
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 34, Mineral Resources Act
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement
 - Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:52 p.m.